

**State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford**

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

**Present:**

Heather VanDenburgh	---	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	---	Councilman
Tiffany Rutkowski	---	Councilwoman
Joan Ploss	---	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	---	Councilwoman
Lawrence Staring	---	Highway Superintendent
Lawrence Neely	---	Town Clerk
Michael Albanese	---	Town Attorney
Karen Jaquay	---	Dog Control Officer
Moirra Marshall	---	Town Historian
Norman Wright	---	Code Enforcement Officer

**Absent:**

Michael Sokira	---	BTI Director
David Galarneau	---	Town Assessor

**Residents in Attendance:** Eight

Supervisor VanDenburgh called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag. The meeting was broadcast on YouTube and available from a link on town's web page.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Highway Dept.:** The Superintendent reported that Wade Allen had been formally appointed deputy superintendent. He noted there had been another retirement so he is looking for another full-time employee.

They are plowing and sanding as needed. The Irish Settlement Bridge was hit by one of the town's plows. There is damage to the box beam and the brackets holding the posts on the bridge. Also the F 550 has had problems with the sander and the control module has been replaced twice. Also it was also backed into a tree that damaged the plastic parts on the chute and the mount, but that has been repaired. Truck 8 has several air leaks which they are working on to repair and Truck 9 has problems with the headlights. Wade Allen is replacing the wiring harness between plowing and sanding.

FEMA calls continue and he is still waiting on the design for Vorhees Road from the engineer.

As an alternate project for the FEMA funds for the Windfall Creek and Hawes Rd. Bridge, the town should be able to purchase a medium duty truck with a crew cab with a plow and hopper which will be better suited for the work than the F 550.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** He reported during November issuing one building permit, made one inspection; attending training for 2 days; and one certificate of completion

**Town Assessor:** No report

**Dog Control Officer:** November was quiet with no calls. She reported she had been called to a fire on Dec, 7 at 8:30 p.m. The house was seriously damaged and not livable the renters had three dogs that they could no longer care for. She picked up the dogs and was keeping them. She was unable to find a shelter to take the three dogs. She said she had to bathe them. There was a discussion about Brennan Humane Society not taking the dogs since the town has a contract with them. Town attorney Michael Albanese said he would review the contract and call Brennan to discuss the town's concerns.

**BTI Director:** No report.

**Town Justice:** Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report to the State Comptroller's office showing no fines turned over the State Comptroller during the month

**Town Historian:** No report

**Town Clerk:** No report.

**Town Supervisor:** Supervisor VanDenburgh reported that Town received \$93,341.86 as the Town's share of the sales tax revenues to the county from sales taxes. This year's receipts for sales tax revenues for Stratford are \$356,219.22.

The Supervisor noted that the New York State and Local Retirement System said the resolution reporting Sole Assessor Dave Galarneau's beginning and end dates were omitted from the RS-2417 Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution previous adopted by the board.

## **RESOLUTION 31-2021**

### **RESOLUTION FOR STATE RETIREMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPORTING TO NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Stratford has determined for Bookkeeper Joanne Young, (1) that the hours for the Bookkeeper are 9.33 hours per month, or 1.55 days per 6-hour standard workday, (2) that the term for the appointed Assessor of the Town of Stratford began on April 1, 2021, and expires Dec. 31, 2021, and (3) that a three-month calendar of hours and activities has been received and maintained by the Town Clerk.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be available for public review at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours between Dec. 11, 2021, thru Jan. 11, 2022.

A motion offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill, was approved unanimously 5-0.

**AYES** – VanDenburgh, Ploss, Rutkowski, Perkins and Rumrill

**NAYS** - None

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The QuickBooks monthly budget update was given to the Board by the Supervisor.

Supervisor VanDenburgh reported ordering a stop payment from the bank on a check to Hanson Aggregates in the amount of 513.44 which had apparently been lost. The stop payment order will not cost the town anything.

She also reported submitting an application to Fulton County for the use of their landfill facility in 2022.

**RESOLUTION 32-2021**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS**

The Stratford Town Board approves the following budget transfer to amend for appropriations to be paid as described below.

DECREASE		INCREASE	
DA5110.1 General Repairs PS	\$13,035.59	DA5130.4, Machinery Contr.	\$9,954.23
		DA9730.7 Debt Interest BAN	43.00
		DA9040.8 Worker’s Comp	3,000.00
		DA5110.4 General Repairs Contr.	38.36
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A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual	135.00	A1410.41 Deputy Clerk	135.00
A1410.4 Town Clerk Contractual	664.00	A1410.41 Deputy Clerk	664.00

A motion offered by Supervisor VanDenburgh, seconded by Councilwoman Rutkowski, was approved 5-0.

**ADOPTED AYES** – VanDenburgh, Ploss, Perkins, Rutkowski and Rumrill  
**NAYS** - 0

**AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

Motion made by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins, to approve payment of November’s bills.

December 2021 General Fund	Voucher Nos. 107-109, 111-119 & 121	\$ 9,597.45
December 2021 Prepaid Fund	Voucher Nos. 94-99	\$ 23,844.94
December 2021 Highway Fund	Voucher Nos. 109-122, 124-130	\$ 9,398.16

**ADOPTED AYES** - 5 - VanDenburgh, Rutkowski, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill  
**NAYS** - 0

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** The only speaker was Gary Rumrill who said he had three partial bags of dry dog food he was willing to donate to the Dog Control Officer to help with taking care of the 3 dogs displaced by the house fire. The DCO thanked Rumrill for his offer.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Councilwoman Rutkowski said she wanted to address the council regarding concerns she had for the town Highway Department's ability to take care of road sanding and snow removal this winter in light of the manpower limitations and equipment problems the town has been experiencing. She said she was concerned that some of the trucks may not be safe to drive.

Superintendent Staring said they are currently short one man due to a retirement at the beginning of the month. He said he has per diem drivers available to drive the plows if necessary. As for the trucks, the repairs are being completed as quickly as possible and assured the council that no employees are being asked to operate unsafe equipment.

Councilwoman Rutkowski said that it is her understanding the town employee scheduled to take his CDL test later in the week will not be able to use the truck he is used to driving because it is sidelined for repairs. She suggested the town reimburse him for the test fee if he doesn't pass because he is driving a truck he is not familiar with. Superintendent Staring said he Town of Salisbury was loaning the town the use of one of their trucks that is very similar.

Councilwoman Ploss said she was very pleased with the job Superintendent Staring and the Highway Department employees have been doing.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Supervisor VanDenburgh reported the 2022 Reorganizational meeting is set for January 3, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall. It will be preceded by an executive session at 6 p.m.

There being no further business to adjourn by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Perkins, was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Neely, Town Clerk