

State of New York  
County of Fulton  
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, April 14, 2022 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
Scott Seeley	Councilman
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk
Mark Rose	Town Attorney
Lawrence Staring	Highway Superintendent
Robert Knapp	Codes Enforcement Officer
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
Mike Sokira	BTI Director

Absent: David Galarneau  
Lorraine Rumrill  
Moirra Marshall

Residents in attendance: Ten

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the regular meeting to order at 6:32 PM with the Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Fogarty received a letter from the Dolgeville School Board thanking the town for allowing them the time for a presentation at the March meeting to explain the proposals that were to be voted upon.

Supervisor Richard Fogarty asked if anyone in attendance would like to speak.

Larry Neely spoke on behalf of the Stratford Volunteer Fire Department. There is to be an open house on April 23, 2022 for the purpose of encouraging new members to join. The fire department has 8 members currently receiving the training to be certified as 1<sup>st</sup> responders. This will greatly help the response time when an ambulance is called as it will give more ability to certified responders to administer more medical assistance and call a helicopter if it is deemed necessary to save a life.

Alicia Rice addressed the board and community members about a subject that was brought up at the March meeting. She said that at the time Mr. Galarneau who was hired as sole assessor, was 1 of 6 candidates considered for the position with a re-evaluation of town properties being considered at that time. Mr. Galarneau's presented timeline in March was set up to achieve that goal and she hopes that the current board will endorse it.

The board is going to discuss it but the timing at this point (due to real estate current market values) could be detrimental to the overall town assessment.

A gentleman who lives on Cemetery Rd where the road has washed away spoke of his concern about the safety of the situation. He feels that the section needs to be barricaded or blocked in some manner to prevent bicycles and atv's from riding on the east side of the wash out since the water continues to erode the ground underneath.

Supervisor Fogarty explained that the section of Cemetery Rd is located in the Town of Salisbury therefore Stratford Highway Dept cannot do anything. Mr. Fogarty will speak with Salisbury and let them know of the unsafe situation.

Public speaking closed at 6:45PM.

#### DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPT: The Superintendent Larry Staring reported that his workers have started spring clean up, sweeping and clearing trees and limbs that have fallen over the winter. They are currently doing seasonal prep work on summer equipment.

Superintendent Staring hired a new employee who will be starting on 4/18/22 since the person already holds a Class A CDL license. His other new employee holding a CDL permit will be taking his road test next week.

Repairs to the sweeper were necessary due to electrical issues, failed water pump and several hydraulic leaks. All have been fixed and the sweeper is ready to go.

Truck 9 (2014 Freightliner) is down with a DEF problem, it is currently at Adirondack Towing and Repair.

Superintendent Staring also requested an increase in the salt to 450 ton for next winter. We ran out of salt this current season due to the large amount of ice events that we had.

There was a discussion of possibly doing a pilot program to maintain the county roads in our town as a means of producing income to help offset the purchase and repair of our equipment. Superintendent Staring feels his crews could satisfy the requirements of county without a great deal of problems. This discussion is tabled until next month.

A motion was made by Richard Fogarty and second by Councilwoman Tiffany Rutkowski to have Superintendent Staring place the salt order of 375 tons as we have used in the past.

AYES-4 Fogarty, Rutkowski, Seeley, Vedder

NAYES-0

ABSENT-1 Rumrill

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Karen Jaquay reported that she picked up 1 stray on Piseco Rd. After the owner produced proof of current license and rabies vaccine the dog was returned to the owner upon payment of a \$10 impound fee. There was a report of 3 lost dogs by a resident. Two of the lost dogs have been found.

Karen reported that in light of her upcoming surgery she has made contact with Oppenheim supervisor who advised their DCO that they will help cover while she is laid up. She assures us that she has our town properly covered while she is recovering.

BTI DIRECTOR: Michael Sokira reported that his team started treating the creeks as soon as the ice went out. As of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 50% of the creeks have been visited. The team is finding larvae and will continue to monitor and treat throughout the treatment area.

CODES ENFORCER: Robert Knapp reported that he has completed the 4<sup>th</sup> week of training classes for certification with 2 more weeks to attend in May.

Mr. Knapp has met with residents, exchanged emails and phone calls about various projects and plans throughout the town.

He will be attending a seminar in Johnstown about cleaner septic tank options.

Mr. Knapp presented some pricing updates to the board for their approval.

A motion was made by Supervisor Fogarty and second by Councilwoman Tiffany Rutkowski to adopt the new permit pricing as presented to be effective May 1, 2022.

AYES-4 Fogarty, Rutkowski, Vedder, Seeley

NAYES-0

ABSENT- Rumrill

JUSTICE: Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report to the State Comptroller's office which showed \$80 in revenue.

TOWN HISTORIAN: Supervisor Fogarty reported on behalf of Moira Marshal that the mold situation has been looked at and options for its eradication will be presented as soon as the pricing is wor

ASSESSOR: David Galarneau was not present

TOWN CLERK: Patricia Dineen gave the clerks report for the month of March 2022.

State, County and Local revenue was \$350.50 of which \$4 went to NYS Ag & Markets for the spay and neuter program leaving \$346.50 for local revenue.

Patricia also reported that the 2022 Town and County Tax rolls have been balanced and submitted to the County of Fulton. A total collection of taxes was \$972,447.30 of which \$2,567.08 in penalties was turned over to Supervisor Fogarty.

Patricia also reported that now that tax season is over, she would like to change the office hours to make it more convenient for working people no matter their shift.

NEW CLERK HOURS: Tuesday	6pm-9pm
Thursday	9am-12pm
Saturday	8am-12pm

SUPERVISOR: Supervisor Richard Fogarty gave a monthly board report, monthly Financial report and bank statements to be viewed.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made by Councilman Scott Seeley, and seconded by Councilman Todd Vedder to approve the payment of bills as follows:

April 2022 - General Fund	Vouchers #51-56	TOTALING \$ 2,661.43
April 2022 – Highway Fund	Vouchers #54-67	TOTALING \$ 12,019.67
April 2022 – Prepay Fund	Vouchers #31-41	TOTALING \$ 8,012.74

AYES-4 Fogarty, Rumrill, Rutkowski, Seeley, Vedder

NAYES-0  
ABSENT- Rumrill

ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS:

Canada Lake Computer Services are working on setting up E-mail coordination.

Read Accounting is still working on the 2021 Audit, should be complete soon.

Long-term Disability Policy has been completed.

Phone Lines (Judge) and Fire Alarm (Town Barn) have been installed

We are waiting on a quote for the dialing system of the Town Hall so the fire system can call Central Station

We are waiting for an estimate from Building Environment Service on the mold abatement. A copy of the mold report was emailed to all board members for their review.

Once again the Windfall Creek culvert and Hawes Rd Bridge were discussed. A Certificate of Abandonment was discussed and tabled until the May meeting.

A resolution for the ordering and purchase of the 2023 International Truck was tabled to a later date.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made by Councilman Scott Seeley and second by Councilman Todd Vedder to adjourn.

All in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk