

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk
Lawrence Staring	Highway Superintendent
Robert Knapp	Codes Enforcement Officer
Mike Sokira	BTI Director

Absent: Councilman Scott Seeley
David Galarneau
Moira Marshall

Residents in attendance: Nine

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 PM with the Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Amanda Kaier of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District gave a talk of the benefits for the town that are available through the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District which our town is a part of. She presented information on several of their programs including one that may assist the town in our Mold remediation costs.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Richard Fogarty received letter/check from Fulton County Treasurer showing first quarter sales tax distribution check for \$80,392.15 which is down 10.47% from last quarter but up 7.62% from first quarter last year. He also received \$5,390.00 in Mortgage Tax.

Supervisor Richard Fogarty also received a letter of resignation from Highway Superintendent Larry Staring effective May 12, 2022.

Supervisor Fogarty also received communication from Gary Brown, Disaster Assistance Representative for the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, recognizing the efforts of Highway Superintendent Larry Staring. He worked closely with Mr. Staring over 2 ½ years guiding him through the FEMA process. He stated that the Town stands to receive substantial monetary reimbursements due to Mr. Staring's dedication and attention to detail. A full copy of his letter can be obtained from the clerk's office.

Supervisor Richard Fogarty opened public speaking at 7:08 pm.

Elizabeth Wright approached the podium to inquire if there are any zoning laws pertaining to fences between properties, outdoor lighting and trees planted on property lines. Code Enforcement Officer

Robert Knapp stated that there are no codes that will solve her issue that he is aware of but will look into it. It may just be a legal issue.

Joan Ploss approached to state that she is saddened by the resignation of Larry Staring and wishes him the best of luck. She said he acted as a gentleman during the May meeting and she hopes the board can move on from here.

LeighAnne Loucks approached the podium to express her feelings about Mr. Staring's resignation and she also hopes that we can move on. She stated that she did wish he had stayed to answer some questions but felt there was no animosity between Larry and the town. She wished the best of luck to whoever takes over the position.

At this time Councilwoman Tiffany Rutkowski asked to speak as part of the public speaking. Councilwoman Rutkowski felt that during the past month she has not been informed of what is going on with town business and felt she was kept out of the loop. She feels that there needs to be communication and transparency between the board members in order to properly do her job.

Supervisor Richard Fogarty stated that her concerns were duly noted and the meeting moved forward
Public speaking ended at 7:16 pm.

At this time Supervisor Richard Fogarty wanted noted that he has accepted the resignation of Highway Superintendent Staring with much regret effective the end of the day May 12, 2022. He stated that Mr. Staring was an asset to our town that did not deserve the scrutiny, nit picking and unappreciative attitude given him by one of our board members. Mr. Staring went above and beyond with his work ethic and was able to secure substantial monetary amounts for our town.

Supervisor Richard Fogarty requested to enter into executive session at this time.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and seconded by Supervisor Richard Fogarty to enter into executive session.

AYES Rumrill, Vedder, Fogarty and Rutkowski
NAYES none

The board entered into executive session at 7:23 pm to discuss personnel matters

The board returned from executive session at 7:36 pm

A motion was made by Councilman Todd Vedder and second by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill to appoint Robert Knapp as Highway Superintendent with a starting date of June 9, 2022 through December 31, 2023 or until a new election is held.

AYES Rumrill, Vedder, Fogarty
NAYES none
ABSTAIN Rutkowski

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

HIGHWAY DEPT: Deputy Highway Superintendent Wade Allen was not present but submitted a written report stating that they have been repairing wash outs due to rainstorms, cleaning road and removing brush and dead limbs. They black patched on Piseco, Seeley and Mallet Hill road. All dirt roads have been raked and potholes on Youker, Powley and Bliss have been repaired. There is a culvert which needs to be replaced on Bliss

They have 1 new employee going for his CDL and another which started on June 6.

The Highway Department has a new email address: townof.stratford@yahoo.com

The 2014 freightliner is still in repair shop, excavator has been serviced and 2 new batteries were purchased to get mowers in service. Weed trimmer needs replacing. Culverts were delivered for Kelly, Dugway and Piseco Rd. Stewart trucking delivered concrete barriers for the head walls.

FEMA deemed the culvert undersized and helped procure a grant to replace them. There is a yellow flag on bridge on Piseco rd/Ayers creek. Andy bell is coming to look and estimate a repair for the violation.

Wade wanted to thank the town board and especially Dick Fogarty and his coworkers for the highway department pulling together and keeping the town operational and the roads safe.

Mr. Allens report can be read in it's entirety at the clerks office.

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Karen Jaquay reported that she received a ball about a neglected dog. She left them a message to contact the Sheriffs dept or State Police to handle animal abuse situations. She received a call about a dog found in the Johnstown cemetery. It turned out to be a resident's dog that had been missing for 6 weeks. The owner was notified and reunited with her lost pet.

BTI DIRECTOR: Michael Sokira reported that his team has treated all streams. They are not seeing a lot of larvae and streams are quite low. They will continue to monitor and treat as needed. There are enough empty jugs to pick up another 25 gallons of BTI from Caroga.

CODES ENFORCER: Robert Knapp reported that he has completed basic training course 9E the week of 5/2-5/5 with the exam on 5/11. He completed the 6th and final training course 9F on the week of 5/23-5/26 with the final exam on 6/1. Passing all exams and completing the certification for codes enforcement. He has issued several permits and checked on building projects in various locations.

JUSTICE: Judge Rissmeyer submitted a copy of his monthly report to the State Comptroller's office which showed \$243 in revenue.

TOWN HISTORIAN: Moira Marshall stated that they are working with the Stratford Seniors on a Town Wide garage sale to be held August 7 with all proceeds to go towards the improvement of the Town Hall building.

ASSESSOR: David Galarneau was not present but gave a written report. Grievance day was rather light with approximately 7 complaints and a petition to correct the roll. The overall loss of assessment this year due to grievance day complaints was minimal. His complete report can be viewed at the clerks office.

TOWN CLERK: Patricia Dineen gave the clerks report for the month of May 2022. State, County and Local revenue was \$1063.50 of which \$24 went to NYS Ag & Markets for the spay and neuter program leaving \$1039.50 for local revenue.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill, and seconded by Councilman Todd Vedder to approve the payment of bills as follows:

June 2022 - General Fund	Vouchers #64-80	TOTALING \$	5,582.53
June 2022 – Highway Fund	Vouchers #89-98	TOTALING \$	34,982.73
June 2022 – Prepay Fund	Vouchers #58-64	TOTALING \$	506.33

AYES-4 Fogarty, Rumrill, Rutkowski, Vedder
NAYES-0

Supervisor Fogarty noted that the chips money has been receive in the amount of \$113,497.51. There is a 2 week delay before it is known which account(s) it is to be applied to.

ADOPTED

OLD BUSINESS:

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

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

The dialing system for the Town Hall fire system is on order, waiting for parts.

We received 2 quotes for the mold abatement and 2 quotes for the Town Hall Generator to look over. They have been given to board members to examine and a decision will be made next month.

Board members were given a Qualified Abandonment Folder with a resolution prepared by Mark Rose to look over for next month’s meeting.

NEW BUSINESS;

A motion was made by Supervisor Richard Fogarty and second by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill that no rental fee be charged to the Town of Stratford not-for-profit organizations for hall rentals.

AYES Rumrill, Vedder, Rutkowski, Fogarty
NAYES none

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk