

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Public hearing to increase the BAR to a 5 member BAR, held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Scott Seeley	Councilman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk
Robert Knapp	Highway Superintendent/Codes Enforcement Officer

Absent:

Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
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Residents in attendance: 10

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with the Pledge of allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence in memory of Christopher Tesi, a past Deputy Clerk for our town.

PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS CREATING LOCAL LAW #1-2022 for the purpose of increasing the Board of Assessment Review from a 3 person board to a 5 person board.

Public discussion began at 6:37 pm

With no concerns from the attending public, the discussion ended at 6:39pm.

Motion made by Richard Fogarty and second by Scott Seeley to create Local Law No. 1 to increase the Board of Assessment Review to Five members.

RESOLUTION #31-2022

LOCAL LAW #1

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW INCREASED TO FIVE MEMBERS

WHEREAS, The Board of Assessment Review for the Town of Stratford shall be increased from three members to five members, and whose terms shall be Five year terms.

WHEREAS, the two new members appointed under the provisions of this title, their initial terms shall be staggered so that no more than one member's term will expire in each of the first five years.

RESOLVED, thereafter each reappointment is to be for a full five-year term.

AYE	4
NAY	0

ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

Motion made by Richard Fogarty and second by Lorraine Rumrill under Local Law No. 1 to appoint the following names and terms.

RESOLUTION #32-2022

APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW

WHEREAS, The Stratford Town Board, under Local Law #1, hereby appoint the following names and terms of each member.

RESOLVED, the five-member Board of Review

Name:	Term:
Brenda Davy Minso	03/09/2022 – 09/30/2023
Henry Eifert	03/09/2022 – 09/30/2024
Connie Vanlaer	02/01/2021 – 09/30/2025
John Ploss	04/01/2020 - 09/30/2026
Lawrence Neely	10/01/2022 - 09/30/2027

TO BE RESOLVED, This Resolution replaces Resolution #17-2022

AYES 4
NAY 0
ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

CARRIED

Public meeting ended at 6:39pm

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Scott Seeley	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk
Robert Knapp	Highway Superintendent/Codes Enforcement Officer

Moira Marshal	Town Historian
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer

Absent:

Tiffany Rutkowski	Councilwoman
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Residents in attendance: 10

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM with the Pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

Town board members entered executive session at 6:41pm

The regular town board meeting reconvened at 6:53pm.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richard Fogarty and second by Councilman Scott Seeley to Rescind resolution #23-2022 Qualified abandonment of a portion of Hawes Rd.

AYE 4 Fogarty, Seeley, Rumrill, Vedder
NAY 0
ABSENT Rutkowski
CARRIED

RESOLUTION# 33-2022 attached

PUBLIC SPEAKING – 6:35 pm

Helen Neat wanted to thank Highway Superintendent Robert Knapp for the excellent job he is doing on our town roads.

Next to speak was Bill Marsh who had questions about the Hawes Rd Bridge resolution.. He asked if the land owners effected were notified and Supervisor Fogarty said that certified letters were sent to all land owners on the abandoned side of the bridge since they were the only ones effected by the closing of the bridge. Mr. Fogarty explained that he has learned that that bridge is trail C8 which is a main corridor trail for the NY State trail system therefore it is important to keep the bridge available for future

use. NYS DOT has already limited that bridge to under 2000 lbs. so it will never be able to carry anything larger than snowmobile or atv.

Leigh Ann Loucks stated that she had many questions but was able to get most of the answers from Superintendent Knapp prior to the meeting. She also thanked the town board members for voting to rescind the qualified abandonment of the Hawes Rd bridge. She also wanted to remind the board that any Resolutions being looked at for the meetings must be available 24 hours in advance for public to view. Leigh anne also wanted to mention that she doesn't feel it is fair to residents to purchase a dump permit for each vehicle if non-resident can purchase one and an additional one for use on family or renters. Supervisor Fogarty said the board will discuss this as the permit is updated.

Public speaking ended at 7pm.

Communications: A thank you note was received from the family of Caroline Walker for the use of our town hall during their celebration of life.

A motion was made by Supervisor Fogarty and second by Councilman Todd Vedder to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2022 Town board meeting.

AYE 4

NAY 0

ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

CARRIED

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Karen Jaquay reported she was finally able to locate the 2 dogs that were running at large throughout the town. They were owned by a resident that located them and placed them with another resident. The new owner is waiting on rabies info and will then license both dogs. The rest of the month was quiet.

TOWN HISTORIAN:

PRESIDENT OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Lorraine Rumrill reported that the Christmas Sing a long was a great success. Thank you Sharon and April for bringing your beautiful voices.

BTI: Mike Sokira submitted a report that in 2022 we used 30.7 gallons of BTI which leaves us 40 gallons in inventory for next year. There is currently a 30 hour pesticide course that is a prerequisite for the NYSDEC core and category specific pesticide exam. Stratford has one candidate taking the course. If he passes that exam it will bring us to 5 applicators for 2023.

TOWN JUSTICE: Judge Nicholas Rissmeyer turned over a check for \$650.00 for the payment of fines for the month of November.

CODES ENFORCMENT: Mr. Knapp reported that things are slowing down. No new permits were issued. The month was spent inspecting active projects and responding to calls and emails.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Knapp noted that the guys are continuing preparing the trucks and equipment for the winter season. We had our first round of weather prior to Thanksgiving while he was away. Deputy Superintendent Wade Allen was in charge with no issues occurring. Two trailer loads of tires were taken to Mudd Rd landfill. Regular tires there was no fee but the truck tires were \$350 per ton. We disposed of 2.1 ton which gave us a bill of \$735.00. His most recent hire left on the November 3rd. He has replaced him with a former employee of Oppenheim Highway Department who has 10+ years of experience.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Mr. Fogarty stated that we are still looking for volunteers for a Beautification Committee to replace the pavilion etc.

CLERK'S REPORT: Patricia Dineen reported that \$171.30 was received in state, county and local revenue of which \$169.30 was the local amount retained by the town.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Mr. Fogarty reported that the next Regional Food Band will be January 4, 2023, the first Wednesday of every month.

The town received the final check from the equipment auction in the amount of \$460.00.

He also received a refund from Amsure Ins. in the amount of \$383.90 due to old equipment which was sold and removed from the policy.

Fulton county mortgage tax was received in the amount of \$7,357.93.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made by Supervisor Richard Fogarty and second by Councilman Scott Seeley to approve the payment of bills as follows:

NOVEMBER 2022 - GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS #144-159	\$ 9,235.33
NOVEMBER 2022 - HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS #199-215	\$15,186.27
NOVEMBER 2022 - PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS #108-118	\$22,036.96

AYE 4

NAY 0

ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS #34-2022, #35-2022 AND #36-2022 ATTACHED

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Fogarty announced that Town Attorney Marc Rose has been elected to the NYS Supreme Court. Therefore, he must resign as our town attorney effective 12/31/22. Mr. Rose recommends that we have a new attorney to cover effective 1/1/2023.

THEREFORE;

Motion was made by Supervisor Fogarty and second by Councilman Vedder to appoint Attorney Michael C. Viscosi as the Town of Stratford attorney at the rate of \$750 per month, not to exceed \$9,000 annually, effective 1/1/2023.

AYES 4

NAY 0

ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

CARRIED

The Year-End meeting will be held Thursday, December 22, at 6:30 PM for the signing of any vouchers remaining for 2022.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and second by Councilman Scott Seeley.

AYE 4

NAY 0

ABSENT Tiffany Rutkowski

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Dineen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk

December 8, 2022

RESOLUTION # 33-2022

**RESOLUTION TO RESCIND QUALIFIED ABANDONMENT OF A PORTION OF
HAWES ROAD**

WHEREAS; Resolution #23-2022, for the year 2022 entitled "Resolution for the Qualified Abandonment of a Portion of Hawes Road" was passed; and

WHEREAS; a public hearing regarding said Qualified Abandonment was scheduled on November 21, 2022; and

WHEREAS; said the hearing was not conducted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that Resolution # 23-2022, for the year 2022 Is hereby rescinded.

A motion offered by; Supervisor Fogarty

Second by; *Scott Seeley*

All in favor;

Ayes: *4*

Nays: *0*

Abstained:

RESOLUTION # 34-2022

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE TRANSFER STATION FEES

WHEREAS; the current fee for Transfer Station Stickers is set at \$ 5.00; and

WHEREAS; this board has determined that it is in the best interest of the Town to increase transfer fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the fee for Transfer Station Stickers shall be set at \$10.00.

A motion made by: Supervisor Fogarty

Second made by: *Lorraine Rumrill*

All in favor:

Ayes- *4*

Nays- *0*

Abstained-

RESOLUTION # 35-2022

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT TOWN ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2023

WHEREAS; THE Town Attorney, Mark R, Rose, has been elected to the New York State Supreme Court and is required to resign from his duties as Town Attorney for Stratford, New York Effective December 31, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that Michael Viscosi, Esq. of Johnstown, NY Is appointed Town Attorney for Stratford, NY effective January 1, 2023, at the rate of \$ 750.00 per month, with the annual amount of \$ 9,000.00

A motion made by: Supervisor Fogarty

Second made by: *Todd Vedder*

All in Favor:

Ayes: *4*

Nays:

Abstained:

RESOLUTION # 36-2022

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FOR STAGING AREA

WHEREAS; Michael Baird Logging is in the process of logging certain property bordering the Town of Stratford-owned property at 111 County RT 104, Stratford; and

WHEREAS; Michael Baird Logging has requested to lease from the Town an area approximately 100' X 150' in size for staging purposes as depicted on the attached map;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town shall enter into a lease with Michael Baird Logging for purposes of the staging area. The lease shall be in the Amount of \$ 250.00 and shall be for the time period of December 15, 2022 Through April 1, 2023. The Lease Agreement shall include, among other things, liability insurance, and provisions to return the property to its current condition. The Agreement shall be approved by the Town Attorney and signed by the Town Supervisor.

A motion made by: Supervisor Fogarty

Second made by: *Todd Vedder*

All in favor:

Ayes- 4

Nays- 0

Abstained-