

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, April 13, 2023 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
Moira Marshal	Town Historian
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer

Absent: John Ploss Councilman

Residents in attendance: 6

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

PUBLIC SPEAKING – 6:46 pm

Sonia Rissemyer suggested that our fire department should have a sign where notices etc could be posted such as BURN BAN notices like other area fire departments. She also suggested that they should have some activities and fundraisers to try to establish interest in joining the volunteer fire dept.

Alicia Rice spoke next and explained that there is a sign near the entrance to the transfer station. She also explained that the volunteer fire team does training at the schools and that on the 26 & 27 they are hosting a Fire Fighters Challenge for students in grades 7-12 to try to get the interest of young people. She also wanted to inform the board and towns people that The Fulton County Board of Supervisors has established a 10% tax exemption for property owners who have 5 yrs membership in the volunteer fire department. Also reported is that in an effort to achieve faster response and service by the ambulance in our area, they have established a “fly car” to go to the emergency as soon as calls are received so that it can be assessed and medical services can be started while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Public speaking ended at 6:51 pm.

Supervisor Fogarty called executive session at 6:50 to discuss personnel issue. Motion made by Lorraine Rumrill and second by Todd Vedder to enter into executive session.

Executive session ended at 6:55 and the meeting reconvened.

Communication:

Mr. Fogarty received the quarterly report from the The Stratford Volunteer Fire Department which summarized the activities and shows that they responded to 16 call in the first quarter of 2023. Thirteen of the sixteen calls were EMS call compared to eleven EMS last year.

A motion was made by Supervisor Richard Fogarty and second by Councilman Todd Vedder to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Town board meeting.

AYE 4
NAY 0

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Quotes are still being obtained on the new pavilion and there is hope that possibly some playground equipment can be a part of the improvement.

HISTORIAN: Moira Marshall reported that she will be attending a conference in Herkimer on April 22. Also, April 28th is national marker day. To honor this day we will be meeting at 10am at the marker for the First Tannery to clean it. Light refreshments will follow at the town hall. This is the marker on the west side of the Stratford bridge.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Karen Jaquay reported the the yearly AG & MKTS inspection has been completed and passed. She has left notices with 4 residents to comply and license their dogs. The owners have 10 days to comply. The rest of the month was quiet.

HIGHWAY: Mr. Knapp reported that due to the various weather conditions from high winds to snow and freezing rain there have been washouts and flash flooding. The worst damage being at the Mike Smith Rd culvert, which is temporarily closed to address other more important areas. The crew has switched to summer hours of 4 (10 hour) days per week. There is a road broom scheduled for rental the week of April 24th to get started on road clean up while waiting for our sweeper to be repaired. The crews are working on repairing equipment and trucks as needed. Mr. Knapp has been working on completing documentation needed for the Voorhees Rd project with the engineer and National Grid. Work will begin on the 3 large culvert replacements from the 2019 flooding as soon as the water levels permit which is normally around August. Rand B Construction is scheduled to start the Hawes road steel repairs within the next few weeks. Mr. Knapp has lawn mower quotes which were previously discussed that still need to be voted on.

On a final note, Mr. Knapp has decided to accept another career opportunity which won't allow him time needed to effectively continue the position as Highway Superintendent. He has been preparing deputy Wade Allen with proper contacts and information to keep moving forward on all project until such time as the position is filled. Mr. Knapp thanks the town for allowing him the opportunity to serve the town.

TOWN JUSTICE: Judge Nicholas Rissmeyer reported fine payments in the amount of \$963.00 which was turned over to the town supervisor.

CODES ENFORCMENT: David Rackmyre reported that he has been responding to several code related call and code related inspections were completed. Two project applicants were referred to the APA for jurisdictional review before proceeding with permit processing.

ASSESSOR: no report

BTI: Mr. Sokira reported that his crew started stream treatment in March. East Canada Creek has been treated once so far. Ed Abbott is now a certified pesticide technician and will be treating the Pleasant Lake and Stewart Landing areas. He met with his team in March to assign creeks and go over DEC requirements. He also renewed the Agency pesticide business registration as it expires 6/30/2023.

CLERK'S REPORT: Patricia Dineen reported that \$637.88 was received in state, county and local revenue of which \$632.88 was the local amount retained by the town and \$1.00 was sent to NYS Ag. & Markets for spay/neuter program.

TAX COLLECTOR: Tax collection 2023 is completed showing that \$1,590.36 in penalties for late payment was turned over to the Town of Stratford.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: The next Regional Food Bank will be held May 3, 2023.

Mr. Fogarty met with North Tec Heating & Cooling of Gloversville on the upgrade of the town Hall heating system. They are New York NYSERDA certified.

The land surveyor will be starting in a couple of weeks.

Mr. Fogarty will be looking into the 10% property tax reduction for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. A Local Law will be required.

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made by Supervisor Fogarty and second by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill to approve the payment of bills as follows:

MARCH 2023 - GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS #38-52	\$ 4,470.40
MARCH 2023 - HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS #41-52	\$ 8,353.74
MARCH 2023 - PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS #48-62	\$ 6,662.38

AYE 4

NAY 0

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS: Volunteers are needed to form a committee to create a new Transfer Station Policy to coincide with The Fulton County policy. Karen Jaquay, Richard Fogarty and Lorraine Rumrill agreed to be on the committee. If anyone else wants to sit on the committee please contact Mr. Fogarty or the Town Clerks office .

NEW BUSINESS: A motion by Lorraine Rumrill, second by Scott Seeley to close out all Adirondack Bank accounts with the exception of the Cemetary account and place funds into NBT money market and CD's to gain interest on funds.

AYES 4

NAY 0

CARRIED

RESOLUTIONS #14-2023 APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW

WHEREAS. the Stratford Town Board accepted the resignation from John Ploss.

RESOLVED, At the Board meeting March 9, 2023, the Town Board Appointed Ronald VanVaulkenburg to the Board of Review

BE IT RESOLVED: The Town of Stratford appoints and fills the dates listed,

Ronald VanVaulkenburg – October 10, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

Offered by- Richard Fogarty

Second by- Scott Seeley

AYES 4

NAY 0

ADOPTED April 13, 2023

RESOLUTION #15-2023 APPOINTMENT OF APPEALS OFFICER

WHEREAS, The Stratford Town Board acknowledges the need for an Appeals Officer for the Town of Stratford.

RESOLVED, The Board appoints Town Attorney, Michael Viscosi as the Town of Stratford Appeals Officer.

BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution will be available for public review at the Town Clerk's Office during normal business hours.

Offered by- Richard Fogarty

Second by- Todd Vedder

AYES 4

NAY 0

ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2023

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

AYE 4

NAY 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk