

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Municipal Building, 120 Piseco Road
August 8, 2019

Present:

Allicia Rice	Supervisor
Allan Perkins	Councilman
Richard Fogarty	Councilman
Joan Ploss	Councilwoman
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Heather VanDenburgh	Town Clerk
Charles Goodwin	Highway Superintendent
Norman Wright	Code Enforcement Officer
Michael Sokira	BTI Director
Moirra Marshall	Town Historian
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer

Town Officials Not Required to Attend:

Leigh Anne Loucks	Assessor
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Number of Residents in Attendance: 4

Supervisor Rice called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED ON LOCAL LAW 2-2019

TC VanDenburgh noticed town law 1-1996 was also a Prior Notice of Defect law that was not overridden by Local Law 1-2019. Local Law 1-2019 is to be rescinded and replaced by Local Law 2-2019, which is identical to 1-2019 with the exception of the additional line *"This local law shall supersede all previous laws, especially Local Law 1-1980 and Local Law 1-1996."* Town Clerk VanDenburgh posted public hearing notices on the StratfordNY.com website, Stratford Facebook page, public boards outside of her office and transfer station, along with notices printed in the official town newspapers. Supervisor Rice asked those in attendance if they had any comments, and besides clarifying what the law was, no person in attendance objected to the updated law. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 6:32PM.

RESOLUTION 23-19: TO ADOPT NEW LOCAL LAW 2-2019, A LOCAL LAW to rescind Local Law 1-2019 dated June 13, 2019 and to enact Local Law 2-2019 to require prior written notice of defects and/or obstructions on Town-owned or Town-maintained properties to the maintenance of a cause of action against the Town of Stratford

WHEREAS, the Town of Stratford enacted Local Laws 1-1980 and 1-1996, local laws to require prior written notice as a condition precedent to the maintenance of a cause of action against the Town of Stratford, New York, and

WHEREAS, under NYMIR's recommendation, an updated law was presented to the Stratford Town Board for review to override Local Law 1-1980 and public notices presented to the public;

WHEREAS, after passing Local Law 1-2019 to update the law per NYMIR's recommendations, it was discovered that Local Law 1-1996 also needed to be overridden;

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Stratford agrees to rescind Local Law 1-2019 and adopt new Local Law 2-2019, a Local Law which requires prior notice of defect as a condition precedent to the maintenance of a cause of action against the Town of Stratford, New York.

FURTHER RESOLVED that this law will supersede all previous laws, especially Local Law 1-1980 and Local Law 1-1996.

Offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

Councilman Perkins: AYE

Supervisor Rice: AYE

Councilwoman Rumrill: AYE

Councilwoman Ploss: AYE

Councilman Fogarty: AYE

ADOPTED: 5 AYES, 0 nays

Correspondence: The Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for the Brennan Humane Society was completed on 7/18/19. The shelter was rated "Satisfactory." NYMIR is hosting a seminar on "Cyber Awareness- best practices for securing your systems." Super. Rice and TC VanDenburgh will attend.

Reports:

Highway Superintendent Goodwin's report was reviewed by the Town Board (See attached). Supt. Goodwin has received quotes on Piseco Rd. and Cemetery Rd. blacktopping. The cost for blacktopping Stewarts Landing Rd. was \$84,928.76, which was prepaid by Super. Rice to receive the reimbursement for this cost quicker. The Fulton County Snow and Ice Contract for the 2019-2020 winter season was reviewed by the Town Board.

RESOLUTION 24-19

APPROVAL OF THE FULTON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SNOW REMOVAL AND ICE CONTROL CONTRACT FOR 2019-2020

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board accepts the proposal by the Fulton County Highway Department to have the Stratford Highway Department undertake snow removal and ice control for the winter of 2019-2020 on County Roads 104 (2.35 miles) and 119 (6.56 miles) at a total contractual price of \$44,550.00.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

5 AYES **Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill**
0 NAYS

Supt. Goodwin stated he was "down a man again" at the Highway Dept.

A motion to go into Executive Session for possible litigation was made at 6:38pm by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Fogarty.

5 AYES **Rice, Fogarty, Perkins, Ploss, Rumrill**
0 NAYS

A motion to return to the regular meeting was made at 6:58pm by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss.

4 AYES Rice, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT Perkins (indisposed)

Code Enforcement Officer Wright read his report to the Town Board. (See attached).

There was no Assessor report for this month.

Both CEO Wright and Assessor Loucks are in need of new computers. CEO Wright's is no longer functional, and Assessor Loucks is currently using her personal computer for Assessor work under permission from the County. Both are in dire need of a new computer. CM Fogarty mentioned that Assessor Loucks has had money budgeted in her equipment line for many years without using it for a new computer. Super. Rice has been in touch with a Lenovo Rep. to discuss County contract purchase options. Under the Town Justice budget line for equipment is \$1,000 that is unused which can be used to purchase these computers. Super. Rice requested permission for her and TC VanDenburgh to purchase two new laptops.

A motion was made to allow Supervisor Rice and TC VanDenburgh to purchase two new laptops for CEO Wright and Assessor Loucks.

Offered by Councilman Perkins, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

Dog Control Officer read her report to the Town Board. Super. Rice thanked DCO Jaquay again for her help with the dog capture up Piseco Road last month.

BTI Director Sokira read his report to the Town Board (See attached). Director Sokira is currently advertising for applicators for the 2020 season. Please contact Director Sokira at (315) 429-3657 if you are interested.

Town Historian Moira Marshall verbally conveyed her report this month. Historian Marshall spoke about getting a NYS Archives grant and having Maria McCashion from Archives come down to view our storage facilities. She asked permission to see about getting a quote to build an addition off of the Town Hall building to house historical documents. She stated the amount of Town artifacts and the necessity for proper storage, and the impediments of using the upstairs of the Town office building. She would like to create a "museum-like setting" for the public to research. She will be working with TC VanDenburgh on sharing certain costs. This is only for obtaining quotes to submit with the NYS Archives grant process.

A motion was made to allow Moira Marshall to obtain quotes for a new addition to be built off of the Stratford Town Hall building.

Offered by Councilwoman Ploss, seconded by Councilman Fogarty

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

Justice Arena's report for this month was reviewed by the Town Board.

Town Clerk VanDenburgh read her report to the Town Board. (See attached)

Supervisor's Report: Super. Rice wanted to clarify that she is, in fact, finishing out her term and is not moving.

REVIEW OF TOWN POLICIES: TC VanDenburgh discussed a possible Personnel File Policy and pointed out other policies that needed updating. A new hiring policy for the highway department was discussed to include verbiage: "All former employees of the highway department who have left for any reason, if rehired, will receive entry level benefits as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and the Union. All employees retired from the highway department, if rehired, will receive entry level benefits as outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and the Union."

A motion was made to accept the new hiring policy as read above.

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Rumrill

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

TAX ASSESSOR POSITION: TC VanDenburgh and Super. Rice have worked to find cheaper advertising alternatives for the Assessor position, including a legal advertisement in the Leader-Herald, NYSAA, NYSAC, Facebook, and the official town website. To date, we have received 3 applications, with one more awaiting a resume. CM Fogarty wants to revisit Assessor requirements from the Town Board as well as other policies under consideration. **A Town Board meeting is scheduled on August 21st at 5:30pm to discuss policies.** The Stratford Town Board will interview for this position directly after the September 12, 2019 meeting. All those who have applied will be notified.

LED STREET LIGHTING: Super. Rice stated that the NYPA rep. is not responding to her. Town of Caroga is also still waiting on proposed contract changes. Town of Oppenheim heard from National Grid about a large reduction in costs through their LED street lighting program, and Super. Rice is investigating this. Due to the urgent repairs needed on our street lights (6 out of 18 lights are broken) she suggests that whoever comes through with a solid plan first is the one that the Town Board should approve.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY/TRAINING: The Town Board members will undergo their sexual harassment training after their scheduled meeting on August 21st. TC VanDenburgh will work with Supt. Goodwin to schedule a time to have the Hwy. Dept. complete their training.

BUDGET PREPARATION

BUDGET REQUEST FORMS HAVE BEEN ISSUED BY SUPER. RICE AND ARE DUE AT THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 REGULAR MEETING.

RESOLUTION 25-19

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT BENEFITS

RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board will provide single health insurance with no family or buyout option for the Stratford Highway Superintendent commencing on January 1, 2020;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the clothing allowance benefit for the Stratford Highway Superintendent will cease beginning January 1, 2020.

Offered by Councilman Fogarty, seconded by Councilwoman Ploss

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

Financial Report

Super. Rice presented her binder of bank statements/cancelled checks and reconciliation sheets to the Board.

AUGUST ABSTRACTS:

2019 GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS 82-92	\$ 2,820.82
2019 PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS 89-98	\$ 5,257.03
2019 HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS 88-96	\$ 6,155.15

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Rumrill, seconded by Councilman Perkins to approve the payment of these vouchers.

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Commenced at 8:13pm

Questions about the Verizon Fiber rollout were asked. TC VanDenburgh reminded those at the meeting that as soon as she knows something, she will let everyone know. Currently, there have been many engineers surveying Stratford for Verizon, which is a good sign. Verizon stated that they will contact the Town 3 months prior to their build-out date. Once we receive this notice, TC VanDenburgh will post it. DCO Jaquay thanked everyone involved with the gift basket she received; everyone thanked her again for all of her hard work.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: Closed at 8:34pm

OLD BUSINESS: N. Rissmeyer apologized for not getting to the Men's room floor. He has been taking care of his mother.

NEW BUSINESS: Rachel from Reality Check asked if she could come speak at the Town Board meeting about her tobacco initiative, which the Town Board agreed. Super. Rice will schedule for October or November meeting.

With all business concluded, on a motion from Councilwoman Fogarty and seconded by Councilman Perkins, the August 2019 regular meeting was adjourned at 8:39pm.

5 AYES Rice, Perkins, Fogarty, Ploss, Rumrill

0 NAYS

-Heather VanDenburgh, Town Clerk

REGULAR MEETING
August 8, 2019
AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Public hearing on Local Law 2 - 2019
3. Correspondence
4. Reports
 - Highway Superintendent
 - Codes Enforcer
 - Assessor
 - ✓ New lap top
 - Dog Control Officer
 - BTI Director
 - Judge
 - Historian - grant application
 - Town clerk
 - Supervisor
5. NYMIR Safety Inspection
6. Review of town policies
 - Personnel files
 - Hiring policy
7. Tax assessor
8. LED street lighting
9. Date for Training on Sexual Harassment Prevention
10. Budget preparation
 - ✓ Employee Benefits
 - ✓ Budget request forms
11. Financial report
12. Monthly budget update report
13. Payment of bills
14. Public speaking
15. Old Business
 - ✓ Men's room floor
16. New Business
17. Adjournment

Highway Report 8-5-19

Sweeping West Shore RD
Black Patching Hole on Black Top Road's
Fixing Washout Shoulder on Black Top Road's
And on gravel Road's
Mowing side of Road's
Mowing Country Town Hall Park T. Barn
Sent one Truck To approach Black Topping
State working on Truck + Road Freightline Blakes
Take out Road Use Dam on Powder House And
Middle Spruce RD

Highway Superintendent
Theresa Jordan

Board Meeting Notes

August 2019

BTI

Town Of Stratford DCO Report For

July 11, 2019 To August 7, 2019

1. Completed the treating season on July 31st.
2. Will be compiling treating information for the DEC November and February reports.
3. Will begin advertising for potential candidates for the job. Caroga offered to help with the 30 hour class.

1. The dog that was trapped on Piseco road was euthanized due to aggression and an attack on a Brennan employee. The attack left the employee with stitches to the face.
2. Still have 2 separate cases due to be in court within the next week. These are from the previous month.
3. Made some calls about delinquent licenses.
4. Cleaned and sanitized our equipment.
5. The rest of the month was quiet.

Town Of Stratford DCO

Karen Jaquay

Ceo report.

july 9th-aug 5th

2 MEETINGS

ISSUED 4 PERMITS – shed, 2 garage's, renewal

4 INSPECTIONS

2 meetings

1 complaint

many calls

Town of Stratford

Town Clerk – Heather VanDenburgh

120 Piseco Road

PO Box 186

Stratford, NY 13470

PHONE: (315) 429-8612 FAX: (315) 429-0527

August 8, 2019 Town Clerk Regular Meeting Report

- The 2019-2020 DEC hunting licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's office beginning August 1, 2019.
- I am currently working on compiling a Town Policies binder that will make yearly policy reviews by the Town Board much easier to complete.
- As of July 31, 2019, the Town Clerk's office has collected \$4,162.00 in fees, to which \$3,712.28 was our local share given to the Supervisor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather VanDenburgh