

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the regular Stratford Town Board meeting held on Thursday, November 9, 2023 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
John Ploss	Councilman
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk

Absent: Councilman Scott Seeley

Department Heads:

Moira Marshal	Town Historian
Karen Jaquay	Dog Control Officer
David Rackmyre	Code Enforcement Officer

Residents in attendance: 8

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Peter Galarneau, the administrator of the Stratford website for many years.

Public speaking opened at 6:35 PM

Allicia Rice thanked the town board for passing the budgets. She also noted that the Stratford website is an important tool that we should get back functioning as quickly as possible. Supervisor Fogarty informed the her and the board that he is looking into other possibilities if Mr. Galarneau's son does not continue it.

Allicia Rice also wanted to recognize Fire Chief Donald Vedder for achieving 50 yrs service to our town as a volunteer Fire Fighter.

PUBLIC SPEAKING ended at 6:41 pm.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BEAUTIFICATION Karen Jaquay reported that the first phase plans to replace the pavilion have been completed and are on the back table if anyone wants to look them over.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Lorraine Rumrill reported that there will be a meeting of the historical society November 29th at 6:30 to discuss xmas for kids celebration.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

HISTORIAN, Moira Marshall reported that a series of diaries is being donated to the town which will give insight to what it was like to live in Stratford many years ago

DOG CONTROL OFFICER: Karen Jaquay reported that she has contacted all dog owners who have delinquent licenses. He had 4 dogs picked up by the town of Ephratah DCO due to the owner being deceased. After confirming that it is Town of Stratford responsibility, she to Brennan and took care of all the paperwork. There was a dog on Rt 119 chasing cars, a ticket was issued for failure to contain.

CODES ENFORCMENT: Mr. Rackmyre reported that he issued a new permit and did code related inspections. He also attended a Seminar Oct 23-25 in Albany and received certificates of training. These tickets give him more than the 24 hours of mandatory training required by the State of New York for Code Enforcement Officer.

BTI: none

JUSTICE: Judge Rissemyer reported Turned over \$403.00 in fine money to the town of Stratford.

ASSESSOR: Mr. Galarneau sent report for August, September and October. He has been entering transfers into data base, picked up and reviewed property transfers at Fulton County Real Property office. He met with Codes Officer about building permits and updated permit list to field check. It is looking like the market trend for 2024 will be much less than 2023. Our equalization rate may not drop much in 2024. He also performed an analysis on the effects of market trends on equalization rates and their impact on taxes. He will complete it when he has accurate tax levy of school district and accurate taxable totals.

HIGHWAY: Winter sand and salt have been delivered. The trucks are mostly ready for winter. There were a couple of complaints for driveways on the section of Stewart Landing Rd that was re-profiled which have been addressed. The seasonal roads have had holes filled for the last time this year, other roads have been patched hopefully for the last time until spring.

CLERK: The clerk reported a Total State, County and Local Renenues of \$645.20 of with the local Share to the town was \$479.74.

A motion was made by Lorraine Rumrill and second by Todd Vedder to accept the minutes as presented for the October 12, 2023 meeting.

AYE 4
NAY 0
CARRIED

A motion was made by John Ploss and second by Lorraine Rumrill to accept the minutes as presented for the October 26, 2023 meeting.

AYE 4
NAY 0
CARRIED

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and second by Councilman John Ploss to approve the payment of bills as follows:

OCTOBER 2023 - GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS # 141-150	\$ 6,550.53
OCTOBER 2023 - HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS # 135-148	\$ 33,100.56
OCTOBER 2023 - PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS # 104-109	\$ 851.93

AYE 4
 NAY 0
 ABSENT Councilman Scott Seeley
 CARRIED

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: The next food pantry will December 6th, regular hours 10-12. Mr Fogarty attended Fulton County meetings on October 9th, 30th, and 31st. The plans for the Pavillion from DMR will be put out for bid.

Mr. Fogarty has been corresponding with DASNY to revive the SAM.GOV Grant of \$150,000 for town barn upgrades. The boiler was inspected and passed with the exception that a log sheet needs to be maintained.

OLD BUSINESS: There will a special meeting for opening of bids for the Voorhees Road project Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 PM

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION #27-2023
APPOINTMENT OF APPEALS OFFICER/REPLACE RESOLUTION #15-2023

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

RESOLVED: At the board meeting on November 9, 2023, the town board appointed town attorney Brett Preston, 122 West Main Street, Johnstown, NY 12095, as the town of Stratford Appeals Officer.

BE IT RESOLVED: a copy of this resolution will be available for public review at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.

MOTION Supervisor Fogarty
SECOND Councilman John Ploss
AYES 4
NAY 0
Absent Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED November 9, 2023

RESOLUTION #28-2023
REPLACE THE HEATING FURNACE IN THE HIGHWAY GARAGE

WHEREAS: the Stratford Town Board acknowledges the need to replace the heating system in the Highway Garage.

WHEREAS: The 2023 Budget has a Capital Improvement line A5132.2 to pay for this update.

WHEREAS: Proposals have been received, with Center State Propane, 1130 Mason Road, Waterville, New York 13480, being the lowest proposal. This is a reputable Company.

WHEREAS: Center State Propane will install 2 hanging Reznor heaters (MFG#UDX250) in each garage corner. These units will have a 1" black iron main running along the ceiling and will get stubbed out of the building to make the gas connection. They will install a Rinnali (MFG#EX38CTP) in the break room and a Rinnai convection (MFG#RCE691TA-L) heater in the front office. We will run all appliances off a single torpedo tank set on the property; all aspects are included in the installation except the cost of propane. Warranty 10-yr heat exchanger with 5-yr parts. Total installed price \$15,000.00

BE IT RESOLVED: The Stratford Town Board the Stratford Town Board has given permission and has voted to replace the furnace at the cost of \$15,000.00. The funds for this upgrade will come from 2023 Budget line A5132.2 Capital Improvement/Garage

MOTION Supervisor Fogarty
SECOND Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill
AYES 4
NAY 0
Absent Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED November 9, 2023

RESOLUTION #29-2023
GRANT WRITING FOR A SALT SHED

WHEREAS: the Town of Stratford Board acknowledges the need for a salt shed to store salt used on town roads. This would be placed at the Highway Garage.

WHEREAS: there is a Salt Shed WQIP grant program; this grant would comply with DEC, NYS Agencies, and Local and federal regulator4s' guides. Grant writer is JFK Associates, LLC, 2128 State Route 5, Utica, NY 135023.

WHEREAS:

BE IT RESOLVED: The Stratford Town Board

MOTION Supervisor Fogarty
SECOND Councilman Todd Vedder
AYES 4
NAY 0
Absent Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED November 9, 2023

RESOLUTION #30-2023
AUTHORIZING TRANSFER STATION UTILIZATION BETWEEN

FULTON COUNTY AND THE TOWN OF STRATFORD
5-YEAR RENEWAL 2024-2025 AGREEMENT

WHEREAS: transfer station agreement between the Fulton County and the Town of Stratford will expire on December 31, 2023, and

WHEREAS: Fulton County has operated the transfer stations for several years.

WHEREAS: the new Transfer Station Agreement is from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2028.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Stratford Town Board has now authorized the town supervisor to sign the agreement with Fulton County.

BE IT RESOLVED: the agreement has the approval of the Town Attorney.

MOTION Supervisor Fogarty
SECOND Councilman John Ploss
AYES 4
NAY 0
Absent Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED November 9, 2023

RESOLUTION #31-2023
CHANGING FROM WEEKLY TO BI-WEEKLY ON PAYROLL

WHEREAS: the Stratford Town Board acknowledges the change from weekly to bi-weekly on the Highway payroll. This will save money on ADP payroll fees and payroll accountant time.

WHEREAS: there will be new timesheets used for the Highway Department. The timesheet will be signed by employees and the Highway Superintendent and then forwarded to the Supervisor. The supervisor will add his signature and then forward it to the payroll accountant.

WHEREAS: The last weekly payroll will be the Pay Period ending 12/30/2023, which will be paid on 1/18/2024.

BE IT RESOLVED: The Stratford Town Supervisor has permission to change Payroll to bi-weekly, and a new timesheet will be used for the Highway Department payroll.

MOTION Councilman John Ploss
SECOND Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill
AYES 4
NAY 0
Absent Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED November 9, 2023

RESOLUTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION # 25-2023 UPDATE OF SENIOR EXEMPTION LIMITS

RESOLUTION # 32 -2023

WHEREAS, the Stratford Town Board wishes to rescind Resolution #25-2023 Update Senior Exemption Limits, the Town Board hereby adopts a resolution to formally rescind its previous resolution to update the Senior Exemption Limits.

Motion by: Supervisor Fogarty
Second by: Councilman Todd Vedder

AYES 4
NAY 0
ABSENT Councilman Scott Seeley
ADOPTED

A Public Hearing will be held for the discussion/possible resolution #33-2023 to UPDATE SENIOR EXEMPTION LIMITS WILL BE HELD December 14th, 2023 at 6:30PM prior to regular monthly board meeting.

With no further business to conduct

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and Second by Councilman John Ploss to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

I hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the Town of Stratford Board meeting held on ~~September 14, 2023.~~

November 9, 2023

(Pat)



Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Special Stratford Town Board meeting of November 16, 2023 (for the purpose of opening bids for the Voorhees Road Project) at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Todd Vedder	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk

Absent: Councilman John Ploss
Councilman Scott Seeley

Residents in attendance: 8

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the special meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk began opening the bids for the Voorhees Road Project at 7:02 PM.

The following bids were received:

Jablonski Excavating, Inc	\$279,300.00
BF Excavating, Inc.	\$259,000.00
Borderline Excavating & Fence	\$311,908.00
James H. Maloy, Inc	\$257,000.00
Carver Construction, Inc.	\$247,145.00
Wolfe Excavating, LLC	\$257,000.00

Supervisor Fogarty thanked all for submitting bids. The Bid will be awarded December 14, 2023 after they have been reviewed.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and Second by Councilman Todd Vedder to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

I hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the Town of Stratford Board Bid Opening meeting held on November 16, 2023.


Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk

State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

Minutes of the Special Public Hearing (for purpose of raising Senior Tax Exemption Limits)/Regular Town Board meeting of December 14, 2023 at the municipal building located at 120 Piseco Rd.

Present:

Richard Fogarty	Supervisor
Lorraine Rumrill	Councilwoman
Scott Seeley	Councilman
John Ploss	Councilman
Patricia Dineen	Town Clerk

Absent: Councilman Todd Vedder

Residents in attendance: 4

Supervisor Richard Fogarty called the Public Hearing to order at 6:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor asked if anyone had any questions on the Resolution to Raise Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Limits.

With no further questions, Supervisor Fogarty moved on to the Regular Town Board meeting at 6:36PM (holding the Public Hearing open until 6:50 for any late comers).

PUBLIC SPEAKING opened at 6:36pm

Jay Pierz stated the urgent need for cell towers in the North Country. This past week there was an unusual situation where an accident between Salisbury and Stratford put the entire town out of phone and internet service and shortly after a tree fell on power lines near Pine Lake and put half of the town without power also. With no cell towers or fios to make cell phones work, there was no way for anybody to make an emergency call or even find out what had happened and when it would be fixed. This left the people of the town very vulnerable.

Mr. Fogarty agreed and stated that many town in the Adirondack have similar issues and that later in the meeting we will be voting on a resolution to request the Adirondack Park Agency to review their regulation for cell towers in the Adirondacks.

Public Speaking closed at 6:41

There was a communication from Senator Mark Walczyk. Senator Walczyk has been called to duty in Kuwait for nine months. He wanted to let everyone know that while he is away, he still has staff that will be taking care of the issues that arise.

Supervisor Fogarty closed the Special Hearing at 6:50PM and moved on with the Regular Town Board meeting.

AYE 4
NAY 0
ABSENT 1 Todd Vedder

AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

Motion was made Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and second by Councilman John Ploss to approve the payment of bills as follows:

NOVEMBER 2023 - GENERAL FUND	VOUCHERS # 151-175	\$ 32,607.93
NOVEMBER 2023 – HIGHWAY FUND	VOUCHERS #149-166	\$ 30,329.19
NOVEMBER 2023 – PREPAID FUND	VOUCHERS #117-129	\$ 15,194.15

AYE 4
NAY 0
ABSENT 1 Councilman Todd Vedder
CARRIED

SUPERVISORS REPORT- Supervisor Fogarty reported that he received the 3rd quarter Sales Tax payment of \$89,542.00 and the mortgage Tax for the second half of 2023 which was \$9,444.15.

The next Food Pantry will be January 3rd between 10am-12pm. In 12 months, we distributed 23,108 pounds of food to 1,349 individuals.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2023/LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024-SEE ATTACHED REPORT

OLD BUSINESS-

NEW BUSINESS-

UPDATE OF SENIOR EXEMPTION LIMITS

RESOLUTION # 33 -2023

WHEREAS recent increases in Social Security have made some seniors ineligible for property tax exemptions in the Town of Stratford, and

WHEREAS a public hearing regarding the increase in the maximum income eligibility level for senior citizens' property tax exemption was held at 6:30 PM on December 14, 2023, as outlined here, and that the Town Clerk gave at least seven days notice of such public hearing published at least once in the official Fulton County newspaper and said notice having been posted on the bulletin board outside of the Town Clerk's office; and further

WHEREAS the real property tax exemption "sliding scale" option to those persons sixty-five (65) years of age or older with owner-occupied residential property, with the following schedule of exemptions:

ANNUAL INCOME

AYES 4
NAY 0
ABSENT 1 Councilman Todd Vedder
ADOPTED

APPROVAL OF THE STRATFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CONTRACT

RESOLUTION # 35 -2023

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford and the Stratford Volunteer Fire Company have been operating under a contract for fire and/or emergency protection dated February 12, 2020 and

WHEREAS the parties desire to continue their contractual relationship for the provision of these services as determined by Fulton County Fire District boundaries and

WHEREAS a proposed contract for these services for the year 2024 has been received and reviewed by the parties;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board hereby adopts the proposed contract for the year 2024 and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the same: and be it further

RESOLVED that pursuant to the terms of the contract, the Fire Company shall receive the sum of \$85,000.00, to be paid between February 1 and February 15, 2024.

Motion by: Lorraine Rumrill
Second by: Scott Seeley

AYES 4
NAY 0
ABSENT 1 Councilman Todd Vedder
ADOPTED

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENTS (ESD) DESIGNATION OF A CELLULAR-SPECIFIC POINT PERSON TO LEAD THE STATE'S EFFORTS ON ENHANCING CELLULAR COVERAGE, AND FURTHER ENCOURAGING THE STATE TO EMPLEMENT A UNIFIED STRATEGY TO ASSURE EVERY MAJOR ROAD CORRIDOR HAS RELIABLE CELL CONERAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY ESD'S UPSTATE CELLULAR CONERAGE TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

RESOLUTION # 36 -2023

WHEREAS, cellular service is vital to public safety and the economic well being of communities throughout the Adirondack Park; and

WHEREAS, county officials report that approximately 70 percent of 9-1-1 calls originate from cellular phones; and

WHEREAS, in a recent survey hosted on a State Senate website of almost 2,000 Adirondack Park residents, 99 percent of respondents reported owning a cellular phone and 67 percent reported that they rely exclusively on a cellular phone; and

Hochul to further enhance the state's efforts on broadband and cellular coverage expansion by employing a model similar to ORES that is respectful of the home rule process and designed to streamline policy making across state agencies in pursuit of moving the state more expeditiously toward its goals; and be it further

RESOLVED; RESOLVED, that the Town of Stratford hereby joins emergency service and telecommunication professional, and other towns and villages across the Adirondacks, in urging the APA and the Governor to review the 2002 APA Tower Policy's antiquated "substantial invisibility" standard, which stands as the main impediment to delivering reliable telecommunication services necessary for public safety in large portions of the Adirondack Park; and be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Adirondack Park Agency Executive Director Barbara Rice, State Senator Dan Stec, State Senator Mark Walxyl, Assemblyman Matt Simpson, Assemblyman Billy Jones, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Assemblyman Robert Smullen, AATV and Adirondack Inter County.

Motion by Richard Fogarty

Second by Scott Seeley

AYES 4

NAY 0

ABSENT 1 Councilman Todd Vedder

THE JAMES A. BRENNAN MEMORIAL HUMANE SOCIETY, INC
Agreement Contract for 2024

RESOLUTION # 37 -2023

WHEREAS the Town of Stratford and the James A. Brennan Memorial Humane Society, Inc. have designated the Brennan Humane Society as its shelter under Section 114, Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, and

WHEREAS the parties desire to continue their contractual relationship for the provision of these Services; and

WHEREAS the proposed contract for these services for the year 2024 has been received and reviewed by the parties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stratford Town Board hereby adopts the proposed contract for the year 2024 and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the same; and be it further

RESOLVED that, pursuant to the terms of the contract, the Humane Society shall receive the sum of \$1,500.00 from the Town of Stratford for 2024.

Motion by: Richard Fogarty

Second by: Lorraine Rumrill

AYES 4

NAY 0

ABSENT 1 Councilman Todd Vedder

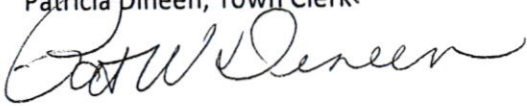
A motion was made by Councilwoman Lorraine Rumrill and Second by Councilman Scott Seeley to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

I hereby certify that the aforementioned is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the Town of Stratford Board Bid Opening meeting held on ~~November~~ 16, 2023.

*December
16/23*

Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk



State of New York
County of Fulton
Town of Stratford

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Residents in attendance: 8

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Patricia Dineen, Town Clerk

