

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Supervisor Samuel J. Hall
Councilman Michael Sexton
Councilman George F. Smith
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Joan Degener, Barb Burch, Duane Burch, John Moskos, Kate Moskos

ABSENT: Mark Miller, part-time Enforcement Officer, Christine Milligan, Town of Fort Ann Historian, Lisa Barbato, Dog Control Officer

Supervisor Hall opened the January Regular Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of silence was held for Fort Ann resident Peter Quagliaroli.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of December 13, 2021.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the Organization Town Board Minutes of January 3, 2022.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the November 2021 monthly financial statement.

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$132,289.79
Highway Fund	\$ 20,821.36
Youth Commission	\$ 4,195.04
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 20,719.44
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 2,429.14
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 1,971.74

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS - General Fund	\$498,366.77
------------------------	--------------

NYCLASS -Highway Fund	\$102,587.18
NYCLASS- Hadlock Park Dist.	\$ 95,752.97
LOSAP	\$ 5.78

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to pay the bills as warranted and audited.

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:04 p.m. Public Comment opened.

6:05 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.

Supervisor’s Report: Supervisor Hall stated that an RFP will be going out for a CPA and the town is looking at a more modern computerized system than what we have been using. Need to update to the electronic world.

Supervisor Hall received a letter dated December 15, 2021 from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) about how important it is for the Town of Fort Ann to complete a Community Assistance Visit in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE). The purpose of this process is to provide comprehensive assistance to the community for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Supervisor Hall will contact Brad Wenskoski, CFM with NYSDEC. There is a list of (17) seventeen properties and asking that any relevant documentation (bldg. permits, floodplain development permits, site plans, etc.) be readily available for the meeting. Supervisor Hall stated people have to know the criteria and could be removed from the FEMA flood insurance programs. Mr. Moskos asked about the addresses. Supervisor Hall said that Mr. Moskos can have a copy of the list of properties because perhaps there’s addresses that should be on there and aren’t and need to be or want to be evaluated. Supervisor Hall and Councilwoman Stark will probably attend the meeting by zoom and hope to have this accomplished by the end of the month.

Supervisor Hall is going to remain as the Washington County Board of Supervisors Chairman and continues to deal with COVID issues around the Town of Fort Ann and Washington County.

Supervisor Hall is still trying to find a place to board dogs. Supervisor Hall will talk to the Town of Fort Ann Dog Control Officer, Lisa Barbato, about her ability to provide dog shelter services. The Attorney for the Town said that Lisa just has to satisfy the Ag & Markets requirements to board dogs and he will be able to draw up a contract. When Supervisor Hall spoke to Ag & Markets they indicated that Lisa knew what needed to be done to be an appropriate dog shelter facility.

Supervisor Hall is still looking for someone to repair the Town Hall roof up over the court area. Mark Miller, Town of Fort Ann Enforcement Officer, referred Supervisor Hall to someone that looked at the town hall roof a few years ago and gave the previous Town Supervisor an estimate to repair the town hall roof.

Supervisor Hall stated it will be necessary to go into executive session later for a personnel issue.

Councilwoman Stark stated that the Fire Departments put together a nice Christmas Eve parade every year around Hadlock.

Councilwoman Stark received an email today about an Alzheimerssupport.com link that people can go to for areas around here and get help. The information is free.

Councilwoman Stark stated there should be a guide book with the regards to the bike trail in April/May of 2022 for the Champlain Canalway Trail.

Councilwoman Stark stated that on April 23, 2022 there is a clean sweep day scheduled for clean ups around canals.

Councilwoman Stark has ice safety tip sheets available for people and they will be located on the sign in table.

Councilman Sexton asked if snowmobiles are allowed on the bike trail. He had someone from the public ask him. Councilwoman Stark stated that as far as she knows the bike trail located in the Town of Fort Ann do allow snowmobilers.

Councilman Sexton stated that the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company is made up of new members. They will be paying off a fire truck and building a new one. They don't expect to take delivery for at least two (2) years but are wondering about the timeframe for the public hearing. The Attorney for the Town responded that the public hearing isn't necessary until they are ready to commit.

Town Clerk's Report was given for December 2021. The Town Clerk advised that there have been a few people to come in and/or call the Town Hall trying to pay their Town & County taxes. They didn't know that the Tax Collector had retired and didn't see on their bill they had to pay at the Washington County Treasurer's Office, 383 Broadway, Ft. Edward. We have envelopes addressed to the Washington County Treasurer's Office if people need them.

Highway Superintendent Report: The Highway Superintendent advised they did stump removal on Goodman Road; brush removed last week on Route 4; had to have the 2008 International towed to Albany there's a knock in the motor so they have borrowed a truck from the Town of Whitehall. Paul stated there is money in the equipment fund if the town would like to purchase this plow truck from the Town of Whitehall for \$30,000.00 that is a year newer and ½ the miles than the one that's broke down. The Town of Whitehall Highway Superintendent plans on this plow truck being surplus on January 19, 2022. Supervisor Hall asked the Attorney for the Town if an RFP was necessary he replied not through surplus. The Highway Superintendent said there was a problem closing the Hadlock Dam valve this year. The gate kept freezing up but they finally got it closed. There might be a bad seal but you can't see it. It had to be opened back up when the water level went up with all the snow melt and rain in January. There's more water than you can let out. Shutting it back down January 12, 2022.

Enforcement Officer Report: Not present. Supervisor Hall read the December 2021 Enforcement Officer Report. Supervisor Hall stated Mark would be working from home for the next 10 days due to a member in his household having tested positive for COVID.

Historian: Not present

Old Business: Supervisor Hall asked Kate and John Moskos if there are similar laws in other towns where they have short-term rentals. Kate said the Town of Queensbury and Town of Bolton. Supervisor Hall stated the town board will continue to work on:

“A Local Law Regulating Short-Term Rentals in the Town of Fort Ann.”

“A Local Law Amending the Town of Fort Ann Site Plan Review.”

New Business: Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to purchase 2009 International 7600 plow truck with side dump from Town of Whitehall truck that is going to be deemed surplus for \$30,000.00 on January 19, 2021. Will be kept in Highway inventory until next new one comes in.

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:33 p.m. **Public Discussion opened.**

6:34 p.m. **Public Discussion** closed without discussion.

RESOLUTION #36-2022

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept resolution entitled “Resolution Appointing Members to the Dispute Resolution Committee.”

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sexton, Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall

RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby appoints Grant Whitmer and Jeff Vrooman to serve as members of the Dispute Resolution Committee through December 31, 2024.

Supervisor Hall stated it was necessary to call an executive session for medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person/corp, or matters leading to said dismissal, removal, promotion, appointment, employment, discipline, demotion, or suspension.

6:35 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to enter into executive session.

Motion was carried unanimously.

7:34 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to go out of executive session.

Motion was carried unanimously.

7:35 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$16,255.47
	Highway:	\$21,076.59

Hadlock Park District: \$ 600.00

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk
Town of Fort Ann, New York

Dated: January 21, 2022