

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN FIRE HOUSE

PRESENT: Supervisor Richard Moore
Councilman Dennis Fletcher
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark
Councilman Samuel Hall
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor/Bookkeeper, Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Jeff Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Dr. Nina Versaggi, Director of Public Archeology, Brian Grills, Project Director, SUNY/Binghamton, Todd Humiston, Dog Control Officer, Callie Ginter, The Post Star, Joe Loszynski, William Hohmann, Pat Cantanucci, Sue Allen, Gary Allen, Nancy Larrow, Christine Milligan, Barbara Eagle, Virginia Parrott, Dick Parrott, George Sherwood, Amy Bailey, James Black, Gene Connell, Floyd Ladd

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence was held for deceased Fort Ann residents Kathleen Marie Fiorino, Louise M. Winchell and Richard A. Baetens.

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

Motion was carried.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of December 11, 2017.

Motion was carried.

Supervisor Moore read the December 2017 monthly financial statement.

Receipts for the month of December

General Fund \$199,579.13

Disbursements

General Fund \$ 89,464.97

Highway \$115,703.93

Checkbook Balances

General Fund \$199,941.44

Highway Fund \$ 76,694.10

Youth Commission \$ 1,295.29

Hadlock Dam Project \$ 239.90

Hadlock Park District Fund \$ 23,166.33

Consolidated Health District \$ 1,107.49

Trust & Agency Fund \$ 428.80

Medical Reimbursement Fund \$ 100.60

Savings Accounts

General Fund	\$445,057.10
Hadlock Park District	\$ 8,782.11
Highway Fund	\$105,181.08
LOSAP	\$ 14,318.09

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

Motion was carried.

Supervisor Moore introduced Dr. Nina Versaggi and Brian Grills, Project Director, from SUNY/Binghamton. They distributed information and spoke about the study of Battle Hill and its preservation.

Virginia Parrott, Town Historian, stated she was appointed Historian back in 1972 and she is so happy and so thankful to Dr. Versaggi, Mr. Grills, Christine Milligan, Fort Ann American Legion, Fort Ann Town Board and all the others that have been involved with getting this attention and preservation to Battle Hill.

Public comment opened at 6:22 p.m.

Public Comment closed at 6:23 p.m.

Supervisor Moore announced that the public hearing for West Fort Ann Firehouse expansion will be re-scheduled for February 12, 2018.

Public Hearing to Opt-Out of Section 487 NYS Real Property Tax Law Concerning Tax Exemptions for Certain Energy Systems opened at 6:24 p.m. and closed at 6:25 p.m. with no comments.

Supervisor’s Report: Supervisor Moore mentioned that the Tax Collector’s Office has experienced a lot of activity since December 22, 2017 through December 28, 2017 since under the new 2018 Federal passed law, the \$10,000.00 state and local law cap. Three hundred thirty four (334) people either sent in or stopped into the Town Hall to pay their 2018 taxes in 2017. The Tax Collector advised the Supervisor that she had taken in approximately \$1,400,000.00, which was approximately a \$600,000.00 increase compared to last year at the same time was \$800,000.00 approximately.

Supervisor Moore received a speed limit decrease request from a woman on Mattison Road, closer to the Kingsbury side. The Highway Superintendent stated she would have to go through the same process/steps as people have in the past starting with a petition.

Supervisor Moore stated the Agricultural Stewardship Association published an article on the Battle Hill easement in the Fall Forever Farmland magazine. The publication will be in the Town Clerk’s office for anyone wanting to take a look at it or request a copy. It will also be on the Town website

www.townoffortannny.com

Supervisor Moore stated that Bob Henke will remain the Washington County Board of Supervisor Chairman, John LaPointe will be the Vice Chairman and Dan Shaw, Town of Easton Supervisor, will now be the Washington County Budget Officer. On January 5, 2018 the standing committees were posted and Supervisor Moore is on the following committees: Ag/Planning/Tourism/Community Development, Chair of the Audit, Finance, Health and Human Services, IT, Public Safety and Ad Hoc Trails Committee. Councilwoman Stark also attends the Ad Hoc Trails Committee monthly meeting.

Supervisor Moore advised that a couple of resolutions had passed at Washington County in December and is very pleased to say that he asked for the County to send out Requests for Proposals for Health Insurance Broker and Property & Casualty insurance. There has been approximately \$137,879.00 savings which is a 47% decrease and on the Property & Casualty side NYMIR has agreed to reduce premium by \$84,938.00 which is a 16.4% decrease for 2018.

Councilman Fletcher will chair the cemetery committee which was previously lead by Mr. Varney.

Councilman Hall will be the liason between the Town, American Legion to work on the Battle Hill Master Plan.

Councilwoman Stark and Councilman Hall will work with Joe Loszynski on the Hadlock Shoreline Protection Plan Committee.

Councilman Fletcher wanted to say Happy New Year to everyone.

Councilman Hall stated it's a real honor to be on the Town Board and looking forward to working with everyone for the betterment of Fort Ann.

Councilwoman Stark announced that the Hadlock 5th annual Ice Fishing Derby will take place January 20, 2018. All proceeds go towards the Youth of Fort Ann. There will be food and lots of prizes. There will be an ice rescue demonstration at 11:00 a.m.

Councilwoman Stark announced that a couple of weeks ago Washington County had received a \$430,000.00 grant for the trails from Fort Ann and north to Whitehall.

Councilwoman Stark reminded everyone to take a look at the bulletin board at the Town Hall for Senior events and programs that are available through Washington County Office for the Aging.

Town Clerk's Report was given for December 2017.

Highway Superintendent Report: Been busy; few little small repairs. Supervisor Moore said the Highway Department has done a great job with the roads. Councilman Fletcher stated that the Town roads were in better shape than the State roads.

Enforcement Officer Report was given for the month of December 2017.

Historian Report: None

Lake Hadlock Project Manager, Joseph Loszynski, emailed a copy of his matters pending from last progress report to the Town Board Member's. A paper copy is on file in the Town Clerk's Office for

anyone who would like a copy. A copy is also out on the town website www.townoffortannny.com Mr. Loszynski stated it was totally unexpected that AIM went out of business 12/31/17. Mr. Loszynski stated he cannot guarantee 35 days of hand harvesting. Mr. Loszynski will forward RFP to Supervisor Moore and Attorney for the Town to review. Mr. Loszynski will provide the Town Clerk with the addresses that the RFP needs to go to and the Town Clerk has permission to advertise in The Post Star.

Councilwoman Stark asked Mr. Loszynski to read #1 of his monthly progress report. The monthly progress report is available on the town website as well as the Lake Hadlock website. Supervisor Moore stated #1 has to do with the newly formed Shoreline Protection Committee made up of Mr. Loszynski, Councilwoman Stark and Councilman Hall. Mr. Loszynski will schedule a meeting date/time with Councilwoman Stark and Councilman Hall.

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall for permission to RFP 2018 hand harvesting. .

Motion was carried.

Dog Control Report: paper copy was given to Town Board Member's. Todd wanted to mention that due to the enumeration licenses were up over 200% and that is good from a Public Health standpoint as well as revenue coming into the Town of Fort Ann. He also wanted to mention 100% adoption rate for shelter, which has nothing to do with him but thought it was worth mentioning, since it doesn't appear on his report. Also, he did dog presentation to over 400 students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade for Fort Ann Central School and Hudson Falls students.

New Business: There were two (2) bids received for a 2018 or newer ½ ton extended cab pick up. This was advertised in The Post Star to be opened at the January 8, 2018 town board meeting.

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| 1) West Herr Ford, 5025 Camp Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075 | \$27,397.00 |
| 2) Warren Ford, 3711 Main St., Warrensburg, NY 12885 | \$28,474.00 |

Only one (1) bid was received for Battle Hill Trails Master Plan. This was advertised in The Post Star to be opened at the January 8, 2018 town board meeting.

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| 1) The LA Group, 40 Long Alley, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 | \$37,500.00 |
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RESOLUTION #34-18

APPOINTING A TOWN PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY

On motion of Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing a Town Planning Board Secretary."

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby appoints Deborah Fifield as Planning Board Secretary for an annual salary of \$4663.00, to be paid biweekly, through December 31, 2018.

RESOLUTION #35-18

APPROVING NYS PAID FAMILY LEAVE FOR HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT AND HIGHWAY WORKERS

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving NYS Paid Family Leave for Highway Superintendent and Highway Workers." The Town will pay the January, February and March 2018 premiums and the employees will pay all future premiums. New York State requires employees be given 90 days notice prior to deductions from their pay. The coverage effective January 1, 2018.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann approves NYS paid family leave for Highway Superintendent and the employees of the Town of Fort Ann Highway Department effective January 1, 2018.

RESOLUTION #36-18

INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR AN EXEMPTION FOR COLD WAR VETERANS FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 458-B

On motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Introducing Proposed Local Law Providing for an Exemption for Cold War Veterans from Real Property Tax Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 458-b."

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, the proposed Local Law is hereby accepted for introduction to the Town Board. A public hearing shall be scheduled for the consideration of the proposed Local Law to be held by the Town Board on February 12, 2018 at 6:05 p.m.

RESOLUTION #37-18

TO ACCEPT THE BID OF WEST HERR FORD

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to accept the Bid of West Herr Ford."

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Supervisor Moore to execute any and all documents relative to the purchase of the aforementioned truck.

RESOLUTION #38-18

TO ACCEPT THE BID OF THE LA GROUP

On motion of Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Fletcher to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Accept the Bid of The LA Group."

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes Supervisor Moore to execute any and all necessary agreement relative to entering into a contract for professional services to prepare the Battle Hill Trails Master Plan with The LA Group for \$37,500.00.

RESOLUTION #39-18

AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO OPT-OUT OF SECTION 487 OF THE NYS REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW CONCERNING TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR CERTAIN ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN

On motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled “Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Proposed Local Law to Opt-Out of Section 487 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law Concerning Tax Exemptions for Certain Energy Systems in the Town of Fort Ann.”

ADOPTED AYES 5 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Witherell, Moore

RESOLVED, pursuant to and in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law, the Town Clerk is hereby directed to enter this Local Law into the minutes of the meeting and file the same with the office of the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

Open Public Discussion at 7:10 p.m. Chad Wilson, 201 County Rte 16, Fort Ann said he had a question for Attorney for the Town and/or Supervisor Moore regarding the bid awarded tonight to The LA Group. There seems to be confusion about the resolution just adopted. Mr. Wilson asked if as a municipality do we have to receive three (3) bids. Supervisor Moore stated that it was advertised in The Post Star. Attorney for the Town referred to the procurement policy.

William Hohmann, Copeland Pond Rd., Fort Ann had a question regarding solar energy on his property. Supervisor Moore stated that in October 2016 the county, town and school all passed resolutions that they would opt out for the solar exemption. Supervisor Moore explained that if it’s less than 12k just a permit is needed. If over 12k a site plan review would be needed.

Christine Milligan, 11 West Rd., Fort Ann asked if the town sent out to other companies instead of just running in The Post Star for the Battle Hill Trails master plan. She thought it appeared to be a conflict of interest. Supervisor Moore stated it was only advertised in The Post Star as required. Christine felt that the Town needed to be proactive and mail the RFP to other companies. Christine also asked if the American Legion and Historical Society was going to be included in this process. Supervisor Moore stated that Councilman Hall would be the liason on this to make sure that American Legion and the Historical Society were all communicated with.

Close Public Discussion at 7:19 p.m.

7:20 p.m. Supervisor Moore announced that executive session would be necessary to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation. Motion was introduced by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to go into executive session.

Motion was carried.

7:36 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall to return to regular session.

Motion was carried.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall to schedule a public hearing for February 12, 2018 at 6:05 p.m. to consider West Fort Ann Firehouse expansion.

Motion was carried.

7:39 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn.

Motion was carried.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$ 25,242.13
	Highway:	\$ 27,416.40
	Hadlock Park District:	\$ 250.00

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: January 18, 2018