

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON TUESDAY, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Samuel J. Hall  
Councilman George F. Smith  
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

**ABSENT:** Paul Winchell-Highway Superintendent  
Christine Milligan-Town Historian  
Councilman Michael Sexton  
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Mark Miller-Enforcement Officer, Jeff Meyers-Town Attorney, Josephine Devecchi, Bill Bailey, Penny Gould, Lyle Washburn, Duane Burch Jr., Barb Burch, Don Bedeaux

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of silence was held for Fort Ann residents;  
Constance Dodge & Carol Mattison

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to approve tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the August 2023 monthly financial statement.

**Receipts for the month of August**

**Checking Account Balances**

General Fund	\$ 43,955.50
Highway Fund	\$ 49,231.17
Youth Commission	\$ 6,861.76
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 5,737.79
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 3,038.73
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 6,280.15

**Savings Accounts**

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$ 1,098,065.36
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$ 580,238.02
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$ 97,691.52

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

**6:03 p.m. Public Comment opened.**

**6:04 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.**

**Supervisor's/Town Board Member's Reports:**

Supervisor Hall stated he had been busy working on the 2024 budget, we have already had our first workshop of the year the second budget workshop will be held on October 19, 2023 at Town Hall at 6PM. He also stated that he had been in contact with Dave Twiss working on the end of year report on Hadlock along with discussing repairs on the harvester.

Supervisor Hall also stated that he wanted to thank Barb Burch for all of her hard work that she has been putting into her new position as planning board secretary- the Planning Board is running much smoother and it is greatly appreciated by all.

He has also been working on getting the bond secured so the Town can move forward with the new highway garage.

Councilwoman Witherell- no news to report.

Councilman Smith stated the harvester will be taken out of Hadlock on Thursday to do repairs. Total weed take for the season was 35,500 pounds, he thanked Dave Twiss and his crew for the successful 2023 season- they did a wonderful job.

Draw down of Hadlock will begin October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Councilwoman Stark- Absent

Councilman Sexton- Absent

**Town Clerk's Report** was given for September 2023.

Town clerk also reported that the credit card machine for the Town Clerks office should be arriving within the next few weeks, this will cost the Town no additional money and will not result in any lost revenue, due to the credit card charges being charged directly to the customer.

Also, the Town has begun upgrading cyber security that will be installed on all computers and we will now have a computer technician who we can call if we have any problems with any town devices.

As for short term rentals Granicus has verified the rental properties in Fort Ann and we are now taking the next steps to get all of the online training done- once this is complete, we will have a better idea when our "go live" date will be regarding the accepting of short-term rental permit applications for the 2024 season.

**Highway Superintendent Report:** Not Present

**Enforcement Officer Report** Paper report given to Town Board Member's for September 2023.

**Historian:** Not present.

**Dog Control Officer:** Not present, paper report was given.

**RESOLUTION #76-2023**

**APPROVING CDPHP HMO SILVER – 324**

On the motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept resolution entitled “Resolution Approving CDPHP HMO Silver-324”

ADOPTED	AYES 3	Smith, Witherell, Hall
	ABSENT 2	Sexton, Stark

**RESOLVED**, that upon due deliberation of the available policies taking into account the employee’s needs, the available coverages and the costs associated therewith, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann approves CDPHP HMO Silver – 324 and having CDPHP HMO Silver – 324 as the health insurance administrator effective December 1, 2023.

**RESOLUTION #77-2023**

**GRANT FOR TOWN HALL COURT ROOM IMPROVEMENTS RESOLUTION**

On the motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled “Grant for Town Hall Court room improvements Resolution”

ADOPTED	AYES 3	Smith, Witherell, Hall
	ABSENT 2	Sexton, Stark

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann approves the application submitted by the Town Justice of the Town of Fort Ann in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 280 of the Laws of 1999 and with all rules and regulations governing the Justice Court Assistance Program

**RESOLUTION #78-2023**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR WALKER FARMS LLC FARMLAND PROTECTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION**

On the motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled “Resolution of support for Walker Farms LLC Farmland protection implementation grant application”

ADOPTED	AYES 3	Smith, Witherell, Hall
	ABSENT 2	Sexton, Stark

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board hereby declares their support for Walker Farm’s Farmland Protection Implementation Grant application and their pursuit of a perpetual conservation easement on lands owned by Walker Farms LLC; and that the Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to execute and send a letter of support for the above referenced Farmland Protection Implementation Grant application.

**6:27p.m. Open Public Discussion**

Jo-Jo DeVecchi asked why Mary Ryther was advertising that “Boo Town” would be open? Jo-Jo stated she knows that Mary has not met all conditions that were required by the Fort Ann Town Planning Board to open. Supervisor Hall stated that no one can stop Mary from advertising her business.

Jo-Jo stated that many conditions have not been met such as the storm water drainage that needed to be approved by Tom Jarrett (Fort Ann Town Engineer) and that the camper trailer is still on the property. The camper trailer has been attempted to be moved three or four times (according to Mark Miller-Code Enforcer) and due to the ground being too wet it has been unsuccessful. Tom Jarrett was not in agreement with the swale that was put on the property to re-route the water- shrubs are being ordered to be planted to help absorb some of the runoff water once this step is complete Mr. Jarrett should be able to sign off on the swale.

Lyle Washburn asked about the reassessment project, Supervisor Hall stated that is on hold and will not begin until the 2024 calendar year. Lyle stated his concerns with taxes and expressed his concern of being “taxed out” of his home. Supervisor Hall stated that he understood what Lyle was stating however, The Town has no control over assessment values placed on homes.

Barb Burch asked about the Hadlock Dam property that is in fact owned by the Town- at the previous board meeting (9/11/23) Supervisor Hall and the Town Board members were under the impression that the Town did not own any property around Hadlock Dam- they believed they only had a right away- and the property sold, however the new owner did agree to allow the Town to still use this as a right of way to the dam, but the new owners did take down the gate that was previously there, and due to the gate being down there have been more people that have been going down into the restricted dam area. Since the September meeting, this has been looked into further by both residents of the Hadlock area, Councilman Smith and Supervisor Hall and it was found out the Town in fact does own property around the dam and the Town is going to take the initiative of having a fence installed to keep people off of the dam for safety of themselves and the dam structure. Supervisor Hall did state that depending on the fence that is picked to be installed the Town may have to subcontract the installation of the fence out to another company.

6:50 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:51 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts for August:	General:	\$ 27,161.08
	Highway:	\$ 12,550.31
	Hadlock:	\$ 390.00
	Youth Commission:	\$ 784.70

Respectfully submitted,

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Miranda Herringshaw, Town Clerk  
Town of Fort Ann, New York

Dated: October 18, 2023

