

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

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

ABSENT: Councilman Michael Sexton

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Helen Denno, Budget Officer, Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Richard Moore, Kevin Lovely, Jon Pollock, Jason Pollock, Steven Murray, Donald Sexton, Floyd Ladd, Matt Gould

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

This meeting was published in The Post Star September 24, 2020.

Supervisor Hall started the 2021 tentative budget workshop thanking everyone in attendance tonight which is the first of two scheduled budget workshops. Supervisor Hall thanked the employees of the town as well as the fire companies and the rescue squad for their hard work, support and consideration during these COVID times. Supervisor Hall also wanted to thank the residents of the Town of Fort Ann for their patience and understanding while they may have been inconvenienced in how the town conducted business these last few months. COVID meant there was no fund raising which really put a strain on the fire companies and rescue squad's operations.

Supervisor Hall stated the tax cap remains at 2%.

Supervisor Hall stated with COVID there has been a significant loss of court revenue; there's been a 2.5% increase in health insurance; increase in payroll with the increase of minimum wage required by law; increased contributions to the NYS retirement system increase in dam insurance and dam inspection.

Supervisor Hall stated that the Town Board is considering annual audits in conjunction with the contracts for the fire companies and rescue squad because their budgets are so high and the residents of Fort Ann need to know that the money is spent where it is intended.

Helen Denno, Budget Officer, went over the 14 page 2021 tentative budget and copies were made available to the Town Board Member's and those that are present at tonight's meeting. Paper copies are available in the Town Clerk Office as well as on the town's website www.townoffortannny.com

The Budget Officer stated the Clerk to Supervisor position which had previously been a part-time position is no longer a part-time position. Helen Denno previously held this position and started training Jennifer Jackson in February 2020. There is still a lot of training to be done.

The line item for the Attorney for the Town was reduced by \$10,000.00.

The line item for the Town Engineer was reduced by \$1,000.00.

Supervisor Hall mentioned that there should be a reserve set up with \$10,000.00 being put aside each year for the next three (3) years for the purchase of a Harvester.

Floyd Ladd suggested having a dock for the Harvester that would accommodate it going in at the beginning of the season and removing it at the end of the season.

Supervisor Hall asked that everyone take a look at the budget and see if there is any place to tighten it up. Supervisor Hall asked that if anyone has any suggestions to please contact him and/or the Budget Officer with their suggestions.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn tonight's meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: October 8, 2020