

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Christine Milligan, Michelle Vara, George Sherwood

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 that passed away November and December 2020: Roseanne Jackson, Bill Thomson, Terry Bennett, Richard Paul Foran and Donna Killmeier.

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Special Town Board Minutes of November 5, 2020 with Councilwoman Witherell abstaining as she was absent that evening.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2020.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the October 2020 monthly financial statements.

**Financials for the month of October**

**Checkbook Balances**

General Fund	\$49,588.50
Highway Fund	\$30,245.04
Youth Commission	\$ 8,739.15
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 6,596.90
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ (616.59)
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 4,166.70

**Savings Accounts**

NYCLASS - General Fund	\$ 93,188.64
NYCLASS - Highway Fund	\$502,269.37
NYCLASS – Hadlock Park Dist.	\$ 95,678.78
LOSAP	\$ 9,126.30

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

**6:05 p.m. Public Comment opened.**

**6:06 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.**

**3.0 Report from Town Officials and Committees:**

**Supervisor’s Report:** Supervisor Hall stated that the Highway Superintendent is not here tonight. He attended a meeting at the Fort Edward Firehouse along with other Highway Superintendent’s and their deputies and later found out that a vendor that was also there tested positive for COVID so all 17 in attendance had to be quarantined. There were 33 people in quarantine because of that one (1) exposure.

There was a Washington County Laborer that goes between the Fort Edward Highway garage and the Middle Falls Highway garage so both Departments are shut down at a Washington County level and under quarantine.

Supervisor Hall stated there are eight (8) people doing contact tracing. The Washington County Emergency Command Center had to be opened since there are over 100 people in Washington County under quarantine. They are reaching out to those that have been trained in other departments to assist in contact tracing. There was a spouse of a person that was part of a grand jury pool who tested positive so the Washington County Courts; Probation Department and District Attorney’s Office have been shut down so everything could be sanitized. Supervisor Hall reminded everyone to stay vigilant in handwashing, social distancing and wearing a mask.

Supervisor Hall stated the Town of Fort Ann Highway Department is back on summer hours so they are not working together at all times to have the least amount of exposure to each other.

Supervisor Hall received notification from Town Justice Clark that the Town of Fort Ann Court has been shut down until further notice.

Supervisor Hall stated no one should be surprised if we have to implement our emergency plan of shut down because of the number of cases on the rise.

Supervisor Hall received a Grant Alert letter from LaBarge Group. He will take a closer look at it and see if it’s anything the town can apply for.

Supervisor Hall stated there will be a meeting tomorrow between 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. for six (6) towns in Washington County: Putnam, Dresden, Whitehall, Fort Ann, Kingsbury and Fort Edward regarding power cable that will run for approximately 330 miles along the Champlain Canal and be buried through those towns all the way to New York City. Fort Ann's portion equates to 6.9 miles. It is a host package to put cables through the towns. Supervisor Hall is hoping for dollars rather than equipment. Supervisor Hall will report out to the Town Board Member's when he has more detail and for their input.

Supervisor Hall stated that there is also a shared service plan being discussed with Washington County Highway Department and the Town of Fort Ann Highway Department. Also, looking at shared service plan with Middle Falls and either the Town of Easton or Town of Greenwich.

The Town of Fort Ann Historian, Christine Milligan, asked to speak and she said she remembers a few years ago when this was being proposed and Mr. Hall wasn't the Town Supervisor at the time and this was supposed to be money not equipment exchange. Christine Milligan, reminded Supervisor Hall that the power lines may be running through Battlefield and need to be reminded to contact her because it is a historical site. Supervisor Hall stated there will be a formal meeting December 15, 2020.

Councilman Sexton stated he is reviewing local laws that go back to the early 1990's and may need updating.

Supervisor Hall stated that the Highway Superintendent had received a call from Larry Bailey about running hoses to spread manure under town roads. The Highway Superintendent advised Mr. Bailey he would be responsible to replace not just patch the roads that he was planning on doing this to because some of these roads were new roads approximately five (5) years ago. Supervisor Hall contacted DEC to see if permits are required when going under a town road.

Councilman Smith is very active with the Lake Hadlock Association. Supervisor Hall stated it is time to review the permit for Harvester.

Councilwoman Stark stated there is a new rescue board for Pilot Knob/Fort Ann Beach. The bike trail grand opening should be in the SPRING. Each town will work with their respective Historical Societies on branding.

Councilwoman Witherell was wondering if anyone found out who put the signs up on Clay Hill Road because they probably won't last the winter with snowplowing and where they were placed. Supervisor Hall stated he believes it was New York State.

**Town Clerk's Report** was given for November 2020.

**Highway Superintendent Report:** Not present

**Enforcement Officer Report** not present but a paper copy of his November 2020 report was distributed.

**Historian:** Christine Milligan stated the business section of the Town/Village of Fort Ann brochure is outdated and we may want to think of a tourism budget.

Supervisor Hall stated the town cannot solicit and this is no a year to ask businesses for money. The Town Clerk advised there is an up-to-date business list for the Town and Village of Fort Ann on the town's website.

**4.0 New Business** None

**RESOLUTION #84-2020**

**ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF PART-TIME CLEANER**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Part-time Cleaner." (Richard Parrott, Sr.)

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann authorizes the Town Supervisor to hire a qualified applicant to be a part-time Cleaner. (Richard Parrott, Jr.)

**RESOLUTION #85-2020**

**APPROVING KINGSBURY BARNSTORMERS SNOWMOBILE CLUB LETTER REGARDING USE OF NIAGARA MOHAWK'S PROPERTY**

On the motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving Kingsbury Barnstormers Snowmobile Club Letter Regarding Use of Niagara Mohawk's Property."

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

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board has not objections for the Barnstormers Snowmobile Club the use of the proposed snowmobile trails that cross any Niagara Mohawk properties and that the Supervisor is authorized to notify National Grid and provide the Town's consent relative to the Barnstormers Snowmobile Club use of the proposed snowmobile trail.

**RESOLUTION #86-2020**

**AUTHORIZING THE 2021 CONTRACT WITH NORTH SHORE SOLUTIONS FOR TOWN OF FORT ANN WEBSITE**

On the motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Authorizing 2021 contract with North Shore Solutions for Town of Fort Ann Website."

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

**RESOLVED, that** the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann hereby authorizes the contract with North Shore Solutions, 22740 Murrock Circle, Watertown, New York 13601 for continued website development and management in accordance with the contract attached hereto and made a part hereof and the Supervisor is hereby authorized to sign and enter into said agreement, subject to final attorney approval of the same.

**RESOLUTION #87-2020**

**TO HIRE PART-TIME LABORER**

On the motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Hire Part-time Laborer."

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann authorizes the Town Supervisor to hire a qualified applicant to be a part-time Laborer at \$13.35/hr to be paid biweekly for snow removal at the Fort Ann Town Hall.

6:26 p.m. **Open Public Discussion** Christine Milligan asked Supervisor Hall to send a letter of appreciation to Dale and Coral Grinnell for all their hard work and time devoted at the Fort Ann food pantry. Supervisor Hall stated he'll prepare a proclamation.

Christine Milligan stated the Historical Society did receive a grant to benefit the community.

Supervisor Hall stated we will have to have the annual review for Hadlock Dam. The Town Clerk reminded Supervisor Hall that we had picked the annual financial audit date of January 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. to take place at the Fort Ann Town Hall. Also, Supervisor Hall decided that the organization meeting will be held January 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and the Regular Town Board meeting to follow immediately after the organization meeting closed.

Supervisor Hall asked the Attorney for the Town if he had anything to report on. Jeff Meyer stated the town may have to hold public meetings on zoom so that the public can be involved. Jeff Meyer stated you can have up to 100 people and it is very user friendly.

6:30 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:58 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$8,530.34
	Highway:	\$97,091.27

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: December 23, 2020