

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN FIREHOUSE**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Samuel J. Hall  
Councilman Dennis Fletcher  
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark  
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

**ABSENT:** Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Helen Denno, Clerk to the Supervisor, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Christine Milligan, Mark Miller, Laura Chadwick, Washington County Real Property, George F. Smith, Dale Grinnell, Michael Sexton, Patti Sexton, Jane Sexton, Don Sexton, Mike Sexton, Benjamin Sexton, Jennifer Jackson, Pat Monahan, Joe Monahan, Pat Nolan, Tom Noble, Robert Griffiths, George Sherwood, Marie Busse, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Jaime Laczko, Dianne Bly, Walter West, Emily Stranahan

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 Bernice Ward and Marvin Millington.

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to approve tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of January 13, 2020.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the Annual Audit Meeting Minutes from January 16, 2020.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall mentioned the Real Property Taxes collected were \$992,949.50 and the taxes collected for Hadlock Park District Fund was \$187,748.00.

Supervisor Hall read the January 2020 monthly financial statement.

**Receipts for the month of January**

Highway \$1,123,567.16

**Checking Account Balances**

General Fund \$ 611,571.84

Highway Fund \$ 37,687.86

Youth Commission \$ 1,164.31

Hadlock Dam Project \$ 240.09

Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 276,377.79
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 1,458.08
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 4,862.21

**Savings Accounts**

General Fund	\$ 436,791.77
Highway Fund	\$1,098,603.53
LOSAP	\$ 6,908.55

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall stated he'd like to skip to **2.2** part of the agenda for the Ice Fishing Derby Donations.

Councilwoman Stark called up members of the recreation committee: George F. Smith, Dianne Bly, Joe Monahan and Jaime Laczko. Jamie Laczko stated this was the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Ice Fishing Derby and because of the weather it was the lowest attendance but it was the third most raised in money so that Big Brothers Big Sisters, Fort Ann Youth League, Old Stone House Library, Make-A-Wish, and Fort Ann Backpack Program are all receiving \$301.00. Jamie Laczko mentioned that Dianne Bly came up with 50/50 as a way to raise money. Councilwoman Stark thanked the committee. Supervisor Hall thanked Councilwoman Stark and the rest of the committee for organizing this every year.

**2.1** Laura Chadwick, Washington County Real Property Director, stated that it was about a year ago that Washington County started doing assessment services for the Town of Fort Ann. She feels it's going very well and asked Supervisor Hall to consider a two (2) year agreement instead of one (1) year agreement. She stated that the appointment of an Assessor is a six (6) year term. Supervisor Hall asked Laura to explain the shared services. The Washington County Real Property Department reviews the building permits with Town of Fort Ann Enforcement Office and the Washington County Code Enforcement Department. Laura stated that 486 parcels were inspected which is property with improvements. They look at sales and market values. Laura stated that the Town of Fort Ann had a 7% increase in market values this year.

Councilman Fletcher asked Laura about people that don't get a building permit. Laura stated usually the Data Collector will catch that.

Supervisor Hall clarified that just because an assessment goes up doesn't mean taxes increase.

**Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor Hall stated he is receiving a lot of mail on census. He is spending a lot of time getting familiar with insurance. Supervisor Hall stated that the Highway Superintendent wouldn't be attending tonight's meeting but he did want to share that a highway truck went off the road and was wondering if we have towing. Jane Sexton, Cool Insuring, was in the audience and said that the Town of Fort Ann doesn't currently have towing but when it is time to renew in May she'll put towing as an option for the Town Board to consider.

Supervisor Hall has been researching grants that are available and that the Town of Fort Ann may be eligible for.

Supervisor Hall has been very active at Washington County and maintaining budget at Washington County.

Helen Denno, Clerk to the Supervisor, introduced Jennifer Jackson as the Clerk to the Supervisor – Trainee, Temporary. Supervisor Hall will be putting together a plan for the Town Board to keep Helen on for training so Jennifer will not be overwhelmed without breaking the bank.

Councilman Fletcher asked the Attorney for the Town if it was going to be okay to move the bench at Westfield Cemetery as agreed upon in the Spring. Attorney for the Town is not aware of anything preventing the town from moving the bench or anything else that was agreed upon previously.

Christine Milligan presented a map and stated that Supervisor Moore and the cemetery committee had a written agreement with the Friends of Blossom and it should be in Supervisor Hall's office.

Councilwoman Stark stated that there is a program at the Old Stone House Library tomorrow and to see Pat Monahan tonight or tomorrow morning if you are interested it is \$3.00 for lunch for 60 and over.

Councilwoman Stark stated it is time to sign up for the annual canal sweep. It will be late April.

Councilwoman Stark stated there are yoga classes held 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. at the Fort Ann firehouse Monday's and Friday's for \$5.00 a session.

Supervisor Hall mentioned that the Old Stone House Library grant is approaching it's (9) nine month mark. The report has to be in February 29<sup>th</sup>. He will have it in and will be reporting on the engineering study, clean up and waiting for final bid on concrete work.

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

**Highway Superintendent Report:** None

**Enforcement Officer Report** was given for January 2020.

**Historian:** Christine Milligan mentioned receiving an email from Mr. Barber about the brochure holders and pamphlets at the park off the frame and ending up in the field. They have been up for over ten (10) years. Supervisor Hall stated he did speak with Mr. Barber and has pictures and will be researching.

**5.0 New Business** Appoint a Town Board Member to fill vacancy.

**RESOLUTION #31-2020**

**APPOINTING TOWN BOARD MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY**

On motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing Town Board Member to Fill Vacancy."

ADOPTED      AYES 4      Stark, Fletcher, Witherell, Hall

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann does hereby appoint Michael D. Sexton to fill the existing Town Board vacancy until December 31, 2020.

**RESOLUTION #32-2020**

**APPOINTING PART-TIME DOG CONTROL OFFICER FOR DOG CONTROL PURPOSES WITHIN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Authorizing Banking Transactions."

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

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann does hereby appoint Lisa Barbato as part-time Dog Control Officer for the Town of Fort Ann.

**RESOLUTION #32-2020**

**APPOINTING PART-TIME DOG CONTROL OFFICER FOR DOG CONTROL PURPOSES WITHIN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing Part-Time Dog Control Officer for dog control purposes within the Town of Fort Ann."

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

**RESOLVED**, that this employment will commence on February 10, 2020 having a salary of \$7,791.00 to be prorated for the remainder of 2020, together with mileage reimbursement at the rates set by the US Internal Revenue Service (currently 54.5 cents per mile).

**RESOLUTION #33-2020**

**AUDITING OF THE FINANCIAL RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Auditing of the Financial Records of the Town of Fort Ann."

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann has audited the financial records of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Town Justice and Supervisor for the fiscal year January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 at a special meeting held on January 16, 2020."

**RESOLUTION #34-2020**

**TO POST TOWN ROADS TO 8 TONS**

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Post Town Roads to 8 Tons."

ADOPTED      AYES

**RESOLVED**, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby declares that all vehicles having a gross weight of over 8 tons shall be temporarily excluded from all Town Highways.

**RESOLUTION #35-2020  
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF FORT ANN TO NEGOTIATE A TWO YEAR AGREEMENT WITH  
WASHINGTON COUNTY FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES, EXEMPTION SERVICES AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES  
EFFECTIVE March 1, 2020**

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Authorizing the Town of Fort Ann to negotiate a two year agreement with Washington County for Appraisal Services, Exemption Services and Assessment Services effective March 1, 2020."

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

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town of Fort Ann, as the Assessing Unit, to negotiate with Washington County for a two year agreement for appraisal services, exemption services and assessment services in accordance with section 1537 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law.

6:40 p.m. **Open Public Discussion** with Tom Noble, Fort Ann EMS, introducing himself and the changes at the rescue squad such as reintroducing the Juniors program.

6:44 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:45 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Fletcher to return to public session.

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:45 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Sexton to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$11,728.82
	Highway:	\$22,585.99

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: February 19, 2020