

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN VOULNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

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

**ABSENT:** Christine Milligan, Historian

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Ronny Mattison-Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Meyer-Attorney, Don Bedeaux, Matt Jones

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

6:01 Public Hearing regarding imposing a moratorium on locating battery energy storage systems in the Town of Fort Ann.

Supervisor Hall stated that the reason for this moratorium will be to place a pause on all battery storage facility being constructed in town of Fort Ann at this point until the Town has more time to gather information on what these facilities will have as far as impact positive or negative to the Town and the Residents of the Town. We currently do not have the proper equipment to extinguish a fire if one where to start along with no mutual aid to help fight a fire if one were to begin.

Supervisor Hall stated that one battery would be the equivalent to 80,000 car batteries just to put it into perspective what we would be dealing with and the safety concerns that could come from this purposed idea.

Supervisor Hall also stated that the Town would put together a working group to work on this.

The purposed location of the facility is at the end of Deerfield Lane, between Halfway Brook and Battle Hill.

**RESOLITUON #42-2025**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON LOCATING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution adopting proposed local law imposing a moratorium on locating battery energy storage systems in the Town of Fort Ann"

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

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board, upon due deliberation of the proposed Local Law and the comments presented at the public hearing, finds that the adoption of the same shall be in the best interests of the Town and protects the public health, safety and welfare. The proposed Local Law is limited in its duration and scope to evaluate the efficacy of the existing site plan review law as they relate to battery energy storage systems.

Public Hearing closed with no further comments at 6:14 p.m.

Moment of silence was held for Fort Ann residents Neil Winch & Carolyn Ouderkirk

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the Annual Audit Meeting Minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Motion was carried unanimously.

**Supervisor Hall stated that there is no monthly financial statement due to closing out of the 2024 books.**

**Checking Account Balances**

General Fund	\$
Highway Fund	\$
Youth Commission	\$
Hadlock Dam Project	\$
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$
Consolidated Health District	\$
Trust & Agency Fund	\$
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$

**Savings Accounts**

NYCLASS - General Fund	\$
NYCLASS - Highway Fund	\$
NYCLASS – Hadlock Park District Fund	\$

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

**Public Comment** opened at 6:15 p.m. for agenda items.

**Public Comment** closed at 6:16 p.m. with no comments.

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

Supervisor Hall stated he has been working with the assessor to get all property inventory corrected so that the assessments can be as accurate as possible. He also stated that he has worked on finalizing the documentation needed for the grant regarding the Old Stone House Library.

Councilman Sexton stated that he had been given the draft of the local law on solar and that the committee is trying to find a date that will work with everyone's schedule in order to meet and get this local law finalized.

Councilman Smith- no news to report.

Councilwoman Witherell- no news to report.

Councilwoman Stark stated that free ice melt is available at Washington County Office of the aging and/or can be picked up from any of the local senior centers.

**Town Clerk's Report** was given for January 2025. Town Clerk also stated that short term rental applications have been being sent in and reviewed, at this time there only nine permits outstanding for the 2025 season.

**Highway Superintendent Report:** Ronny Mattison stated that they have been busy plowing with all of the snowstorms and that there is currently minimal salt available due to the shortage.

**Enforcement Officer Report:** Paper copy of his report was given to the town board members for January 2025.

**Historian:** Not present.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

**RESOLUTION #35-2025**

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

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

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann has audited the financial records of the Town Clerk, Town Justice, and Supervisor for the fiscal year January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 at a special meeting held on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**RESOLUTION #36-2025**

**TO POST TOWN ROADS TO 8 TONS**

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

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Sexton, Smith Stark, Witherell, Hall

**RESOLVED**, the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Fort Ann is hereby authorized to post signs on all Town Highways and publish notice of the same.

**RESOLUTION #37-2025**

**MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING MONIES RECEIVED FROM INSURANCE RECOVERY FOR DAMAGE TO 2014 WESTERN STAR TRUCK TO BE USED TO COVER THE EXPENDITURES ASSOCIATED WITH REPAIRING SAID TRUCK**

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2024 budget by appropriating monies received from insurance recovery for damage to 2014 Western Star truck to be used to cover the expenditures associated with repairing said truck"

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Sexton, Smith Stark, Witherell, Hall

**RESOLVED**, the 2024 budget shall be amended by appropriating funds to the account as indicated above.

**RESOLITUON #38-2025**

**MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL CHIPS REVENUE EXPENDED DURING THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept resolution entitled "Modify the 2024 budget by appropriating additional chips revenue expended during the 2024 fiscal year"

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

**RESOLVED**, the 2024 budget shall be modified by transferring funds as indicated above.

**RESOLITUON #39-2025**

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS TO COVER UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR**

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2024 budget by transferring funds between appropriations to cover unanticipated expenditures during the 2024 fiscal year"

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

**RESOLVED**, the 2024 budget shall be modified by transferring funds as indicated above.

**RESOLITUON #40-2025**

**RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2025 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING UNANTICIPATED REVENUES AND UNAPPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE TO COVER THE COST OF PURCHASING A USED 2014 WESTERN STAR PLOW TRUCK**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2025 budget by appropriating unanticipated revenues and unappropriated fund balance to cover the cost of purchasing a used 2014 Western Star plow truck"

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

**RESOLVED**, the 2025 budget shall be modified by appropriating funds as indicated above.

**RESOLITUON #41-2025**

**RESOLUTION APPPOINTING PART-TIME ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept resolution entitled "Resolution appointing part-time enforcement officer"

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby appoints Matt Jones as part-time Enforcement Officer as of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**RESOLITUON #42-2025**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON LOCATING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution adopting proposed local law imposing a moratorium on locating battery energy storage systems in the Town of Fort Ann"

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

**RESOLVED**, the Town Board, upon due deliberation of the proposed Local Law and the comments presented at the public hearing, finds that the adoption of the same shall be in the best interests of the Town and protects the public health, safety and welfare. The proposed Local Law is limited in its duration and scope to evaluate the efficacy of the existing site plan review law as they relate to battery energy storage systems

**6:41 p.m. Open Public Discussion**

Lyle Washburn expressed his concerns about the high taxes and lack of transparency in the assessment process, and would like to see a total re-assessment done by an outside firm.

Supervisor Hall stated that the current assessor is doing a good job and the cost for an outside firm would be very high, and again stated that he has been working with the current assessor to get accurate data on properties and re-working our process of building permits, and inventory on all parcels.

**6:42 p.m. Closed Public Discussion**

6:43 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$ 16,331.89
	Highway:	\$ 19,973.26
	Hadlock:	\$ 0.00

Respectfully submitted,

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Miranda Herringshaw, Town Clerk  
Town of Fort

Dated: February 14, 2024