

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL**

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

**ABSENT:** Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent  
Mark Miller, Enforcement Officer  
Christine Milligan, Historian

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Chad Wilson, Michelle Vara

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 Nora Mattison Phillips and Marian Day.

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to approve tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the Organization and Regular Town Board Minutes of January 11, 2021.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Annual Audit Meeting Minutes from January 14, 2021.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the December 2020 monthly financial statement.

**Checking Account Balances**

General Fund	\$ 222,352.90
Highway Fund	\$ 48,922.46
Youth Commission	\$ 8,739.15
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 3,513.57
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 2,156.65
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 3,683.02

**Savings Accounts**

NYCLASS - General Fund	\$ 93,200.15
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NYCLASS - Highway Fund	\$ 212,318.53
NYCLASS – Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 95,690.70
LOSAP	\$ 2,499.78

Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the December 2020 financials.

Motion was carried unanimously.

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

**Public Comment** opened at 6:04 p.m. for agenda items.

**Public Comment** closed at 6:05 p.m. with no comments.

**Supervisor’s Report:** Supervisor Hall received correspondence from TJA, 150 John Vertente Blvd., New Bedford, MA 02745 and copies were given to the town board members for their review. TJA Clean Energy is a Clean Energy Developer who is looking to lease land for the purpose of building a ground mounted Solar System (Solar Farm). Supervisor Hall asked the town board members if they’d be interested in a presentation for the town board members as well as the planning board members. Supervisor Hall asked the Attorney for the Town if he was aware of any applications being received by the planning board and he was not. Supervisor Hall asked Planning Board Member, Chad Wilson, if he thought having a joint presentation for the town board and planning board would be beneficial. Mr. Wilson stated he thought any education they could receive would be helpful. Supervisor Hall will see what he can put together for a joint meeting.

Supervisor Hall received an email from Janes Buono, Partners with National Grid and NYSERDA the email was copied for the town board members to review/discuss. Supervisor Hall stated the towns electric switched over two (2) years ago to a fixed rate and prebought what it would use. The town locked in at .062 and saved \$1,002.00 over the past 24 months. The current three (3) year pricing would be .06369 for all of the town accounts. Mr. Buono needs to know if this is something the town would like to move forward with. The Town Board Members agreed to have Mr. Buono put together and present to the Town Board to make a decision.

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to authorize Supervisor Hall to negotiate three (3) year pricing.

Motions was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall received a thank you from The U.S. Census Bureau recognizing the Town of Fort Ann as an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program.

Supervisor Hall stated that he found out that the Harvester doesn’t have to have a permit renewed annually. Only necessary when there’s a change. Maintaining the report is a requirement.

Councilman Smith also reported out that the new pump is here and that Duane Burch, Jr. will be putting it in the Harvester in the Spring.

Councilman Smith stated the Harvester used to be left in the pond but they do have a couple of sites in mind that would save \$3,600.00 annually.

Supervisor Hall stated that the phone calls have dropped off since having Councilman Smith be a liason and the communication is much better between the Town Board and the Lake Hadlock Association.

Supervisor Hall stated there have been vaccination clinics held in Washington County for those 65 and over. Supervisor Hall reported that there have been approximately 1,600 vaccinations administered to date in Washington County. Going to be administering to disabled this Thursday. The first responders will be administered this weekend. They try not to schedule until supply is actually received. Once a vial is opened it has to be dispensed within the hour.

Councilwoman Witherell stated that those that are 75 and older and don't have access to a computer can call 211 to get scheduled.

**Town Clerk's Report** was given for January 2021.

**Highway Superintendent Report:** Not present

**Enforcement Officer Report:** Not present but a paper copy of his report was given to the town board members for January 2021.

**Historian:** Not present

**New Business:** Supervisor Hall received a letter from New York Canal Corporation dated February 3, 3031 and a copy was given to the Town Board Members as well as the Attorney for the Town. The New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC), is the Lead Agency for the proposed Barge Canal Earthen Embankment Integrity Program. They welcome the Town of Fort Ann's participation and public involvement. Supervisor Hall will go on line [http://www.canals.ny.gov/Earthen\\_Embankment](http://www.canals.ny.gov/Earthen_Embankment).

**RESOLUTION #29-2021**

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

On motion of Councilman Smith, 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, Tax Collector, Town Justice and Supervisor for the fiscal year January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 at a special meeting held on January 14, 2021.

**RESOLUTION #30-2021**

**TO POST TOWN ROADS TO 8 TONS**

On motion of Councilman Sexton, 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**, 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.

Councilman Sexton asked if there were ever any exceptions to this resolution. Supervisor Hall advised that any questions about posting of roads should be directed to the Highway Superintendent, Paul Winchell.

6:34 p.m. **Open Public Discussion** with Supervisor Hall asking the Attorney for the Town if he had anything to report out on. Jeff Meyer stated that Helen Denno had wrote to him about LOSAP.

Supervisor Hall stated that high risk sports have not been able to start in Washington County. It is still not safe per medical professionals. There's been a lot of pressure put on school administrators and school boards.

6:35 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:43 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman George Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$ 10,051.43
	Highway:	\$186,188.08

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: February 19, 2021