

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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

ABSENT: Christine Milligan-Historian
Paul Winchell- Highway Superintendent
Councilman Michael Sexton

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Mark Miller-Code Enforcer, Jeffrey Meyer-Attorney for the Town, Helen Denno- Budget Officer, Barb Burch, Joan Degener, Lyle Washburn, Don Bedeaux, Jon Lashinsky, Andrew Call

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

Moment of silence was held for the following Fort Ann residents- Tim Heydrick, Gerald Washburn, Rick Chandler, Gail Knapp, and John Crawford.

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Smith to approve tonight’s agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 13th, 2023.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the January 2023 monthly financial statement.

Checking Account Balances

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|------------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | \$636,584.14 |
| Highway Fund | \$153,174.06 |
| Youth Commission | \$10,013.14 |
| Hadlock Dam Project | \$240.09 |
| Hadlock Park District Fund | \$204,504.07 |
| Consolidated Health District | \$370.48 |
| Trust & Agency Fund | \$2,336.25 |
| Medical Reimbursement Fund | \$4,128.44 |

Savings Accounts

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| NYCLASS-General Fund | \$754,398.68 |
| NYCLASS-Highway Fund | \$1,410.67 |
| NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District | \$77,538.18 |

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment opened at 6:03 p.m. for agenda items.

Public Comment closed at 6:04 p.m. with no comments.

Supervisor & Town Board Member's Reports:

Supervisor Hall stated he has been working on grant applications for repairs needed at The Old Stone House Library. He has been working on closing out 2022 reports, and getting the Hadlock Dam Inspection to the insurance company to get quotes and all insurance in order for the renewal of Hadlock Dam.

Councilwoman Witherell stated she would like to see the Supervisors position changed from a 2-year term to a 4 -year term, as the Town Board Members, Judge, Highway Superintendent, and Town Clerk all are 4-year terms, and it would make sense for the Supervisor position to be as well. Attorney Jeff Meyers said he would take the appropriate actions to draft a new Local Law, and a Public Hearing would be held and this would be voted on. This is not anything that would go into effect until after this coming November 2023 election. It would be in effect for the next election in November 2025, for the Supervisor position that would begin on January 1st, 2026 if the Local Law is passed.

Councilman Sexton- Excused

Councilman Smith- no report

Councilwoman Stark stated that signage is being worked on for the bike trail. The canal system is looking for someone to "adopt" the canal way from Fort Ann to Whitehall- this person would kayak the canal and report any damages or anything that needed maintenance to the Canal System. She also stated that Washington County Public Safety handed out Safety checklist and that Washington County has an alert system that you can sign up for online or fill out the paper copy which can be found at Town Hall. They will call or text in any emergency cases.

Town Clerk's Report was given for February 2023

Highway Superintendent Report: Not present

Enforcement Officer Report: Paper copy of his report was given to the town board members for February 2023.

Historian: Not present.

Dog Control Officer: Not present- Paper Report for February 2023 was provided.

5.0 Old Business – nothing new to report

5.1 A Local Law Regulating Short-Term Rentals in the Town of Fort Ann.

5.2 A Local Law Amending the Town of Fort Ann Site Plan Review.

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the purchase and installation of dehumidifier for The Old Stone House Library.

The motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION #40-2023

TO MODIFY THE 2022 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING MONIES RECEIVED AS STATE AID FROM THE NYS CHIPS PROGRAM TO BE USED FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO TOWN HIGHWAYS IN THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled “Resolution to Modify the 2022 budget by appropriating monies received as State Aid from the NYS CHIPS Program to be used for improvements to town highways in the 2022 fiscal year.”

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall
 EXCUSED 1 Sexton

RESOLVED, the 2022 budget shall be modified by appropriating funds to the account as indicated.

RESOLUTION #41-2023

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2022 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING FUND BALANCE TO COVER SHORTAGES IN THE SPECIFIED ACCOUNT DUE TO UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled “Resolution to modify the 2022 budget by appropriating fund balance to cover shortages in the specified account due to unanticipated expenditures during the 2022 fiscal year.”

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall
 EXCUSED 1 Sexton

RESOLVED, the 2022 budget shall be modified by appropriating funds as indicated above.

RESOLUTION #42-2023

TO MODIFY THE 2022 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS TO COVER SHORTAGES IN SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS DUE TO UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled “Resolution to Modify the 2022 budget by transferring funds between appropriations to cover shortages in specified accounts due to unanticipated expenditures during the 2022 fiscal year.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall
 EXCUSED Sexton

RESOLVED, the 2022 budget shall be amended by transferring funds between appropriation accounts as indicated.

**RESOLUTION #43-2023
RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2022 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS DUE TO UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES IN THOSE ACCOUNTS DURING THE 2022 FISCAL YEAR**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled “Resolution to modify the 2022 budget by transferring funds from the contingency fund to specified accounts due to unanticipated expenditures in those accounts during the 2022 fiscal year”

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall
 EXCUSED 1 Sexton

RESOLVED, the 2022 budget shall be modified by transferring funds from the contingency fund to the accounts as indicated.

**RESOLUTION #44-2023
RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER MEMBERS OF FORT ANN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY INC.**

On the motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled “Resolution establishing a service award program for active volunteer firefighter members of Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company Inc.”

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Stark, Witherell, Hall
 EXCUSED 1 Sexton

RESOLVED, the Supervisor is hereby authorized to and shall take the necessary actions to carry out this resolution.

6:44 p.m. Open Public Discussion

Lyle Washburn thanked the land owners that allow the snowmobile trail to go through their properties. He also had a few questions about short term rentals, in which Supervisor Hall stated that they should have a meeting on Short Term Rental Laws in the next few weeks, to get these laws established and implemented before the 2023 “busy” spring/ summer/ fall season.

Jon Lashinsky asked the Fort Ann Town Board for a one-time grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 to purchase a 6-wheeler and trailer, which would be utilized to get the fireman in and out of the mountains and places that are not easily accessible by trucks. This vehicle would also be in service as a mutual aid vehicle for the surrounding areas. Jon did provide the board members with a detailed packet of price quotes, the mountains that surround this area, and the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company also applied for a grant and requested \$20,000.00 they were awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 leaving them short by \$10,000.00 and this is why they have reached out for the Town’s help in purchasing this

equipment. Councilman Smith requested more time to look over all of the information before making a decision, so a special meeting will be held on a date to be determined.

7:00 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

7:03 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell on to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

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| Total Abstracts: | General: | \$ 18,515.55 |
| | Highway: | \$ 19,640.78 |
| | Hadlock: | \$ 960.00 |

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Herringshaw, Town Clerk
Town of Fort Ann, New York

Dated: March 15, 2023