

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Supervisor Richard Moore
Councilman Dennis Fletcher
Councilwoman Gretchen Stark
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell
Councilman Samuel Hall

ABSENT: Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent
Mark Miller, P/T Enforcement Officer
Christine Milligan, Historian

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor/Bookkeeper, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Laura Chadwick, Washington County Real Property, Lori Barber, Washington County Real Property, Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, George F. Smith, Chad Wilson, Dale Grinnell, Howard Black, Arlene Green, Dominic Jude, Rebecca Jacques, Eric Taylor, Crystal Taylor, Lindsay Carte

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence was held for deceased Fort Ann residents E. Carol Porter and Linda Ballard Bearor.

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of May 13, 2019.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept the Special Town Board Minutes of June 3, 2019.

Motion was carried with Councilman Fletcher abstaining as he was not in attendance 6/3/19.

Supervisor Moore read the May 2019 monthly financial statement.

Receipts for the month of May

General Fund \$ 51,738.06

Disbursements

General Fund \$ 82,847.65

Highway \$ 83,183.52

Checking Account Balances

General Fund \$ 73,787.48

Highway Fund \$ 24,832.88

Youth Commission	\$ 1,114.90
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.07
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 3,744.76
Consolidated Health District	\$ 1,016.33
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 997.50
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 5,650.13

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS – General Fund	\$453,719.18
NYCLASS – Highway Fund	\$902,787.29
Hadlock Park District	\$213,858.20
LOSAP	\$ 18,446.94

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Moore stated that the Town Board was recently given 1st Quarter Actual to the Budget and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

2.0 Public Comment opened at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment closed without comment at 6:03 p.m.

3.0 Presentation: Lori Barber, Town of Fort Ann Assessor through Washington County Real Property, distributed STAR 2019 handout. Laura Chadwick, Washington County Real Property Director explained she was here tonight to talk about the changes to the New York State STAR exemption program. Mrs. Chadwick stated that this started in 1998 and has been changing since then. The handout will be available on the townoffortannny.com website. Mrs. Chadwick goes to the different town’s in Washington County to explain the changes especially to the Senior Citizens. Lori Barber and Laura Chadwick will be meeting with the Fort Ann Senior Citizens because it is very confusing with all the different letters that have come out of Albany and articles in the newspaper. Mrs. Chadwick stated it’s very important that everyone look at their income every year to make sure that they qualify for future exemptions. People have to register by phone or on-line by June 17, 2019 to ensure getting a check by September 1st. People have to notify escrow companies. Once on STAR check program you can’t go back to STAR exemption program.

Laura Chadwick stated that her department will be hiring a data collector. She has found that the data on assessment roll is not always accurate. Lori Barber has been going out and meeting with homeowners. Laura Chadwick stated 2012 was the last time inventory had been updated in the Town of Fort Ann.

4.0 Reports from Town Officials and Committees:

Supervisor’s Report: Supervisor Moore spoke of the \$4,955.00 Charles R. Wood Foundation Grant that the Fort Ann Historical Society recently received. The Fort Ann Historical Society is in the process of obtaining three (3) quotes for the cement floor of the basement at the Old Stone House Library.

Supervisor Moore stated that work on the Hogtown Road culvert will begin soon. The road will be closed starting July 22, 2019.

Supervisor Moore stated that Farley Road continues to be monitored daily. They are waiting for engineer report out of Albany.

Supervisor Moore received a phone call from NYSDEC regarding Pilot Knob parking and safety. Supervisor Moore will be having a meeting in the next couple of weeks with the Fort Ann Highway Superintendent, Washington County Highway Superintendent, NYSDEC and Washington County Sheriff's.

Supervisor Moore reported that Randy at Northern Trucking is still waiting for parts for the Harvester. Once the parts are received it should be repaired and in the water within one (1) to two (2) days. He spoke with Hannah Barber and the fragmentation will only get worse with the sun.

Supervisor Moore received the Municipal Shelter Report and Dog Control officer Inspection Report from Ag & Markets and both reports were satisfactory with no findings.

Supervisor Moore announced that the annual Washington County Senior Picnic will be July 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Greenwich. The suggested donation is \$5.00.

Councilwoman Witherell: Councilwoman Witherell thanked the Town Clerk for the assistance she gave Kathleen King, 82 George Street, that lives next door to the Fort Ann Town Hall, and her concern with poisonous frogs. The Washington County Sheriff's Office advised Mrs. King to take a picture if she sees these white/gray frogs again.

Councilwoman Witherell stated she wished the June 3, 2019 Special Meeting regarding Clay Hill Road for the Empire State Trail would have been rescheduled for when Councilman Hall and Councilman Fletcher could have been present. Councilwoman Witherell took a picture of the 40 mph sign going up Clay Hill on the way home from the 6/3/19 special meeting. Councilwoman Witherell stated she didn't believe that there wasn't going to be an increase in insurance cost. Supervisor Moore stated that the insurance company needs to know the distance when the trail is completed and at that time the insurance cost would be decided. Councilwoman Witherell stated signing a ten (10) year contract with something that might change doesn't make sense.

Councilwoman Stark: Councilwoman Stark stated that the Office for the Aging information is up on the Town Hall bulletin board and she or the Town Clerk have copies if anyone would like a paper copy.

Councilwoman Stark stated that tomorrow, 6/11/19, there is a Senior Citizens trip to the Georgi Museum. Meet at the Old Stone House Library at 11:00 a.m. to take a bus. It is \$3.00 for lunch and \$7.00 for the museum. It is suggested to call ahead but there usually is extra food so it's not a problem if you just show up.

Councilwoman Stark spoke with the Pilot Knob Lifeguards and they agreed to put the ropes in early Sunday even though it's Father's Day. They are going to try to open the beach for the weekends depending on the weather.

Councilwoman Stark has received inquiries about the docks at the canal not being in the water but the Canal Corp is way behind with all the rain and the water level has been so high but as soon as they can they will get them in.

Councilman Hall: Councilman Hall stated he was at annual Finance School in Saratoga May 9th and 10th.

Councilman Hall attended a Battle Hill meeting May 19, 2019 and presented with the Battle Hill Master Plan. There is a copy that has a sticker saying property of Town of Fort Ann and must remain at the Town Hall for people to view. It is very expensive to have made but we want people to view it and enjoy it. Waiting for application of contract for American Battlefield Protection Program to purchase property from Mr. Caprood which fits in the overall Battlefield Master Plan. Eventually it'll go into trust and then into the Town of Fort Ann's name. Councilman Hall stated there is a grant in the July time frame to assist with selection/development and production of signage.

Councilman Fletcher: Councilman Fletcher stated that every year The Post Star has a best in the region and this year Fort Ann Motors was voted #1 for best auto repair in the area. Councilman Fletcher stopped at Fort Ann Motors on behalf of the Town Board to congratulate them on this achievement. There is a banner on the outside of his building.

Also, Councilman Fletcher, would have liked to have attended the June 3, 2019 special meeting but that is Americade week and he works Americade every year.

Town Clerk's Report was given for May 2019.

Highway Superintendent Report: None

Enforcement Officer Report paper copy of report was given to Town Board Member's for month of May 2019.

Dog Control Officer: paper copy of report given to Town Board Member's through May 18, 2019.

Historian: Christine Milligan, Town Historian, not present. Dale Grinnell said that if anyone was looking for the Halfway Brook/Creek sign he has it at his house. It is in need of repair/painting.

RESOLUTION #77-19

APPROVING THE EMPIRE STATE TRAIL WORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION & HISTORIC PRESERVATION, NYS DOT & TOWN OF FORT ANN

Councilwoman Witherell stated the town should not put the stamp of approval on this. Supervisor Moore asked Councilwoman Stark if she had received the accident number reports from Washington County Department of Public Safety from January 2018 – June 2019. Councilwoman Witherell did receive those reports and it indicates there were over 50 accidents on Route 4 from Fort Ann to Comstock compared to 5 on Clay Hill Road during the same time frame.

Supervisor Moore stated there will be a cul de sac rather than a parking lot at the top of Clay Hill Road for bicyclists to use. Vehicles will be able to park in cul de sac and side of road.

Supervisor Moore stated that this is the initial route. Route 4 was taken off the table very quickly. Clay Hill Road was the second option and the other option was going down along the canal. It was the

recommendation of those that did the studies, like engineers, that Clay Hill Road was the best option for the initial route. Supervisor Moore wanted to say that Jim Boni, DOT, did look at the possibility of more signs on Clay Hill Road indicating to motorists to be aware of bicyclists.

Supervisor Moore also reminded people that you can't use state money to improve private property but there is hope that there might be a grant in the future.

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Fletcher to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving the Empire State Trail Work Agreement between the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, NYS DOT & Town of Fort Ann."

ADOPTED AYES 4 Fletcher, Hall, Stark, Moore
 NAY 1 Witherell

RESOLVED, the Town hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to execute the Empire State Trail Work Agreement between the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, NYS Department of Transportation, and the Town of Fort Ann, subject to final approval by the attorney for the Town.

RESOLUTION #82-19

TO MODIFY THE 2019 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS DUE TO THE NEED TO PROVIDE THE TOWN JUSTICE CLERK'S OFFICE WITH COVERAGE DURING THE PERIOD OF UNANTICIPATED ABSENCE OF THE JUSTICE COURT CLERK

On motion of Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Modify the 2019 Budget by Transferring Funds Between Appropriations Due to the Need to Provide the Town Justice Clerk's Office with Coverage during the period of unanticipated absence of the Justice Court Clerk."

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

RESOLVED, the 2019 budget shall be amended by transferring funds between appropriations as indicated.

RESOLUTION #83-19

APPROVING INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING COOPERATIVE DOG CONTROL SERVICES

On motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving Intermunicipal Agreement Providing Cooperative Dog Control Services."

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

RESOLVED, the Town hereby authorizes and directs the Supervisor of the Town of Fort Ann to execute the requisite Inter-Municipal Agreement.

RESOLUTION #84-19

TO HIRE SUMMER RECREATION EMPLOYEES

On motion of Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Fletcher to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Hire Summer Recreation Employees."

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

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor and/or Town Budget Officer to complete any forms and take any action necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution.

RESOLUTION #85-19

APPROVING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS BORDERING LAKE GEORGE REGARDING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Hall to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving the Memorandum of Understanding of Municipal Governments Bordering Lake George Regarding Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention."

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

RESOLVED, the Town hereby authorizes and directs the Supervisor of the Town of Fort Ann to execute the requisite Memorandum of Understanding.

6:58 p.m. Open Public Discussion: Mr. Bailey stated that there are eight (8) buoy's that need to be replaced so during the 2020 budget he'd like the town board to consider perhaps replacing two (2) a year. Also, Mr. Bailey asking now that there isn't a Park Manager who should questions be directed to about weeds that lakeowners collected and put on their docks? Supervisor Moore stated questions should go to Hannah Barber.

Dale Grinnell mentioned that about four (4) weeks ago the post office had a food drive and approximately 400 lbs. of food was collected. Mr. Grinnell wanted to thank the people of Fort Ann for their generosity.

Mr. Howard Black presented Supervisor Moore with a picture of garbage blowing on the tree line for National Grid on County Rte 16 (corner of Goodman Road and South Bay Road). Mr. Black suggested putting up a fence. He had planned on giving picture to Enforcement Officer but Enforcement Officer was not present.

Lindsay Carte referred to his 5/12/19 letter that he had two (2) requests for the Town Board regarding sound tests at ADK MX. Mr. Carte wondered if the Town Board was going to act on this or do nothing.

Supervisor Moore asked Mr. Carte if he had an opportunity to speak with his attorney today and Mr. Carte said he had not. Supervisor Moore stated the attorneys met today with Judge and this is still ongoing litigation and won't be discussed in public.

Dominic Jude, Aqualogic, stated that there was suction harvesting done for a day and a half and were pleased with the 88 buckets they removed and pleased with what they accomplished. Dominic stated they'll be discussing in executive session and make as much of an impact as possible.

Mr. Eric Taylor, 80 Thomas Rd., Comstock presented the Town Board with a petition for speed limit reduction on Thomas Road. Supervisor Moore accepted it and gave to the Town Clerk to forward to Washington County DPW.

7:00 p.m. Closed Public Discussion

Motion was made by Councilwoman Stark, and seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to enter into executive session at 7:01 p.m. for two (2) items. First is medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person/corp, or matters leading to said dismissal, removal, promotion, appointment, employment, discipline, demotion, or suspension. Second is proposed, pending or current litigation.

Motion was carried unanimously.

7:18 p.m. Dominic Jude, Aqualogic, was asked to enter executive session.

7:30 p.m. Dominic Jude left executive session.

7:53 p.m. motion was made by Councilwoman Witherell, and seconded by Councilwoman Stark to return to public session.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Witherell moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Fletcher; all members voting in favor to adjourn, with no action having been taken in the executive session or in open session on matters before the Town Board.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$23,103.52
	Highway:	\$57,523.53
	Hadlock Park District:	\$ 2,130.29

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: June 18, 2019