

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Jeffrey Meyer-Attorney for the Town, Mark Miller-Enforcement Officer, Katelyn Moskos, Jo Jo DeVecchi, Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, Lyle Washburn, Mary Davis, Tim & Kathy Stachnick, Don Bedeaux

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

Presentation was done by LaBella regarding the "Fort Ann Empire State Trail Connection Plan" a packet was put together with exactly what they are looking to do and how much money this will cost, along with the plan for each "Phase" of this project. This plan will need to be addresses again at a public hearing but at this time LaBella was interested in receiving consent from the Town Board in order to proceed forward and set a date and time for a public hearing.

Councilman Smith stated he would like more information before making a final decision but that he was okay giving LaBella the consent to move forward and that a final decision could be made at the public hearing.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Moment of silence was held for the following Fort Ann resident Denise Connor, Stacy George, & Jack Butler.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark 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 Minutes of June 10, 2024.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark, to accept the Special Town Board Minutes of June 20, 2024.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the May 2024 monthly financial statement.

Receipts for the month of May

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$ 49,103.54
Highway Fund	\$ 47,942.77
Youth Commission	\$ 6,077.06
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 10,216.05
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 4,117.57
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 5,987.03

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$ 1,085,607.41
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$ 568,705.90
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$ 167,652.94
NYCLASS-Hadlock Reserve Fund	\$ 51,037.34

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:17 p.m. Public Comment opened.

6:18 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.

Supervisor’s Report:

Supervisor Hall stated he has been working on the emergency action plan with West Fort Ann & Fort Ann Fire Departments to ensure we have the manpower to act accordingly in the event an emergency does occur.

Supervisor Hall stated he attend the annual Lake Hadlock Association meeting and thank Councilman Smith for all his time that he puts into the Hadlock District.

The working group for the solar local law is hoping to have “DRAFT” copy of the local law regarding solar energy in the coming weeks.

Councilwoman Witherell- asked who is handling the short-term rental complaints? Supervisor Hall stated that anyone with any issues should call him directly and that his cell phone number can be found on the Towns website.

Councilman Sexton- excused.

Councilman Smith stated on the 6th of July, he attended the annual Hadlock Association meeting, the harvesting crew has already harvested about four thousand (4,000) pounds of weeds. There is also a big log on the spill way that has been there for years, and the Residents would like to see that removed ASAP. Highway Superintendent Paul Winchell stated he would get it taken care of.

Councilwoman Stark stated the beach is open and thanked the Highway Department for all the work they put into getting the beach ready for the 2024 season, she did state that the Beach does need a new sign stating the beach is for Fort Ann residents only.

Town Clerk's Report was given for June 2024.

Short Term Rental report-

56 Identified Short Term Rental Properties as of 7/8/24

29 Permitted Renters as of 7/8/24 & Revenue brought in \$10,150.00

5 properties are in the process of getting there permits turned in which will be a total of \$1,750.00

5 Exempt Properties due to rental property being located on same piece of property as the homeowner

5 properties that were identified are no longer renting as short-term rentals

12 properties that were identified, but have not responded to any correspondences regarding the short term rental applications have been given to the Code Enforcer to look into, and if they are renting they will receive a certified letter that they must sign for that will state they are in violation of the Local Law regarding short term rentals, and what steps must be completed in order to remedy and continue renting there property as a short term rental.

Granicus reached out for a renewal process, Supervisor Hall and I discussed what was needed and what was not needed from their program, we have decided to keep the address identification module & the hotline module where all issues/complaints would be turned into.

I have created a permitting process that has seeming to work well, and I will continue to use this process, as it seems to be working and will save a large amount of money that is being paid to Granicus, so if we can do this in house and have it be efficient and more economical- that is what we will try to do. Granicus did agree to give us a credit of about \$6500 due to the lack of delivery on the product we purchased last year, so with the credit and the decreased cost of the program due to the decrease in modules needed we should not owe Granicus any money for about the next two years.

Highway Superintendent Report: Paul Winchell stated that the highway department has been busy grading roads, mowing, replacing culverts and getting ready to pave on West Road. The problem area on Dewey's Bridge Road has been fixed as of now and if it has no other issues then the plan will be to pave in the fall.

Ronny Mattison was named Deputy Highway Superintendent as of July 1,2024.

Enforcement Officer Report Paper report given to Town Board Member's for June 2024.

Historian: Not present.

Dog Control Officer: Not present, paper report was submitted.

5.0 Old Business:

6.0 New Business:

Resolution #66-2024

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS TO BE PAID OUT IN THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Council, seconded by Council to accept resolution entitled “Resolution to modify the 2024 budget by appropriating funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the coronavirus state and local fiscal recovery funds to be paid out in the 2024 fiscal year”

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Witherell, Stark, Hall

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

6:51 p.m. Open Public Discussion

Lyle Washburn stated his aggravation and dismay with the entire reassessment process. He stated that homes that were comparable to his were assessed for less than his house along with the fact that some of these homes have more out buildings, entertainment spaces with outdoor kitchens etc. and are still assessed for less than his home. He stated that the Town needs to investigate all of the discrepancies and make it right, he stated that he has done everything that he was supposed to do from the preliminary review to the board of assessment review and did his due diligence bringing up to date inventory and comparable homes to the Board of Assessment Review, and the Board did not lower his assessment. Lyle stated that he has no problem paying for his property but that it should be fair to everyone and that the assessments need to be done based off the items that are actual on the property as the county’s inventory system is not accurate.

Supervisor Hall advised Lyle that the next step in this process is to bring his case to small claims court, and that at this point the assessment process is out of the towns hands but does understand his frustrations with the inventory not being accurate and that this is something the entire county is struggling with and is being looked into on how this can be corrected moving forward.

7:12 p.m. Closed Public Discussion

7:13 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts for July:	General:	\$ 11,687.36
	Highway:	\$32,031.70
	Hadlock:	\$ 1,473.96

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 15, 2024

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