

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

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

ABSENT: Lisa Barbato, Dog Control Officer
Mark Miller, P/T Enforcement Officer
Christine Milligan, Town Historian

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Meyer, Attorney for the Town, Chad Wilson, Michelle Vara, Jeff Pepper, Lori Hagen, Joan Degener, Duane Burch, Barbara Burch, John Moskos, Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, Cliff Nelson, Floyd Ladd, Bob Cutter, Gene Connell, Taylor Foran, Barb Barnes, Duane Burch, Jr.

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 Susan A. Fifield, Jeanne C. Allen, Eileen Webb, Ed Ladd and Ann Butler.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell 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 July 12, 2021.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the June 2021 monthly financial statements.

Checking Account Balances

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| General Fund | \$ 87,413.81 |
| Highway Fund | \$ 4,209.25 |
| Youth Commission | \$ 10,454.15 |
| Hadlock Dam Project | \$ 240.09 |
| Hadlock Park District Fund | \$ 5,883.98 |
| Consolidated Health District | \$ 370.48 |
| Trust & Agency Fund | \$ 548.33 |
| Medical Reimbursement Fund | \$ 4,803.41 |

Savings Accounts

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| NYCLASS -General Fund | \$468,297.83 |
| NYCLASS -Highway Fund | \$837,533.97 |

NYCLASS -Hadlock Park District \$205,738.86
LOSAP \$ 22,904.70

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:04 p.m. Public Comment opened.

6:05 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Hall stated that next month Local Law No. 2 of 1990 will have to be looked at. It was designed for waste within the Town of Fort Ann specifically biodegradable materials better known now as treated sewage. There are a couple of farmers in town that started using it for fertilizer but stopped once it was restricted by DEC and EPA. There are surrounding towns such as Kingsbury that recently reenacted it for usage. One of the issues is the toxic smell. It has to be applied appropriately and in the right manner and kept in a controlled storage area. There is one person that has been cited for using it. It can't be used as hay where the animals are eating it and producing milk and then it ends up in the food chain. If we have to change the local law there would be a public hearing scheduled.

Supervisor Hall stated all the paperwork was filed for the electrical lines and cables buried as a power line that runs through the Town of Fort Ann from Quebec to New York City. Supervisor Hall hopes it will be approved as it will be a good windfall approximately \$8M for the town over thirty (30) years.

Supervisor Hall stated soon the town will be looking at the stimulus dollars and amount so we can put together a subcommittee and recommend on how to spend. This would be put on for Public Hearing and then move forward to whatever direction that may be.

Councilwoman Witherell stated that the ramp to Clay Hill kayak launch still has a gap. She is concerned someone will slip and fall. Supervisor Hall said it's his understanding the ramp wasn't designed for that type of dock it is too big and too heavy. Councilwoman Witherell was also wondering if there was a copy of the canal contract and what are we paying them for. She noticed last month the town paid \$1,700.00.

Supervisor Hall stated the bike trail is finished so he recently walked the bike trail as part of the inspection. Everything was in order. It is part of the agreement that the maintenance of the trail located in the Town of Fort Ann has to be maintained by the Town of Fort Ann for the next ten (10) years.

Councilwoman Stark thanked the Highway Department for the lines at the beach parking lot and the building of the box for storing the rescue board.

Councilwoman Stark stated the attendance at the Pilot Knob/Fort Ann Beach was down probably because of rain. The last day for swim lessons is August 12, 2021. They averaged 25 kids per session.

Councilman Smith said it's been an interesting couple of weeks on Hadlock. As of the beginning of last week the Harvester had removed 12,500 pounds of weeds so they are doing a great job. He hasn't gotten any complaints but if anyone does have a concern about weeds let him know and they will take care of it. He is working on price quotes for two (2) buoy's. One would be up by the dam that needs replacing. There are a lot of complaints about late night noise and towing/tubing. He has had concerns from both sides of the lake about a wake boat and the size of the waves it creates is causing dock and shoreline damage. Councilman Smith stated that it has been suggested to get EPA involved since there is shoreline damage. He has even gotten concerns about possible damage to dam because of this boat. The Harvester will be removed from the water on or about September 1, 2021 just like last year. The Lake Hadlock Association will have time to do some testing out on the lake. There has been talk of the Harvester needing to be sand blasted and painted. He will communicate with the Highway Superintendent as to when and where it will be done.

Town Clerk's Report was given for July 2021.

Highway Superintendent Report: The Highway Superintendent said they were cutting shoulders on Tripoli Road, Patten Mills Road and Buttermilk Falls Road. Did a bunch of ditch work on Clay Hill Road after the recent rain storm. Cutting brush here and there and keeping the roads graded up.

Councilman Sexton asked the Highway Superintendent about the Evans Lane sign. The Highway Superintendent said he's done buying a sign for there – when he puts one up it doesn't last more than 3 weeks and costs \$160.00 each time.

Supervisor Hall asked the Highway Superintendent about the recent cost of a truck needing repair. The Highway Superintendent said a rear end went on tandem; parts will be here Thursday; approximately \$4,000.00 – will have to discuss during 2022 budget about a new truck.

Enforcement Officer Report: Not present

Historian: Not present

Dog Control Officer: Not present

4.0 Old Business:

- 4.1 A Local Law Regulating Short-Term Rentals in the Town of Fort Ann – nothing new to report.
- 4.2 A Local Law Amending the Town of Fort Ann Site Plan Review – nothing new to report.

4.3 Floyd Ladd, Assistant Chief, West Fort Ann Fire Company, stated he met with Supervisor Hall and Councilman Sexton. He stated the West Fort Ann Fire Company had its public hearing regarding the purchase of a new fire truck \$667,370.00. Mr. Ladd said they did run their notice of public hearing. Mr. Ladd said he doesn't remember the town having a public hearing when they purchased truck 464, 465 or 462. The Attorney for the Town said that when there is financing involved the town has to have a public hearing with a 10 day publication notice.

Councilman Sexton asked the West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company members that were present where they were on their audit process. Mitch Beck stated there was a \$10,000.00 difference that they are working on.

RESOLUTION #54-2021

AUTHORIZING \$600.00 STIPEND TO ELEANOR O’CONNOR

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept resolution entitled “Resolution Authorizing \$600.00 Stipend to Eleanor O’Connor.”

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

RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby authorizes the \$600.00 stipend to Eleanor O’Connor.

6:24 p.m. Public Discussion opened with Bill Bailey asking about Harvesting. Councilman Smith stated the Harvesting would stop 9/1/2021.

Matt French said he did some research about septic and provided the TBM’s with a copy of his findings. He is of the opinion that there is no way can it handle occupancy overwhelming by 400-500 gallons a day. Supervisor Hall gave a copy to John Moskos.

Jeff Pepper stated he is a 40 year resident and is grateful to the Fort Ann Town Board and thanked them and Supervisor Hall to looking into the Short Term Rental Agreement. He said Hadlock used to be private and asked the Town to do something about the loud people, loud music, dogs, boats and kayaks being brought in.

Barb Burch was concerned if boat washing was being done. She said Lake George had some sort of a little card.

6:33 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

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| Total Abstracts: | General: | \$19,411.41 |
| | Highway: | \$26,328.67 |
| | Hadlock Park District: | \$ 431.99 |

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: August 20, 2021