

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, September 12, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

PRESENT: Supervisor Samuel J. Hall
Councilman George F. Smith
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell
Councilman Michael Sexton
Christine Milligan-Town Historian

ABSENT: Councilwoman Gretchen Stark
Paul Winchell-Highway Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Jeff Meyers-Town Attorney, Mark Miller-Enforcement Officer, Chad Wilson, Michelle Vera, Katelyn Moskos, John Moskos, Shelbie Paulson, Tim Kontogouri, Josephine Devecchi, Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, Lyle Washburn, Barb Burch, Duane Burch, Dale Grunnel, Joan Degner

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 that have passed this month.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to approve tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by, Councilwoman Witherell seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of August 15, 2022.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the July 2022 monthly financial statement.

Receipts for the month of July

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$ 365,577.09
Highway Fund	\$ 80,551.59
Youth Commission	\$ 12,628.89
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 11,124.96
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 2,181.83
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 4,666.11

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund \$ 890,733.01
NYCLASS-Highway Fund \$ 569,406.36
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District \$ 176,232.69

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:03 p.m. Public Comment opened.

6:04 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Hall stated that he tried to fill in at the beach in Councilwoman Stark's absents but no one could ever take care of the beach as she well as she does, but with her instructions and help of the lifeguards the beach has been closed for the season.

Supervisor Hall referred many residents to the assessor's office with questions regarding the data mailers and other questions that have come up due to the revaluation project.

Supervisor Hall has been working on the budget for the 2023 year with budget officer, Helen Denno.

Supervisor Hall stated that the short-term rental ad hoc committee had a very successful first meeting and they worked on many things and really are making progress on the local law, and will continue to move forward with meetings once the Chairman of the committee is back in town.

Supervisor Hall stated he has been working with the planning board and will be getting the six months of minutes that are missing from the website, and a new planning board secretary will be appointed tonight.

Supervisor Hall stated that he had many calls on Travis Point Road in Pilot Knob, it is a private drive road and some of the residents decided they wanted to black top the road, and other residents were told that they would then send a bill to all surrounding neighbors to pay for the blacktop. Supervisor Hall stated that this is not a Town Road, and suggested that if there was no contract signed that they should not be responsible for any bills but they should contact an attorney.

Councilwoman Witherell stated she had a question for Paul Winchell about getting the kayak docks back from Fort Edward, Paul was not at the meeting but Supervisor Hall stated that Paul would be working on that in the coming week.

Councilman Sexton stated that the short-term rental ad hoc committee, had a successful meeting and the Town is making progress in the right direction with developing short term rental laws that will be beneficial and effective.

Councilman Smith stated that the weed harvester has been busy and has harvested 30,600 pounds of weeds so far this season from Hadlock Pond, and he has no clear time frame as to when they will be done for the season. He also stated that they may store it on the water this year, but no decisions have been made yet.

Councilwoman Stark was not present but did have a report in which was read by Councilman Smith- The beach and the lifeguards were a huge success this summer, a big thank you to all that helped keep the beach up and running and for all the help with closing the beach for the season. The senior picnic that was put on by The Office of the Aging, in July 2022 was a huge success and Supervisor Hall was there and helped to pass out food.

Work is in progress to place signage, benches, bike racks and fix it stations for bicycles, they will be placed throughout the bike trail through a grant received in May.

Town Clerk's Report was given for August 2022.

Town Clerk provided Supervisor Hall and Town Board members with copies of Service Award Program Executive Summary (LOSAP) for fiscal year ending December 31st, 2021 for West Fort Ann and Pilot Knob Volunteer Firefighter Companies.

Highway Superintendent Report: Not Present. Supervisor Hall stated that they Highway Department had been busy and almost all blacktopping for this season is complete.

Enforcement Officer Report Paper report given to Town Board Member's for August 2022.

Historian: Christine Milligan stated that they have gotten the new scanner down at the historical society she has been working on scanning all of the documents and replacing the file folders. The French and Indian Reenactment will be held on June 23,2023 behind the Fort Ann Fire and EMS Buildings.

Dale Grunel stated that the historical society will be putting out a newsletter. He also stated that year 2027 will be the 250th Anniversary of Battle Hill that it is early, but we should start planning now so that way it could be a successful event that will flow nicely down through the different towns, including Crown Point, Ticonderoga, Whitehall, Fort Ann, Fort Edward and Saratoga.

Supervisor Hall stated that Patrick Niles contacted him on a county level asking if they could come do a presentation before the committee to help with the planning of this big event that way all the Towns can plan together and things are not being duplicated, and it will be a nice event for all.

Dog Control Officer: Not present, report was read by Supervisor Hall.

4.0 Old Business:

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

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

5.0 New Business:

RESOLUTION #80-2022

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE ASSISTANT COURT CLERK OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN

On Motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution appointing the Assistant Court Clerk of the Town of Fort Ann"

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Sexton, Witherell, Hall

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann hereby appoints Brittany Blair, as Assistant Court Clerk of the Town of Fort Ann, effective November 3, 2022 to serve until December 31, 2022; and be it further, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION #81-2022

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN

On Motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution appointing the Planning Board Secretary of the Town of Fort Ann"

ADOPTED AYES 4 Smith, Sexton, Witherell, Hall

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann hereby appoints Brittany Blair, as Planning Board Secretary of the Town of Fort Ann, effective September 17th, 2022; and be it further, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

6:29 p.m. Open Public Discussion

Lyle Washburn asked Supervisor Hall if there was an application process to be chosen for the short-term rental ad-hoc committee, to which Supervisor Hall replied no, that it was chosen by himself and contained both members of the community along with owners of short-term rental properties, to make it fair to both sides. Me. Washburn also stated that he doesn't agree with the revaluation project and has concerns about what will happen with taxes, and does not want to be taxed out of his home. Supervisor Hall stated that with this revaluation project the goal is to bring all the homes to the value that they should be and with that then taxes should be evenly dispersed and should be fair across the board, this the towns effort to try to bring the equalization rate to 100%.

Josephine DeVecchi stated that she is unhappy with the new business "Boo Town" going in right beside her, basically in her back yard, on Rt.149 she has requested to see minutes from the last six months of planning board meetings because she says this is not right and the neighbors should have been consulted with before any decisions were made. She also asked Mark Miller, enforcement officer if all building codes and regulations are being met, and if he had been there to check things out. Mark stated he would be stopping there tomorrow to check in on the progress of the project, and to be sure all building codes are being meet.

Ms. DeVecchi also stated that it is time that Fort Ann needs to have zoning laws in place.

Dale Grunell commented on the dump on Adamsville Flats has not been opened during their regular business hours, Supervisor Hall stated that is a private owned business and is not county owed so not much can be done about the hours they are opened, and suggested he go to the dump off Ridge Road.

Tim Kontogouri stated he would like to know the status of the variance permit, he is trying to obtain so he may live in his travel trailer while he builds his home in Pilot Knob, this is the third board meeting he has been to without any resolution or answers. Jeff Meyers stated that the application and details all need to be brought before the planning board, once the planning board has reviewed the plans and approves his plans he then would need to be granted a variance through the Town Board. He was told that the planning board meets on the last Monday of each month.

Councilwoman Witherell asked Jeff Meyers if the Town Board can request that Mr. Kontogouri notify the neighboring properties to let them know what his plan is with the travel trailer and notify them of

the meeting that will be held to determine if a variance permit will be granted, and at that point if there are any issues those neighbors would have an opportunity to express any concerns, they may have to the Town Board before any decisions were made. Jeff Meyers stated yes, the Town Board does have the right to request that of Mr. Kontogouri, but the neighbors will not have any authority in the decision-making process.

6:56 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:58 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts for July:	General:	\$ 7,687.21
	Highway:	\$ 298,641.72

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: September 18, 2022