

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN  
HELD MARCH 9, 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Darlene Z. Dumas  
Councilwoman Gretchen R. Stark  
Councilman Howard Denison  
Councilman Floyd Varney  
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Jeff Meyer, Town Attorney, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Gene Connell, Mark Miller, Enforcement Officer, Virginia Parrott, Historian, Dale Grinnell, Christine Milligan, Dave Dumas, Bill Grant, Richard Moore, Mike Dornan, Robert Perkins, Morris Wells, Chad Wilson, Don Ballard, George Sherwood, James Black, Pat Wack Nolan, Ed Monahan, Jeremiah Monahan, John Fenwick, Joan Degener, Pat Monahan, Kelly Poissant, Lucas Mance, Robert Schulz, Jaime Laczko, Robert VanEtten, Carolyn Ouderkirk, Joe Loszynski

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Councilwoman Stark. Supervisor Dumas reminded those that don't usually attend the Town Board meetings that there is a sign in book and if they didn't sign in when arriving if they could please sign the book on the way out.

A moment of silence for deceased residents, Eugene Ouderkirk, Clifford Elms, Arnold Yole and Clara Fredette.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of February 9, 2015.

Motion was carried.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to pay bills as warranted and audited. Councilman Denison questioned where the amount of \$2,250.00 came from on voucher #104 from Municipal Assessment Services. Supervisor Dumas explained it was \$27,000.00 divided by 12 months and that John Bonanno, Assessor, receives \$5,000.00 a year for a salary which totals \$32,000.00 annually in the Assessor budget. Councilman Denison stated it doesn't seem right to pay the Assessor without a contract. Supervisor Dumas stated they are still working out the details of the contract.

Motion was carried.

Supervisor's Report: The Monthly Statement to Supervisor is on the Town's website. A paper copy is available upon request.

Supervisor Dumas stated she received approximately 30 phone calls for the month of February as well as a lot of emails. Supervisor Dumas announced that the town hall now has a new phone system and has been brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and expects an annual savings of approximately \$3,500.00. Councilwoman Witherell asked if the last phone bill had been straightened out. Supervisor Dumas responded it's still being researched.

Supervisor Dumas reported that the Fire and Rescue contracts have been signed and the checks have been distributed as the certificates of insurance have been received.

The insurance for Hadlock has been signed off on, the bill has been received and a check will be sent shortly for that.

Supervisor Dumas stated that she is also working on updating the dog control agreement.

She has also been working with the Town Attorney and Mr. Loszynski on the RFP for the hand harvesting for this years project on Lake Hadlock and is happy to say it was finalized today. Hopefully, the resolution will be passed at tonite's meeting. Councilman Varney has offered to assist on the Hadlock project this year.

Supervisor Dumas stated that the interest payment on the loan for Hadlock was transferred the date it was due.

Supervisor Dumas stated she is very excited about a supervisor on the corner meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the Old Stone House Library. She and her Deputy, Councilwoman Stark, will be serving refreshments. This will be very informal and in a setting that isn't at night or a town board meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to allow residents and citizens to share their concerns, hopes and goals for the Town of Fort Ann.

Supervisor Dumas stated that tonite's meeting will include:

- A presentation on the Common Core standards
- Some housekeeping needed to close out Fiscal 2014 books
- Two resolutions needed periodically to keep the Town in compliance with NYS retirement regulations
- A resolution approving sending out an RFP for harvesting services for Lake Hadlock
- Our normal springtime resolution posting the roads to protect them from inclement spring weather
- A resolution authorizing National Grid to remove the first of the street lights from Goodman Road

The design and implementation of the Common Core standards has drawn passionate support and passionate criticism across the United States. I find that it's a complicated subject and the sheer volume of information and the passion with which it is both supported and criticized

makes it hard for a layperson to wrap their hands around it. Fort Ann resident, Robert Schulz, will make a presentation about Common Core to the Board.

After that, we need to do some housekeeping. After each fiscal year, we need to close the year by covering any budget line overages with funds from the contingency fund, unexpended balances of other appropriations and any unanticipated revenue. In 2014, we had small overages in thirteen separate accounts, totaling about \$12,800. A quarter of the total came from unexpected expenses for the Planning Board secretary in 2014. We also need to move some funds between highway accounts to cover various shortages there, a fair portion of which was related to snow removal. The impact on the bottom line of these accounting resolutions is really zero, since we always budget contingency funds knowing ahead of time that there will be some unexpected expenses every year.

We also had \$35,000 worth of unexpected revenue, which came from the sale of surplus highway equipment and unexpected CHIPS (Consolidated Highway) revenue. This helped us cover the cost of maintaining the roads during a couple of unexpected snowy months and additional highway improvements.

Next, are two resolutions that we are required to do periodically in order to stay in compliance with NYS Retirement System. Those regulations require the Town Board to establish by resolution a standard work day for each elected and/or appointed official who is a member of the retirement system for each new term, so that's what we are doing.

Now that winter is looking like it's FINALLY winding down, we need to turn to spring. We've got two items on the agenda that are springtime resolutions and it's nice to be thinking of spring. The first is a resolution authorizing us to send out a request for proposal for harvesting services for Lake Hadlock. Once again, this is something we need to do and now is the time. The second springtime resolution is our normal resolution posting the roads. This authorizes the Town Highway Superintendent to advertise and post the Town Roads for spring conditions when warranted.

Finally, we need a resolution authorizing National Grid to take down the first of the street lights on Goodman Road. It's just a start and I'm sure many of us will be glad when they are all gone.

We've been advertising and posting notices for vacancies on the Board of Assessment; Planning Board and Ethics Board. Supervisor Dumas received an email from Fort Ann resident, Tom Jarrett, expressing an interest in being a member of the Ethics Board.

Supervisor Dumas read an email she had received March 5, 2015 from Christine Milligan detailing a March 4, 2015 cemetery committee meeting. The meeting started at 5:15 p.m. with Dale Grinnell, George Sherwood, Christine Milligan and Town Historian, Virginia Parrott, in attendance.

#1-Blossom Cemetery, it is the opinion of all those above to have the Town Board look into erecting a Historical Marker (or Marker if no grants can be obtained) for the burying grounds on Wilson's farm. If we are to list names of those we know in there, should be names from the last cemetery inventory taken by Goodspeed around 1905, when it was being used as a cow pasture. Research needs to be done and confirmed with military records of vets in the cemetery. Their names could be marked with a star.

#2-Cemeteries that can be mowed this year: Welch Hollow (County Rte 16), Haskins (Cartier Lane)(American Legion will maintain flag pole, new flag already bought, and will get proper lighting for pole) and Otis (County Rte 17). Haskins Cemetery – we do need a small building at corner of cemetery to be removed, danger of falling down on someone.

#3-VanWormer Cemetery (Rocky Way), Needhamville Cemetery, and Fish Hill Cemetery-need to go in and do an inventory of what stones are remaining, look for stones, photograph and mark them before any clean up, have to make sure the town workers do not accidentally hit any hidden stones, etc.

#4-Sly Pond – weed whacking would be the best way to keep the brush down. No way to mow it.

#5-two cemeteries on Quarry Road will be left up to Great Meadow. If they do not continue to mow them then they will be added to the list of mowed cemeteries.

#6-All cemeteries should have some kind of signage – opinion of the committee is to design one type of sign for all cemeteries and see possibly if we can get them done by the Boy Scouts for their Eagle projects. Cemetery committee meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Supervisor Dumas stated that the cemetery committee did a good job and she stated that the cemeteries on Quarry Road are in beautiful condition so hopefully Great Meadow Correctional Facility will continue to mow those.

Town Clerk's Report was given for February 2015.

Public Hearing: None

Public Comment opened at 7:17 p.m. with Supervisor Dumas reminding those in attendance that public comment pertains to items on the agenda.

Morris Wells read a prepared statement "Good evening, members of the town board. Some of you know me, some of you do not. Thank you for allowing me to speak. I have come here tonight on behalf of the late Eugene Ouderkirk. I would like to propose naming the waterfront park on the canal in Gene's memory. Gene was my friend, mentor and neighbor. As you can see, the people behind me were also Gene's friends and neighbors. Gene spoke on my behalf at my retirement from the Navy. I am here to speak on Gene's behalf for what Gene has done

for this community. Gene had a huge impact on Fort Ann. He was always thinking about the town and its citizens and what he could do to make it a better place to live. In my mind, he made that happen and I think most of you would agree. Gene wasn't easy to deal with at times but, in the end, his visions were spot on. Gene had a good heart and he shared his resources and his knowledge to make Fort Ann stand out in Washington County.

I remember several years ago when a vote on the merger of Hudson Falls and Fort Ann schools. Gene single-handedly did the research on the impact of the merger and what it would cost. It was good for Hudson Falls, but not for Fort Ann. He would come down to my house and explain to everyone there his take on the merger. I wouldn't have a clue where he was going with this, but I would listen. He also enjoyed his time on the school board. When the school's fields were too wet for soccer, he invited the teams up to practice on his field. He was also all about supporting the young people in school, working for a good education for all.

Gene loved doing volunteer work. He spent time with the Red Cross in New York City after 9/11, went down south for several hurricanes, including Katrina, and out west for the wildfires. He also enjoyed helping his neighbors.

Gene was not a Fort Ann native. He moved here when he was in his late 50's, falling in love with his adopted town and the people who live here.

Gene spoke with me a few years ago about buying up some vacant property and putting up apartments for low income folks in town. Not for monetary reasons, but for less fortunate members of the community.

Many towns memorialize their parks, roads, and buildings by naming them after armed forces veterans. Gene was not a veteran, but he surely worked hard to make Fort Ann a better place to live.

He was especially proud of the volunteers who helped with the waterfront park. I was in charge of rounding them up and Gene was amazed that we could get so many volunteers, everyone came with chainsaws.

There will be no cost to the town or village for this memorial. I am sure there are enough people in this room alone who would contribute to this cause."

Supervisor Dumas stated she had suggested to Councilwoman Stark this very idea, before Gene passed, of dedicating the waterfront park to Gene because he worked so hard on it. She said she will mention this to Mayor Foran that this is one of her goals.

Public comment was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Supt. of Highways Report: Mr. Winchell stated it's been a very busy few months. The plows are still on in case of anymore storms. He is expecting March to be a busy month and a very

bad mud season. There is still 5' of frost and snow on the ground and stated for those that live on a dirt road there is not a lot that can be done for mud. They will probably have to close Shelving Rock Road. He has been approached by Forest Ranger Solan about doing some work on Dacy Clearing Road on Friday's in the summer. This is about 1 ½ mile of road that needs culvert replacement. There would be no cost to the Town of Fort Ann. Mr. Winchell just needs to know if this is something the town is interested in by perhaps setting up a meeting. Mr. Winchell states this wouldn't interfere in conducting Highway business. The state will pay for employees, materials and equipment. Councilwoman Witherell asked if there would be a contract. Mr. Winchell will have Forest Ranger Solan come to next board meeting.

Councilwoman Stark asked representatives from different organizations to attend tonite's meeting to accept the proceeds from the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Ice Fishing Derby. Councilman Stark asked, Jaime Laczko and John Fenwick, members of the Recreation and Tourism Committee (Diane Bly and Arelene Green unable to attend), to attend tonite's meeting to present the checks to the various organizations. Jaime stated this is a great day and encouraged those in attendance at tonite's meeting that if they've never been to try to plan on attending next year because the community really pulls together to make this is great day. He thanked Joe Monahan, Pat Wack Nolan, Mark Strainer, Cathy Matier and Lake Hadlock Association. Pat Monahan and Joan Degener were here on behalf of the Old Stone House Library and stated the money would be used for Fantastic Friday's and the summer reading program. George Secor stated he has been a volunteer for 21 years with Make-A-Wish Foundation and that 100% of this money goes in the wish fund. Mike Dornan was here on behalf of the Fort Ann Youth League and stated the money was to be used for coaches clinics and training for coaches. Lisa Balschunat, Big Brothers Big Sisters, stated they are in their 40<sup>th</sup> year and have a school based program here in Fort Ann and that's where the money would go to.

Councilwoman Stark thanked Lake Hadlock Association, Jaime Laczko, John Fenwick and the rest of the Recreation Committee for making this such a successful event.

Councilman Varney had a suggestion for the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company on how to receive a check every month forever. Councilman Varney stated he got this idea from the Queensbury Fire Company on Bay Road. He is not sure of the upfront cost associated with this but stopped in at the Queensbury Fire Company to check out their solar collection. Councilman Varney stated that the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company has a perfect location for this kind of set up. Mr. Don Ballard, Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company, was in attendance and stated he would look into this.

Councilman Denison advised that his daughter works for NYSERDA and he would be happy to give Mr. Ballard her information so he can look into solar, funding, possible grants, etc.

Councilwoman Stark suggested the Rescue Squad could also share this with the Fire Company.

Councilwoman Witherell asked if Attorney Meyer had an opportunity to review the Fort Ann Comprehensive Emergency Plan and he stated he had and would like to set up a time with her to go over it before April 22, 2015.

Enforcement Officer gave his report for the month of February. Mark stated he followed up on the Harris Trucking mining permit, which is a renewal, on County Route 16.

Historian: Virginia Parrott, Town Historian, spoke of the Adirondack 102 Club Book and how it promotes the area and town. The Adirondack 102 Club Book represents 102 towns in the Adirondacks. Christine Milligan stated they have a stamp and they'd like to purchase eight (8) black and white stamps to distribute throughout the Town at different businesses (Hillbilly Fun Park, Walker's) including the Town Clerk's Office. The cost of a stamp should be less than \$30.00. The stamp would include two (2) different spellings of Fort Ann the historical (Anne) and the current spelling (Ann).

Christine also stated the American Legion is working with the Queen Anne Seniors and Rotary Club to purchase 10-12 banners with a three (3) year warranty to hand from the light posts on George Street. With the weather it would be practical to have them up from May – November (Veterans Day) then put up wreaths for winter months. The cost of ten (10) banners would be approximately \$2,000.00 and that would include brackets.

Christine stated she is still waiting for Battle Hill report.

Christine stated she has been contacted by PBS/Syracuse about doing a documentary on the Battle of Fort Ann. She has been busy working with SUNY/Binghamton to complete grant paperwork. The more preservation groups that get involved the better.

Christine stated that the American Legion is in full support of Blossom Farm memorial.

Robert Schulz, spoke about Common Core Standards and referred to a February 3, 2015 letter that was distributed to the Town Board members. This February 3, 2015 letter included two (2) resolutions that he would like the Fort Ann Town Board to consider adopting. If adopted the Board would be calling on the State Legislature to discontinue the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and participation in the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers Consortium in favor of an independent state-based approach to the improvement of the education system. It was decided to have the Town Attorney review the material and discussion to continue at the April 13, 2015 town board meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION #28-15**

#### **AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS**

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers Between Appropriations."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Denison, Witherell, Stark, Dumas, Varney

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby finds the above budget transfers necessary and proper, and hereby authorizes the transfers as stated herein.

**RESOLUTION #29-15**

**APPROPRIATE UNANTICIPATED REVENUE TO INCREASE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Appropriate Unanticipated Revenue to Increase Additional Appropriations."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Witherell, Stark, Dumas, Denison, Varney

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby finds the above budget transfers necessary and proper, and hereby authorized the transfers as stated herein.

**RESOLUTION #30-15**

**RETIREMENT STANDARD WORKDAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR APPOINTED AND ELECTED OFFICIALS**

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Retirement Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Stark, Witherell, Dumas, Denison, Varney

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby finds the above necessary and proper and to post and be available to the public for a minimum of 30 days.

**RESOLUTION #31-15**

**RETIREMENT STANDARD WORKDAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR EMPLOYEES**

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney to accept resolution entitled "Retirement Standard Workday and Report Resolution."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Witherell, Varney, Dumas, Denison, Stark

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby find the above necessary and proper.

**RESOLUTION #32-15**

**RESOLUTION TO ADVERTISE AND POST TOWN ROADS TO 8 TONS**

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Advertise and Post town Roads to 8 Tons."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Denison, Stark, Dumas, Varney, Witherell

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Highways to advertise and post the Town Roads for spring conditions when warranted.

**RESOLUTION #33-15**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR HAND HARVESTING SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING PUBLICATION THEREOF**

On motion of Councilman Varney, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving the Request for Proposal for Hand Harvesting Services and Authorizing Publication Thereof."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Varney, Witherell, Dumas, Denison, Stark

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and empowered to publish and post the Request for Proposal.

**RESOLUTION #34-15**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REMOVAL OF LIGHT #4 ON GOODMAN ROAD**

On motion of Councilman Varney, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Approving the Removal of Light #4 on Goodman Road."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Varney, Stark, Dumas, Witherell, Denison

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor and the Town Superintendent of Highways are hereby authorized and empowered to execute the necessary paperwork and to pay the expense to have Light Pole #4 removed.

**RESOLUTION # 35-15**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOARD OF ETHICS MEMBER**

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing Board of Ethics Member."

ADOPTED      AYES 5              Denison, Witherell, Dumas, Varney, Stark

**RESOLVED**, that the Fort Ann Town Board discussed and voted on this unanimously to appoint Fort Ann resident, Tom Jarrett, to the Town of Fort Ann Board of Ethics.

Correspondence: Supervisor Dumas read a letter dated March 6, 2015 from Washington County Department of Public Safety Director, Bill Cook, stating that his office is investigation complaints regarding Jim Barnes practices of towing operations, recovery, storage, and road service in Washington County, as it relates to the members of the public, and communications center. He has been suspended from the Wrecker Rotational System until the investigation has been completed and at such time he will be notified of the results.

County Update: Washington County Treasurer, Al Nolette, will attend the Town of Fort Ann April Town Board meeting.

Public Discussion was opened at 8:34 p.m. Denny Fletcher, Morgans Lane, Comstock stated he is still having a dog issue in his neighborhood. He very upset that he hasn't gotten a phone call or visit from Nancy Quell. He is asking why is the town paying someone for this service when it's obviously not being handled. Supervisor Dumas stated she will contact Nancy Quell March 10, 2015. It was suggested to have a complaint form at the Town Hall. Currently when there is a complaint about dogs Nancy Quell is contacted by email and/or a phone call with the information that was called in.

Christine Milligan asked when will the town board make a decision about Blossom Cemetery so the Historical Society and American Legion can apply for grant(s).

Public Discussion was closed at 8:47 p.m.

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General	\$53,887.31
	Highway	\$19,736.37

Respectively submitted,

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Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk

Dated: March 20, 2015