

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

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

ABSENT: Paul Winchell- Highway Superintendent
Mark Miller-Enforcement Officer
Shannon Celeste-Dog Control Officer

OTHERS PRESENT: Helen Denno-Budget Officer, Miranda Herringshaw- Town Clerk, Jennifer Jackson-Clerk to the Supervisor, Christine Milligan-Fort Ann Town Historian, Mary Davis, Jon Lashinsky, Rick Dumas, Regina Ladd, Allison Bailey.

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

This meeting was published in The Post Star October 14th, 2022.

Supervisor Hall stated that this is the second budget meeting of the year and there will be a public hearing October 26th, 2022, at 6 PM at Town Hall to discuss the resolution that was passed at tonight's budget meeting. Everyone that was present was given a copy of the 14-page tentative budget as well as the Town of Fort Ann budget Summary 2022. Paper copies are available in the Town Clerk Office as well as on the town's website www.townoffortannny.com

Any line item that was not changed from the tentative 2023 budget will not be listed but can be referred to on the tentative 2023 budget list or can be found in the October 5th, 2022, Budget Meeting Minutes.

Line Items that have changed:

The line-item Buildings was increased by \$15,000.00 from the original tentative budget due to repairs needing to be made to the library and any unforeseen expenses associated with any buildings.

The line-item Equipment was decreased by \$47,000.00 due to the purchase of a new truck not being made. Brining the line item DA5130.2 down to \$33,000.00 from \$80,000.00

The line-item Ambulance requested a \$11,699.00 increase in budget due to rising cost in fuel and medical supply cost.

Regina Ladd stated that this increase is only to cover rising expenses and for no new purchases and that the EMS has made substantial cuts in other aeras to remain within budget.

Supervisor Hall stated that recently he had a meeting with Glens Falls Hospital and are looking to purchase medical supplies through the hospital- this will be on a county wide basis, the plan will be that the EMS companies would be able to buy supplies and medications at bulk cost and will be able to return any supplies they may not need, this is feasible due to the EMS being a nonprofit organization.

Regina Ladd stated this would be a huge help and save a significant amount of money. Regina also stated that they were not able to decrease their budget any further due to the budget being as low as

possible when they turned in for the first meeting and since turning that budget in, they had some unforeseen expenses with ambulance 2651, they are now needing to replace the vehicle which was not a foreseen expense for the 2023 year.

The line- item Fort Ann SF1 was originally increased \$69,423.00 for a contract amount of \$268,813.00. Since the October 5th meeting, they decreased their budget by \$35,000.00 due to projected income by fundraiser in the 2023 year being about \$30,000.00 and they cut \$5,000.00 from communications, bringing there increase \$34,423.00 for a contract amount of \$233,813.00.

Jon Lashinsky, Chief stated that the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company needs to replace three sets of turn out gear this year (approx. \$2,000.00 per set), fuel price increases, insurances increases, physicals have increased due to number of members and the Chief holding members responsible for actual getting the physicals done. They have increased money for equipment due to things needing to be replaces like hoses and other things of that nature.

Helen Denno did ask Chief Lashinsky if Fort Ann Fire Company is serious in LOSAP and if they are they need to get started on the paperwork as there is a lot that needs to be done, in order to get their members enrolled and that they need to account for an additional tentative amount of \$24,000.00 for the 2024 budget.

The line- item Pilot Knob SF2 was increased \$6,950.00 due to contract increase (\$5,000.00 contract increase will bring them back to their pre-covid contract amount of \$93,200.00) and LOSAP increase of \$1950.00. These amounts did not change from the October 5th, 2022, meeting. Mary Davis stated that she was thankful that the town increased Pilot Knob's fire budget back to its pre-covid contact amount.

The line- item West Fort Ann SF3 was increased \$21,042.00.

Contract amount to increase by \$26,550.00 due to fuel, utilities, and legal fees.

LOSAP contribution has decreased by \$5,508.00 due to overpayment in 2022.

These amounts did not change from the October 5th, 2022, meeting.

Supervisor Hall asked the West Fort Ann Firehouse to please provide a list of all payments on equipment, the list should include payment amount and length of payment terms, so the town has a clear picture of payments and when these items will be paid in full.

Budget Officer Helen Denno made a recommendation to decrease the unexpended balance by \$50,000.00 to continue the plan to reduce the amount each year so eventually the budget will no longer depend on large amounts of the prior year funds. She stated she discussed the plan with Al Nolette and he felt this plan was a good fiscal plan for the town to have if possible. The Town of Fort Ann recently received their stress score from the State Comptroller's office and it is a good score. Supervisor Hall and the Board Members decided that it would be most beneficial to reduce these funds by the \$50,000.00, in the event the funds are not available to use in the following year due to unforeseen circumstances.

At this point the Town Budget is \$202,642.00 "over" budget, the Town Board has made a motion to override the annual 2% tax cap increase, because unfortunately after much deliberation the board and budget officer do not see where any more cuts can be made, and due to inflation, they do not want to under budget the town expenses. The Town Board did pass this resolution and there will be a public hearing on this matter on October 26th at 6PM at Town Hall, where anyone from the public can come and ask questions and or voice any concerns that they may have.

6:43 PM -Supervisor Hall called the meeting to a close.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: October 20th, 2022,