

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON TUESDAY, October 14th, 2025 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
Councilman Michael Sexton

ABSENT: Christine Milligan-Town Historian

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Jeff Meyers-Town Attorney, Ronny Mattison-Highway Superintendent, Jennifer Jackson-Clerk to Supervisor, Matt Jones/Paul Milligan-Enforcement Officer, Josephine Devecchi, Penny Gould, Barb Burch, Chad Wilson, Bill Baily, & Penny Gould

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

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the Regular Town Board Minutes of September 8th, 2025.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept the Budget Workshop Minutes of October 2nd, 2025.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall stated that the August 2025 monthly financial statement was not available due to some technical difficulties with our software program but will be posted on the town's website as soon as it becomes available.

Receipts for the month of August

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$ 10,303.54
Highway Fund	\$26,232.41
Youth Commission	\$ 73.45
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 29,123.10
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 4,296.80
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$ 6,223.06

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$773,639.35
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$ 595,306.78
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$ 32,141.54
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park Reserve	\$ 79,579.83

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:02 p.m. Public Comment opened.

Chad Wilson asked why the agenda online was different from than agenda at the actual meeting?

Miranda Herringshaw explained that the discrepancy was due to a late clarification from Attorney Meyers, which was not updated on the website because the website manager was unavailable at the time.

It was clarified that only the Planning Board has authority over certain Boo-Town matters, not the Town Board.

Miranda apologized for the outdated information on the agenda and assured that it would be corrected the following day.

Supervisor Hall stated that the Planning Board Chairman needs to reach out to the town's engineer and get clarification on what is going on with Boo-Town and see exactly why the engineer has not signed off on certain stipulations.

6:22 p.m. Public Comment closed.**Supervisor's/Town Board Member's Reports:**

Supervisor Hall stated he had been busy working on the 2025 budget, we have already had our first workshop of the year the second budget workshop will be held on October 2, 2025 at Town Hall at 6PM.

Supervisor Hall discussed ongoing work on the county budget, noting a significant increase (initially 45.8%, later reduced to around 38%) largely due to unexpected social services and homelessness costs. The board is working with department heads to find ways to cut costs, including reducing personnel and non-essential services.

He explained the complexity of making budget cuts, the impact on services like Meals on Wheels and road plowing, and the challenges of balancing mandated services with affordability for taxpayers. Supervisor Hall said that some upcoming decisions may be difficult for both the public and employees but emphasized the need to keep taxes affordable.

Supervisor Hall reported that the proposed battery storage facility project behind Battle Hill was withdrawn by the applicant, and the related meeting was canceled.

Councilwoman Witherell- no news to report.

Councilman Smith stated the harvester and pontoon boat have been taken out of Hadlock. Total weeds taken for the season was 39,720 pounds.

The harvester is in poor condition, and it would be a "miracle" if it lasts another year.

A proposal for a new, more reliable harvester has been presented to Supervisor Hall. While the new harvester is expensive, there may be ways to reduce the cost.

The current harvester will be dry-docked at the Hadlock Inn for repairs and maintenance, and quotes are being gathered for a replacement.

Draw down of Hadlock will begin October 15th, 2025.

Councilwoman Stark- The Office of the Aging offers a wide range of services, which are listed on the bulletin board and in informational magazines available to the public.

A health and wellness program was held at the Kingsbury firehouse on October 2, which was well attended and provided valuable information to participants.

Nominations are being accepted for "Older New Yorker Day" to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the community.

The Parks and Recreation of New York is conducting a survey to gather feedback on the Erie Canal and Champlain Canal bike trails. Community members are encouraged to share their thoughts, which will help guide future improvements.

There will be a Locktoberfest event in Fort Edward featuring vendors and a raffle organized by the Friends of the Champlain Canalway Trail, with tickets for local restaurants as prizes. Supervisor Hall was thanked for providing two tickets for the raffle.

Councilman Sexton stated that the Draft Lae for Battery Storage Facilities was completed and that it would be presented at the public hearing held on November 10 at 6pm.

Town Clerk's Report was given for September 2025.

Highway Superintendent Report: Ronny Mattison stated that the Highway Department is finishing up grading and blacktopping for the 2025 season and that he already has a few trucks ready to go for the winter season.

Enforcement Officer Report Paper report given to Town Board Member's for September 2025.

Historian: Not present.

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

RESOLUTION #71-2025

"RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW PROHIBITING COMMERCIAL BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN"

On the motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled

“Resolution introducing a proposed local law prohibiting commercial battery energy storage systems in the Town of Fort Ann”

ADOPTED AYES 5 Sexton, Witherell Smith, Stark, Hall

RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. The proposed local law prohibiting commercial battery energy storage systems in the Town of Fort Ann is hereby introduced. A public hearing shall be noticed and held by the Town Board on November 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m to consider the proposed local law. Copies of the Local Law shall be available at the Town Clerk’s office for review.

Section 2. The Town Clerk is hereby directed to publish and post the requisite public hearing notices in accordance with the law.

Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

6:50p.m. Open Public Discussion

Jo-Jo DeVecchi asked what was going on in the fields across from Mattison Road?

Miranda Herringshaw stated that Walkers was installing drainage for their fields.

6:57p.m. Closed Public Discussion

6:17 p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts for September:	General:	\$ 86,825.11
	Highway:	\$ 27,417.84
	Hadlock:	\$ 1,887.98
	Youth Commission:	\$ 835.50

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: October 15, 2025