

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

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

ABSENT: Christine Milligan-Historian

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Paul Milligan-Code Enforcer, Jeffrey Meyer-Attorney for the Town, Ronny Mattison- Highway Superintendent, Jen Jackson- Clerk to the Supervisor, Barb Burch, Lyle Washburn, Jo Jo DeVecchi, Matt Jones, Curt Rhem, Judy Rhem, Kevin O’Brien, Pete O’Brien

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- Donna Williams, Donna Bell, Jerry Hathaway.

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to approve tonight’s agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2024.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the January 2025 monthly financial statement.

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$51,397.63
Highway Fund	\$60,195.85
Youth Commission	\$2,267.25
Hadlock Dam Project	\$240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$3,967.10
Consolidated Health District	\$370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$5,080.02
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$7,109.31

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$705,361.03
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$146,705.51
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$53,795.16

NYCLASS-Hadlock Reserve Fund \$52,708.86

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Public Comment opened at 6:05 p.m. for agenda items.

Lyle Washburn commented on Resolution #45- appointing sole assessor for the Town of Fort Ann stating his concerns about the salary of the assessor, suggesting it should be reduced or paid hourly, stating that Arek only works six (6) hours weekly.

Supervisor Hall states that the assessor does much more than six (6) hours weekly, that the six hours that he has for office hours are for meeting with the public and that there are a lot of work to be done in our Town as Fort Ann is the second largest number of parcels in Washington County.

Miranda Herringshaw states that she calls the assessor with any questions/concerns anytime (not just on Tuesday's) and mentioning his frequent availability and dedication to the town.

Public Comment closed at 6:12 p.m.

Supervisor & Town Board Member's Reports:

Supervisor Hall stated that the Old Stone Library restoration project should begin Monday, and thanked the Highway Department for removing all debris from the basement so the project could begin, construction will be done in phases, with the first phase focusing on the cellar and the next phase on the outside wall.

Councilman Sexton stated that he worked on the solar committee and will be having the public hearing for this Local Law on April 14,2025 at 6pm at Town Hall and also stated the purposed local law will be posted on the Town website.

Councilman Smith stated he would be attending the Hadlock Association meeting on Sunday by zoom meeting.

Councilwoman Witherell- no news to report.

Councilwoman Stark stated that there are currently lifeguard classes happening for anyone interested they need to be 16 years of age or older.

Also stated many events and services directed towards seniors, the Free Press paper has details on the events that were spoken about- anyone who would like a copy can pick up the Free Press at Town Hall during normal business hours.

She also states that there will be a canal clean up in April 19th, 2025 if anyone is interested in helping can sign up.

Also stated that the 2025 rabies clinic provided by Washington County Public Health will begin their free clinics for the year. You need to pre-register for these clinics and can do so on the county website.

Town Clerk's Report was given for February 2025.

Highway Superintendent Report: Ronny Mattison shared an update on the town garage, mentioning the progress on the north side of the building, including the roof, insulation, and block walls.

Enforcement Officer Report: Paper copy of his report was given to the Town Board members for February 2025.

Historian: Not present.

Dog Control Officer: Not present- Paper Report for February 2025 was provided.

5.0 Old Business: No old business to report.

6.0 New Business:

Lyle Washburn mentions the battery storage issue in New York and the need for a moratorium. Supervisor Hall confirms the town's moratorium.

RESOLUTION #43-2025

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS TO COVER UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR HIGHWAY FUND - T/W

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Modify the 2024 budget by transferring funds between appropriations to cover unanticipated expenditures during the 2024 fiscal year highway fund (town wide)"

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

RESOLVED, the 2024 budget shall be modified by transferring funds as indicated above.

RESOLUTION #44-2025

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2024 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND FOR SHORTUNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2024 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2024 budget by transferring funds from the contingency fund for short unanticipated expenditures during the 2024 fiscal year"

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

RESOLVED, the 2024 budget shall be modified by transferring funds as indicated above.

RESOLUTION #45-2025

RESOLUTION TO RE-APPOINT AREK GORDON AS SOLE ASSESSOR FOR THE TOWN OF FORT ANN

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to re-appoint Arek Gordon as sole assessor for the Town of Fort Ann"

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

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Ann hereby appoints Arek Gordon as the Sole Assessor effective October 1, 2025 to serve until September 30, 2031, the expiration of his term

**RESOLUTION #46-2025
RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SITING OF SOLAR ARRAYS IN THE TOWN OF FORT ANN**

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to accept resolution entitled "Resolution introducing a proposed ordinance regulating the siting of solar arrays in the Town of Fort Ann"

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

RESOLVED, the proposed ordinance regulating the siting of solar arrays in the Town is hereby introduced. A public hearing shall be noticed and held by the Town Board on April 14, 2025 at 6 p.m to consider the proposed ordinance.

6:44 p.m. **Open Public Discussion**

Lyle Washburn thanked the landowners who allow the snowmobile trail to pass through their property.

JoJo DeVecchi raises a concern about surveyors entering her property without notification, which Supervisor Hall explains is due to state highway surveying for guardrail replacement and brought a copy of the letter that NYS DOT had mailed out to anyone this may affect.

Kurt Rhem suggested that we plan a highway clean-up day in Fort Ann and stated that he would like to see legal notices posted on the Town's website due to many people not paying to get the post star anymore.

Miranda Herringshaw stated that yes, these notices can and will be added to the Town website going forward.

7:00 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

7:01 p.m. motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General:	\$ 23,121.68
	Highway:	\$ 18,063.92
	Hadlock:	\$ 71.58

Respectfully submitted,

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

Dated: March 15, 2024