

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026 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: Barb Burch-Deputy Town Clerk, Paul Milligan-Code Enforcer, Matt Jones-Code Enforcer, Ronny Mattison- Highway Superintendent, Jen Jackson- Clerk to the Supervisor, Lyle Washburn, Jo Jo DeVecchi, Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, Don Bedeaux, Jon Lashinsky

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- Kathleen Paige, soldiers killed in Iran

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to approve tonight's agenda.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept the Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes from February 9th, 2026.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the January 2025 monthly financial statement.

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$46,430.63
Highway Fund	\$67,191.66
Youth Commission	\$2.95
Hadlock Dam Project	\$240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$3,356.17
Consolidated Health District	\$370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$3,692.28
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$9,133.87

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$393,593.03
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$181,567.33
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$15,030.40
NYCLASS-Hadlock Reserve Fund	\$80,865.10

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

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

Public Comment closed at 6:06 p.m. with no comments

Supervisor & Town Board Member's Reports:

Supervisor Hall stated that he has been working on the flood plain maps with code enforcer Paul as the first document required by DEC is due on April 29th. He also reported that the highway department has received gas cards to use for town vehicles and equipment while the gas tanks at the highway building are currently unavailable for use. He is working with code enforcer Matt on PFAS, and with Councilman Smith and Councilman Sexton on the study to consider the consolidation of the Fort Ann and West Fort Ann Fire Departments. He also is catching up on various reports that need to be done this time of year.

Councilman Sexton stated that he has started the consolidation study for the fire departments. Documents and forms have been sent to both departments for them to fill out and the first meeting has been scheduled for March 10th. Representing West Fort Ann will be Rob Ladd, Matt Gould and Regina Ladd as alternate. Fort Ann will be represented by Jon Lashinsky, Billy Wilcox and Andrew Call as alternate.

Councilman Smith had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Witherell- thank you to Gretchen for the CPR training session. Councilman Sexton suggested that the Town might consider doing a community CPR training class.

Councilwoman Stark extended congratulations to Effie Jones, who was chosen as Senior of the Year for Washington County. She encouraged everyone to pick up a copy of the newspaper, Community Connections, published by the Office for the Aging. Many of the events and services are directed towards seniors and this paper has details on all the services offered and upcoming events. The newspaper is available at the Town Hall. She announced that the Senior Picnic this year will be held on October 2nd at the Washington County Fairgrounds. She also received packets that are used to dispose of medications no longer needed. The packets are free of charge and will be available at the Town Hall.

Town Clerk's Report was given for February 2026.

Highway Superintendent Report: Ronny Mattison reported that due to the incoming rain and melting conditions, he has opened the 4' valve on Hadlock 6". He will monitor and possibly close it on Friday. The old highway building has been torn down. The fire company was able to use it for a training program before it was taken down. The county building is scheduled to come down in the next two weeks. A notice was in the paper about posting the roads and the plan is to post them at the end of this week or beginning of next week.

Enforcement Officer Report: Paul -Paper copy of his report was given to the Town Board members for February 2026. Matt – regarding the PFAS situation, there have been some wells contaminated in the

Sunnyside area from the dump in that vicinity but nothing has reached the Town of Fort Ann. The company that is looking to have an incineration plant in Fort Edward is moving forward with their plan. He also reported that he is scheduling home inspections on the Short Term Rental Properties and they will begin soon.

Historian: Not present.

Dog Control Officer: Not present- Paper Report for February 2026 was provided.

5.0 Old Business:

Supervisor Hall stated that this summer is the 250th anniversary of the Town and he would like the town to work with our Town Historian, Christine Milligan, to make it a memorable event

6.0 New Business:

RESOLUTION #39-2026

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2025 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS BETWEEN APPROPRIATIONS TO COVER UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to Modify the 2025 budget by transferring funds between appropriations to cover unanticipated expenditures during the 2025 fiscal year (town wide)

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

RESOLVED, the 2025 budget shall be modified by transferring funds as indicated above.

RESOLUTION #40-2026

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2025 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE PAUL BRUHN HISTORIC REVITALIZATION GRANTS PROGRAM THROUGH THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

On motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2025 budget by appropriating federal grant funds received from the Paul Bruhn historic revitalization grants program through the National Park Service"

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

RESOLVED, the 2025 budget shall be modified by appropriation of additional revenue as indicated above.

RESOLUTION #41-2026

RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2026 BUDGET BY APPROPRIATING UNEXPENDED FUND BALANCE TO BE USED TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS THE CAPROOD PROPERTY AS PART OF THE FORT ANN BATTLEHILL PROJECT

On motion of Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept resolution entitled "Resolution to modify the 2026 budget by appropriating unexpended fund balance to be used towards the purchase of the tract of land known as the Caprood property as part of the Fort Ann Battlehill Project.

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

RESOLVED, the 2026 budget shall be modified by appropriating funds as indicated above.

**RESOLUTION #42-2026
RESOLUTION APPOINTING A FORT ANN PLANNING BOARD MEMBER**

On motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Sexton to accept resolution entitled "Resolution appointing a Fort Ann Planning Board member"

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

RESOLVED, the Fort Ann Town Board hereby appoints Jeremiah Monahan to serve as a member of the Fort Ann Planning Board through December 31, 2027.

6:36 p.m. **Open Public Discussion**

Jon Lashinsky expressed his thanks to Ronny and the highway department for their assistance with an emergency call where the ambulance wasn't able to get in the driveway. The Highway Department sent a truck to plow and sand. He also reminded everyone to check the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at home. He reminded everyone that a burn ban will go into effect on March 16th. Supervisor Hall will have that announcement posted on the town's website.

6:40 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 11, 2026