

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD ON MONDAY, August 11, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE FORT ANN TOWN HALL

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

ABSENT: Christine Milligan-Town Historian

OTHERS PRESENT: Miranda Herringshaw-Town Clerk, Jeff Meyers-Town Attorney, Matt Jones/ Paul Milligan-Enforcement Officer, Ronny Mattison- Highway Superintendent
Penny Gould, Bill Bailey, Kevin O'Brien, Seth Callahan

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 resident Greg Frieburger & Cindy Porter

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Smith seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept the Town Board Minutes of July 14, 2025.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor Hall read the June 2025 monthly financial statement.

Receipts for the month of June

Checking Account Balances

General Fund	\$ 60,113.38
Highway Fund	\$ 35,821.77
Youth Commission	\$ 3,982.25
Hadlock Dam Project	\$ 240.09
Hadlock Park District Fund	\$ 35,821.77
Consolidated Health District	\$ 370.48
Trust & Agency Fund	\$ 5,380.78
Medical Reimbursement Fund	\$4,915.67

Savings Accounts

NYCLASS-General Fund	\$ 996,407.16
NYCLASS-Highway Fund	\$ 810,340.03
NYCLASS-Hadlock Park District	\$ 161,370.45

NYCLASS-Hadlock Reserve Fund \$ 79,022.88

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

6:03 p.m. Public Comment opened.

6:04 p.m. Public Comment closed without comment.

Supervisor Report:

Supervisor Hall stated he had been working on the day-to-day operations and has been spending a lot of time at the county trying to figure out the budget due to over spending on the homeless in Washington County.

Town Board Members Reports:

Councilwoman Stark stated that the beach has been very busy and will be set to close on Labor Day and thanked the Highway Department for all of their help with the beach.

Councilman Sexton- no news to report.

Councilman Smith- Harvester has been out on the pond has harvested 12,600 pounds of weeds so far this year. Also stated that there are many rocks inside of Jarvis Way, and asked if residents could map out where rocks are so the harvester does not hit them.

Councilwoman Witherell no news to report.

Town Clerk's Report was given for July 2025.

Highway Superintendent Report: Ronny

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

Historian: Not present.

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

4.0 Old Business:

5.0 New Business

The new human waste-based fertilizer product discussed at the meeting poses several potential health and environmental risks: ****Health Risks:****

- The product contains polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS, or "forever chemicals"), which do not break down and can persist in the environment for at least 1,000 years.

- PFAS can accumulate in crops, livestock (milk and meat), and wild animals, leading to human exposure through the food chain. There is evidence from other states that PFAS have been detected in milk and meat from animals grazed on land treated with such fertilizers
- There is also concern about phosphorus overload in soils, which can have negative health and environmental effects.

Environmental Risks:

- PFAS and other contaminants can leach into water sources, potentially affecting drinking water and aquatic life. The risk is higher in areas with agricultural runoff into local watersheds
- Long-term soil contamination can impact land use, property values, and the ability to develop or repurpose land in the future
- Wildlife and wild food sources (e.g., fish, deer) can also be affected, leading to broader ecosystem impacts.

How the Town Can Address These Concerns:

- Review and potentially update the existing local law regarding biosolids to specifically address the new product and its risks
- Hold public hearings to gather input from residents, farmers, and health/environmental authorities.
- Work with the town attorney to ensure any new or revised regulations are legally sound and enforceable.
- Coordinate with the Public Health Department and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for guidance and enforcement

In summary, the main risks are long-term contamination of soil, water, and food sources with PFAS and phosphorus, which can affect both human and environmental health. The town is considering legal, regulatory, and public engagement steps to address these concerns.

**RESOLUTION #63-2025
RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE 2025 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING FUNDS
FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO COVER SHORTAGES DUE TO
UNANTICIPATED EXPENDITURES DURING THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR**

On Motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith accept resolution entitled “Resolution to modify the 2025 budget by transferring funds from the contingency fund to cover shortages due to unanticipated expenditures during the 2025 fiscal year”

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

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

RESOLUTION #64-2025

RETIREMENT STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION FOR ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

On Motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark accept resolution entitled “Retirement standard work day and reporting resolution for elected and appointed officials”

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

RESOLVED, that the Town of Fort Ann hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the record of activities.

RESOLUTION #65-2025

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE USE OF SPEED MONITORING DEVICE AND SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT ON PILOT KNOB ROAD

On Motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell accept resolution entitled “Resolution requesting the use of speed monitoring device and speed limit enforcement on Pilot Knob Road”

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

RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby requests the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, NYS Troopers, and any and all applicable State and/or municipal agencies to increase their patrols and the enforcement of the speed limit along Pilot Knob Road; and be it further
RESOLVED, the Town Board further requests the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, NYS Troopers, and any and all applicable State and/or municipal agencies to locate a speed monitoring device on Pilot Knob Road.

RESOLUTION #66-2025

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT AND ORDER RELATIVE TO THE MATTER OF SWITCHCO LLC v. ASSESSOR OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN, ET. AL. BEARING WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPREME COURT EC2024-37304 & EC2025-39570

On Motion of Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith accept resolution entitled “Resolution approving the stipulation of settlement and order relative to the matter of Switchco LLC v. Assessor of the Town of Fort Ann, et. al. bearing Washington County Supreme Court ec2024-37304 & ec2025-39570”

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

RESOLVED, that Meyer, Fuller & Stockwell, PLLC is authorized to execute any and all documents pertaining to the settlement of the Article 7 petitions reducing the assessment on property bearing tax identification number 173.17-1-15 for the tax years 2024, and 2025, in accordance with the RPTL Section 727 to establish the assessment rates for the ensuing years.

6:46p.m. **Open Public Discussion**
6:47 p.m. **Closed Public Discussion**

6:47p.m. Motion was introduced by Councilman Sexton, seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts for July:	General:	\$ 184,099.42
	Highway:	\$ 186,680.84
	Hadlock:	\$ 1,123.25

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 12, 2025

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