

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2012 COMMENCING AT 7:15 P.M.

PRESENT: DARLENE Z. DUMAS, SUPERVISOR  
DUANE A. BURCH, COUNCILMAN  
BRUCE K. WHITNEY, COUNCILMAN  
ALFRED E. DUNLOP, COUNCILMAN

OTHERS PRESENT: HELEN DENNO, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE SUPERVISOR  
PAUL WINCHELL, SUPT. OF HIGHWAYS

ABSENT: GRETCHEN R. STARK, COUNCILWOMAN

RECORDING SECRETARY: MARY JANE GODFREY, TOWN CLERK

Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Motion was introduced by Mr. Dunlop and seconded by Mr. Whitney to approve the Town Board Minutes of January 9, 2012 with corrections as follows:

Page 2; Resolution No. 2012-006 should read "Nay" on the vote of Mr. Whitney, not an abstention.

Page 4; Resolution No. 2012-016 should include the sentence "Mr. Winchell stated he Was happy with the way things are at present. Resolution was duly adopted With the word 'Laborer' omitted."

Page 4; Resolution No. 2012-018 should include that Mr. Dunlop abstained.

Page 4; Resolution No. 2012-020 should read "Resolution No. 2012-020 was adopted," not tabled.

Motion was carried.

Motion was introduced by Mr. Burch and seconded by Mr. Dunlop to pay bills as warranted and audited.

Motion was carried.

Monthly Statement to Supervisor for January, 2012 will be available upon request within the week.

Two (2) checks have been received by the Town for the Hadlock settlement in the amount of \$420,000.00 and were deposited January 25, 2012.

Supervisor Dumas has been gathering bills and bank statements and will report on her findings.

Supervisor Dumas stated as to the questions of Dennis Fletcher and Joseph Traskis; it was found that there was a dead-end sign on Morgan's Lane in Comstock. Mr. Fletcher said it was bent and Supervisor Dumas said it can be repaired. Councilwoman Gretchen Stark is working on the school bus signs. As to the blocking of the weeds on Thomas Road; Mr. Winchell stated the weeds will be trimmed. As to the invasive species issue; this issue will be brought to Washington County and will be studied.

Fire Companies and Rescue Squad Contracts for the year 2012 should be mailed out within this week.

A complaint on dogs: A woman in Comstock stated a person from the SPCA came to her home and was carrying a firearm. She stated she was going to shoot her dog. Supervisor Dumas contacted the SPCA and a woman from said SPCA stated they do not carry firearms. Supervisor contacted the Town's Dog Control Officers, Ed Holland and Nancy Quell and they said anyone should call them for any dog problem.

Tax bills: The Supervisor received many calls on this year's Town and County tax bills and paying taxes by credit card. Next year, the Town is investigating doing a credit card through Glens Falls National Bank & Trust Company and eliminate the 2.7%.

Washington County Historical Society submitted a letter stating they have done two resolutions regarding Battle Hill. They are hoping to place it on the National Registry of Historical Places and is seeking to preserve historic evidence of Washington County, its people and events and is unable to concur with the development of the quarry or any other enterprise, public or private, which would hold or potentially could destroy or compromise the integrity of the County's irreplaceable historic treasure.

A legal notice in the Post Star stated that the Dewey's Bridge Road Bridge is for sale; description of size was read.

Supervisor Dumas, Councilwoman Stark and Councilman Dunlop attended an intensive training in Albany last month which was held by the NYS Association of Towns.

Supervisor Dumas will appoint a Chairperson for different committees and that person will find persons to serve on the committees. The committees are Finance, Infrastructure, Agriculture, Business Development, Recreation & Tourism and Neighborhoods.

Supervisor Dumas is now the Code Enforcement for the Town. The Town will have to appoint a part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

Town Clerk gave a report for the month of January, 2012.

Public Comment was opened at 7:31 p.m.

Richard Moore, Summer Way, Fort Ann, NY commented on the sheet of paper posted on the bulletin board entitled "Explanation of Why the Hadlock Dam District Tax Went From: 2011 - \$3.75 to 2012 - \$6.53." Mr. Moore stated the only true figures are the \$1,000,000.00 the Town received through a grant from NYSDEC and suggested the corrections be placed on the Town's web site.

Gary Taylor, South Bay Road, Fort Ann, NY commented on the January 9, 2012 meeting and questioned the salary of the Planning Board Clerk of \$2,000.00. There are now two applicants for Planning Board Clerk and two applicants for the Planning Board Member.

Public Comment Section was closed at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Winchell reported on work; brush cutting on West and Farm Woods Roads, also will cut brush on Thomas Road and Rathbunville Road.

A dead-end sign does not mean a person cannot use the road.

The small one-ton truck with plow needs repair. Mr. Winchell has the amount of \$5,000.00 - \$7,000.00 to repair said truck.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Resolution No. 2012-101 was introduced by Mr. Dunlop and seconded by Mr. Burch to approve resolution entitled "Resolution Setting the Salary of the Town Planning Board Clerk. (\$2,000.00 per year.)

Discussion followed. The Clerk position expired December 31, 2011. Mr. Burch objected the reducing the salary to \$2,000.00 per year. Mr. Whitney also spoke on decreasing the salary of said Clerk and stated he is looking for stability.

Supervisor Dumas questioned the work involved with the Planning Board and Planning Board Clerk.

Roll Call:	Ayes	1	Supervisor Dumas
	Nays	2	Burch, Whitney
	Abstention	1	Dunlop
	Absent	1	Stark

Resolution No. 2012-101 was duly adopted.

Resolution No. 2012-102 was introduced by Mr. Dunlop and seconded by Mr. Burch to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing a Fort Ann Planning Board Clerk."

Discussion followed. Supervisor Dumas requested the process to interview the two candidates for Planning Board Clerk and stated the Town usually held a Special Meeting to interview during an Executive Session, a time limit for each interview and the notice would be published in the Post Star.

Resolution No. 2012-102 was tabled.

Resolution No. 2012-103 was introduced by Mr. Dunlop and seconded by Mr. Burch to accept resolution entitled "Resolution Appointing a Fort Ann Planning Board Member."

Discussion followed.

Resolution No. 2012-103 was tabled.

The interviews will take place at the March 12, 2012 Town Board Meeting.

Mr. Whitney discussed the Deputy Town Supervisor's salary. Kingsbury does not pay a Deputy Town Supervisor a salary. Fort Ann's Deputy Town Supervisor will be paid the same amount as the Deputy Town Clerk as stated by Supervisor Dumas.

Pleasant Valley Infirmary is still in question of perhaps it being sold. There are three meetings this week at Whitehall High School at 7:00 p.m. February 14<sup>th</sup>, Greenwich VFW on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. February 15<sup>th</sup> and the Hudson Falls High School at 7:00 p.m. February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Resolution No. 2012-104 was introduced by Mr. Burch and seconded by Mr. Dunlop authorizing the Supt. of Highways to post all Town roads to eight tons at the discretion of Mr. Winchell.

Resolution was duly adopted.

Proposals received for the Attorney for the Town of Fort Ann, Attorney for the Town Planning Board and the Town Engineer were opened by the Town Clerk. The Town will hold a Special Meeting Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 80 George Street, Fort Ann, NY to study the RFPs for the abovementioned positions. Due to the absence of Councilwoman Stark, the proposals were only opened at tonight's meeting to allow everyone to know the names of the persons who submitted the proposals. (See attached list.)

Correspondence/Miscellaneous: Supervisor Dan Stec of Queensbury submitted two letters previously on the Town using the EMS that North Queensbury provides to the Fort Ann residents in Pilot Knob area and is requesting exploring the opportunities with North Queensbury Rescue Squad to shoulder some of the responsibility.

Washington County will hold an audit meeting for Supervisors.

Agriculture Stewardship Association: This organization helps protect farmers; they purchase a person's property and it would always remain a farm.

Open Public Discussion opened at 8:30 p.m.

Dennis Fletcher, Comstock, NY commented on his request for speed reduction on Morgan's Lane in Comstock. According to Mr. Fletcher's contact with Senator Betty Little, Mr. Fletcher does not need a petition; just a resolution. Mr. Fletcher also spoke on the lack of school bus stop signs. Mr. Winchell stated the signs will be repaired and put in place. Mr. Fletcher also requested a Book of Robert's Rules of Order be present at all Town Board Meetings. Supervisor stated said Book will be at the said Meetings. Mr. Dunlop explained the process of using said Rules.

Gary Taylor, Fort Ann, NY questioned if the Special Meeting of February 29, 2012 will be published and Supervisor stated "Yes." Supervisor also informed Mr. Taylor and everyone that the four candidates for Planning Board Member (2) and Planning Board Clerk (2) will be interviewed at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting, an Executive Session will be held at the end of the meeting to interview the candidates, the Town Board would then go out of Executive Session and would tell everyone who was approved and appointed to the said positions.

Derek Vaughn, Comstock, NY spoke on taxes, the money for the Planning Board Clerk and the payment to the Deputy Town Supervisor.

Jeannette Nadeau, Pilot Knob, NY requested the Town having a microphone at the Town Board Meetings and Supervisor Dumas stated all will try to speak louder.

Gene Connell, Hadlock Pond Road, Fort Ann, NY requested a Public Meeting be held on taxes for persons within the Lake Hadlock Park District. Mr. Connell submitted information, as per attached list to be answered.

Dale Grinnell, State Rte. 4, Fort Ann, NY spoke on the Battle Hill Project and survey.

Joe Traskis, Comstock, NY spoke on clean-up of yards, trailer parks or parked cars. There are ordinances on junk cars and abandoned vehicles.

Public Discussion was closed at 8:50 p.m.

Motion was introduced by Mr. Burch and seconded by Mr. Whitney to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Motion was carried.

Total Amounts of Abstracts:	General	\$40,434.57
	Highway	\$25,249.32

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 29, 2012

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Mary Jane Godfrey, Town Clerk  
Town of Fort Ann, New York