

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN
HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2014 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:04 P.M.**

PRESENT: Supervisor Darlene Z. Dumas
Councilwoman Gretchen R. Stark
Councilman Howard Denison
Councilman Floyd Varney
Councilwoman Deborah Witherell

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Meyer, Town Attorney, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Paul Winchell, Supt. of Highways, Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk, Bill Toscano, The Post Star, Debbie Camarota, Joe Wright, President Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Co., Edward Sharrow, President Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Co., Duane Burch, Kim Bender, Richard Moore, Gene Connell, Denny Fletcher, Curt Rehm, Chad Wilson, Jim Barnes, Tina Denison, Milton Smith.

Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a moment of silence was held for a deceased resident, Michael Hicks.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell and seconded by Councilman Denison to accept the minutes of the Organizational and Regular Town Board Meetings of January 13, 2014.

Motion was carried.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell and seconded by Councilman Varney to accept the minutes of the Special Town Board Meeting of January 28, 2014.

Motion was carried

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

Motion was carried unanimously.

Supervisor's Report: The Monthly Statement to Supervisor will be on the Town's website. A paper copy is available upon request.

Supervisor Dumas received approximately 50 phone calls for the month of January. Supervisor Dumas reported that the Fort Ann Town Board held the annual audit workshop on January 30, 2014 and it lasted about an hour with all departments getting an excellent report on record keeping.

Town Clerk's Report was given for January 2014.

Public Comment opened at 7:08 p.m. Mr. Sharrow asked if this is where he would speak to the Board and Supervisor Dumas said that would be appropriate later in the agenda during public discussion. Hearing no further comments, The Public Comment Section was closed at 7:09 p.m.

Supt of Highways Report: Mr. Winchell gave a report of the highways activities; been a very busy winter with plowing and sanding and the highway department has only had one day off since Christmas Eve. The Highway Department has used twice as much sand this year than last year. The Highway Department did receive some free sand from Washington County and still had to buy sand from Charles Friedman Excavating. On January 14, 2014 a Fort Ann Highway truck slid off Flat Rock Road due to ice - no one was injured. There was approximately \$23,000 worth of damage to the truck it has been repaired and will have a new sander put on it. A heavy duty wrecker was needed to pull this truck up and Thomson's Garage out of Lake George is who the Town of Fort Ann has used in the past and been very satisfied with their service. The Highway Department has been busy building shelves in the basement for better record keeping. The Highway Department has a 1989 International that was claimed as surplus and put out to bid hoping for \$3,000.00 - \$5,000.00 but with no results the Highway Superintendent asked for a resolution authorizing the sale of this vehicle.

Resolution No. 2014-032 was introduced by Councilman Denison and seconded by Councilman Varney authorizing the Highway Superintendent to sell the 1989 International.

Adopted Ayes 5 Dumas, Stark, Denison, Varney, Witherell
 Naves 0

Resolution No. 2014-033 was introduced by Supervisor Dumas and seconded by Councilman Denison authorizing the Highway Superintendent to post all Town roads to 8 ton.

Adopted Ayes 5 Dumas, Stark, Denison, Varney, Witherell
 Naves 0

Councilman Denison suggested a back-up battery system for the basement with an approximate cost of \$200.00. The Highway Superintendent replied he'll look into it. Councilman Denison reported that there has already been a lot accomplished in the first month of the year. The Town of Fort Ann Board started out the year with a list of about twenty three items that needed to be accomplished and items from this list have already been accomplished to date such as the lighting, the basement storage area and fixing of the window just to name a few.

Councilman Varney suggested having the responsibility of checking the Hadlock Dam turned over to the Fort Ann Highway Superintendent instead of a Fort Ann Highway Worker. He is of the opinion that Town Officials such as the Fort Ann Highway Superintendent have more of a vested interest in this type of responsibility.

Councilwoman Stark reported that there is \$1,000.00 available in the Youth Program fund. She thanked the Highway Department, Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company and the Fort Ann Rescue Squad for volunteering their time at the Ice Fishing Derby held last month. There were 100 adults and 28 children that participated and all 28 children went home with a prize. She also reported that she had attended a meeting in Lake George in regards to boat washing. She is still working with Eugene Ouderkirk on the Canal project. She is still working on the Champlain Canal Way Trail and looking into grants for next year or the year after. She will have more information at upcoming Board meetings in regards to a free bike tour in Mechanicville August 10, 2014.

No Historian or Old Business to report on.

New Business: Debbie Camarota advised that there are fundraisers planned to raise money for the Blossom Farm Cemetery (selling bricks, cookbooks and a craft fair/bake sale May 10, 2014 at the Fort Ann Firehouse). She also advised the Town Board that there are Skidmore College Students that are interested in digging at the Blossom Farm Cemetery this summer along with two Skidmore College Professors as a summer project. Supervisor Dumas stated that she would like to see the Blossom Farm Cemetery be set up as a non-profit so that the Town of Fort Ann could make a donation and have it actually be a line item in the annual budget. Debbie Camarota stated that it takes about a year to become a non-profit and the cost is approximately \$2,000.00

Mr. Joe Wright, President, Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Department suggested the Boy Scouts conduct a Flag Ceremony at Blossom Farm Cemetery.

Councilman Denison asked Attorney Meyer to research the ability of the Town of Fort Ann to take over Blossom Farm Cemetery and what kind of precedent would this set for the future.

Supervisor Dumas reported that there was quite a bit of interest generated for the part-time Code Enforcement Officer position recently advertised for.

Public Discussion was opened at 8:07 p.m. with Mr. Jim Barnes expressing his dissatisfaction that a towing company out of Warren County was called instead of his towing business in Washington County when there was a Town of Fort Ann Highway truck off the road.

Mr. Curtis Rehm of East Starbuck Lane distributed a letter of concern signed by eleven property owners of East Starbuck Lane on the conditions of the East Starbuck Lane Road. Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, advised that if the CHIP's (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) money comes through half of East Starbuck Lane can be paved this year. Half of East Starbuck Lane would be about 3/10 of a mile.

Mr. Ed Sharrow, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company distributed and read a letter regarding the 2014 Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company budget and the differences of such budget. He had assumed that the \$190,000.00 that was requested is

what the fire company was going to receive and spent money based on that \$190,000.00 figure. He is very concerned about being able to protect the citizens of the Village and Town of Fort Ann with the \$38,000.00 decrease.

Supervisor Dumas stated how important it is to attend the budget workshops and that it is not her sole decision what gets revised in the budget. Budget decisions are made by the five member Town of Fort Ann Board. She did advise that she had a conversation with the State Comptroller's Office to see if there can be a budget change. The State Comptroller's Office is supposed to get back to her with an answer and she apologized to Mr. Joe Wright, President of the Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Company, because he was not aware of the budget process.

Mr. Donald Ballard of the Fort Ann Rescue Squad wanted to advise the Town of Fort Ann Board that there would be a substantial request for the 2015 budget.

Mr. Denny Fletcher of Comstock commended the Fort Ann Highway Department on the good job they do.

Public Discussion was closed at 8:51 p.m.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell and seconded by Councilman Denison to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 8:52p.m. Mr. Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, and Mr. Jeff Meyer, Attorney for the Town of Fort Ann, were asked to join the executive session.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell and seconded by Councilwoman Stark to come out of executive session at 10:10 p.m.

Resolution No. 2014-034 was introduced by Supervisor Dumas and it was decided unanimously to continue paying the Assessor at the salary of \$47,726.00 through March 31, 2014 and then the Assessor's salary would decrease to \$35,000.00 effective April 1, 2014.

Motion was introduced by Councilman Denison and seconded by Councilwoman Stark to adjourn at 10:11 p.m.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General	\$15,241.34	Highway	\$36,051.11
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Respectively submitted,

Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk

Dated: February 24, 2014

