

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT ANN TOWN BOARD HELD OCTOBER 14, 2014

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Fuller, Town Attorney, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Richard Moore, Dave Dumas, Denny Fletcher, Gloria Quinlan, Lorraine Connor, Gene Connell, Dale Grinnell, Anne Wilcox, Duane Burch, Jr., Roy Harrison

Supervisor Dumas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence was held for Fort Ann deceased residents.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Stark, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell, to accept the Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2014.

Supervisor's Report: The monthly statement to supervisor is available on the Town's website, townoffortann.com. A paper copy is available upon request. Supervisor Dumas stated she had approximately 30 phone calls for the month of September. She stated that there was a 2015 budget workshop September 29, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. and now there will be a 2015 preliminary budget meeting scheduled for October 21, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Town Clerk's Report: Was given for the month of September 2014. The Town Clerk reported out that the Town Clerk office has been able to issue hunting and fishing licenses since September 18, 2014 and it seems to be going very well. There was a retirement dinner for six (6) Town Clerks that retired in 2013 at the Queensbury Hotel on September 26, 2014. Mary Jane Godfrey was one (1) of the six (6) Town Clerks that was recognized for her thirty one (31) years of service.

Public Hearing: None

Public Comment was opened at 7:05 p.m. with Supervisor Dumas reminding those in attendance that public comment is meant for items on the agenda with no comments being made public comment closed at 7:06 p.m.

Highway Superintendent's Report: The Highway Superintendent reported that his department had been busy blacktopping portions of Starbuck Lane, Farm Woods Lane, Brayton Road and Cartier Lane. He reported that they have started to work on the trucks to get them ready for winter. They work on one truck at a time and figure it takes about 1 ½ months to go through all the trucks. Sand pile is up and has a couple of more projects they'd like to finish up before cold weather gets here. It dried up enough around the Library to ground up the stump and brush. They've been ditching Taylor Woods Road and Buttermilk Falls Road and replacing a culvert on Cardinal Way. The weedboat is scheduled to come out October 23. Rozelle's will pull it out and bring to the Highway garage for storage over the winter. The Planning Board/Enforcement Office was painted October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> as well as a tile replaced and repair to the wall under the window. Mr. Winchell stated he needed a couple of resolutions. The first allowing the town to plant eight (8) trees and the second to appoint a Deputy Highway Superintendent due to a

retirement of the current Deputy Town Highway Superintendent October 30, 2014. The blacktopping at the Canal Park took place today (10/14/14). The price of salt is up approximately \$12.50 a ton and as close as he can approximate it costs \$300.00 every time a truck leaves the barn in the winter. He feels whatever has been budgeted for salt cost should be sufficient. The Town of Fort Ann is not supplying the Fort Ann Central School with salt/sand. The school will be responsible for getting their own supply.

Resolution 65-14

APPROVE THE UNDERTAKING FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE NYSDOT IN CONNECTION WITH WORK AFFECTING STATE HIGHWAYS

On motion of Councilman Varney, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell, the following resolution was ADOPTED –VOTE -

Ayes 5 Varney, Witherell, Dumas, Denison, Stark

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to approve the planting of eight (8) trees on George Street, Fort Ann, New York

Resolution 66-14

APPOINT MATTHEW GRAHAM AS DEPUTY TOWN HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

On motion of Councilman Varney, seconded by Councilwoman Stark, the following resolution was ADOPTED -VOTE –

Ayes 5 Varney, Stark, Dumas, Witherell, Denison

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to appoint Matthew Graham as Deputy Town Highway Superintendent due to the retirement of Roland LaPointe.

Councilwoman Stark reported that she is placing a notice on the Town bulletin board that there will be a free bike safety presentation at Slate Valley Museum in Granville on October 19, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. She took a ride on the canal today (10/14/14) with Canal Corp. from Whitehall to Fort Edward and they stopped at the locks in between it was very interesting. She is still working on trail out back but having difficulty in getting the survey done. She made contact with the person for the kayak canoe launch. There is a Recreation and Tourism meeting scheduled at the Town Hall October 16, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Varney set up a PA system tonite so that anyone attending tonite's meeting in sitting in the back should be able to hear. He stated the tree removal on Route 149 has made a big sight difference. He noticed that the Moose Hillock Campground is closed for the season.

Councilwoman Witherell stated she had nothing new to report on the Emergency Preparedness Plan. She stated she may have to leave the meeting early if she is in pain due to the recent surgery she had but all in all is doing well. Supervisor Dumas stated she had received an email from Senator Little's office on Citizen Preparedness Training so she would forward that to Councilwoman Witherell since it may be something she is interested in attending October 25, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at Heritage Hall.

Councilman Denison stated he sent an email out to the other town board members regarding Blossom Farm Cemetery. The request is that the Town of Fort Ann move the fence out 6 feet to encompass 6 bases in cow path (about 12 feet of fence; 2 more poles and 12 feet single strand barbed wire). The Town will need to survey approximately ½ acre of land which would go out to the road so there wouldn't be access issues. The next step would be to go to the Planning Board to have it subdivided off and he really doesn't foresee any problems at the Planning Board level. This would relieve Mr. Ray

Wilson from any lawsuits and/or taxes regarding this ½ acre of land. The Blossom Farm Cemetery group has asked to be a voluntary group that reports to the cemetery committee who would keep the Town Board informed. Councilman Denison stated he spoke to the surveyor today who stated there really is no description of cemetery and the cost of the survey is approximately \$1,000.00. and if you add in other legal fees the cost to the Town could be up to \$1,500.00. This plan has been blessed by the American Legion. To summarize it would cost the Town of Fort Ann between \$1,000.00 - \$1,500.00 to take ownership of this ½ acre of land and to end all the conflict and hard feelings between groups. The Blossom Farm group has the money for the lighted flag pole, bench, garden and sign for this piece of property. There has been money put in the 2015 budget to hire someone 20 hrs. a week for the Town of Fort Ann Highway Department to work in the cemeteries. This has been determined to be a revolutionary cemetery and Councilman Denison would like to see the Town Board pass a resolution to spend up to \$1,500.00 to take ownership of this piece of property and move forward. Councilman Denison stated that anything else discussed should be with the Town's Attorney in executive session. There would have to be an agreement signed between Mr. Ray Wilson and the Town of Fort Ann.

Supervisor Dumas stated she had a concern about how many other cemeteries in the Town of Fort Ann would want to be surveyed and have the Town take ownership.

Mr. Dale Grinnell stated that most of the other cemeteries in Fort Ann are private.

Enforcement Officer, Mark Miller, could not attend tonight's meeting as there was also a Town of Hartford Town Board meeting at the same time. Supervisor Dumas reported that Mark had returned contact with Theresa Brarrowman on Hadlock with list of questions from her and gave her a contact at APA as well as the Hadlock Association. Washington County Code Enforcement will also have to answer some of her questions. Mark signed a building permit submitted from Wilfred Maynard, 10390 State Rte 149, Fort Ann for a patio roof. The Fort Ann Highway Superintendent had asked him to look at Cardinal Way about debris that had washed down into the ditch from a driveway they were trying to build. He went to Cardinal Way and spoke to Washington County Code Enforcement because this is supposed to be permitted. Mark received his new Town phone and computer and both are up and running. He just needs to download at this office and the program could take up to three (3) hours. Mark signed a demolition permit for CP Rail to remove 20' x 40' barn on North side of Clayhill next to train tracks. He signed a building permit for an addition to existing house on Willette Blvd., Pilot Knob. He signed a woodstove permit.

Mr. Dale Grinnell stated that he received a message a couple of weeks ago from a historical society in Oregon that believes they have the thirteen star handmade flag from the Battle of Fort Ann. Mr. Grinnell is still investigating this and if it turns out to be authentic where would be the best place to have it displayed.

Duane Burch, Jr. reported out that he and Councilwoman Stark met with Syed Alam of DEC on September 19, 2014 at the DEC's request for the annual inspection of Hadlock dam.

Supervisor Dumas asked the Town Clerk to read the following resolution:

Resolution 67-14

ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING TO DIMINISH THE AREA OF THE LAKE HADLOCK PARK DISTRICT BY REMOVING FIVE (5) PARCELS BEARING TAX MAP

NUMBERS: 110.-1-25.1; 110.-1-25.2; 110.-1-25.3; 101.15-1-14.2 AND 101.15-1-14.1 FROM THE LAKE HADLOCK PARK DISTRICT

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE –

Ayes 5                Witherell, Varney, Dumas, Denison, Stark

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, that the proposed diminution of the Lake Hadlock Park District is hereby accepted. A public hearing shall be scheduled for the consideration of the proposed removal of the five (5) parcels described herein to be held by the Town Board on November 10, 2014 at 7:05 p.m. Copies of the proposal shall be available at the Town Clerk’s office for review.

Resolution 68-14

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE MU-1

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE –

Ayes 5                Witherell, Stark, Dumas, Denison, Varney

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby adopts the records retention and disposition schedule MU-1.

Resolution 69-14

RESOLUTION APPOINTING A TOWN PLANNING BOARD SECRETARY

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE –

Ayes 5                Denison, Witherell, Dumas, Varney, Stark

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby appoints Anne S. Wilcox, 183 Burquist Rd., Ft. Ann, New York 12827 as Planning Board Secretary effective October 15, 2014 with an annual salary of \$4,000.00.

Supervisor Dumas received correspondence dated October 3, 2013 but believes it should be October 3, 2014 from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It states that the State Review Board has recommended to the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation that the NY State Barge Canal Historic District be listed on the New York State Register of Historic Places and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Supervisor Dumas received notification from Joe Melucci of Glens Falls National Bank thanking the Town of Fort Ann for being a customer of Glens Falls National Bank and that as of November 3, 2014 Arlene Girard would be replacing him as he has accepted another position with Glens Falls National Bank.

Supervisor Dumas stated they are still working on the 2015 budget at Washington County.

Public Discussion opened at 7:50 p.m. Gloria Quinlan asked why there wasn’t a public hearing tonite regarding the removal of five (5) parcels from Hadlock. Supervisor Dumas responded that there wasn’t a public hearing scheduled for tonite. Gloria thought that at the September meeting it was announced that there would be a public hearing at the October meeting. Attorney Fuller explained the process and that when the public hearing is published in The Post Star it will only be to announce the date/time and purpose of the public hearing.

Public Discussion was declared closed at 8:00 p.m.

Motion was made to adjourn the public portion of the Town Board meeting to obtain legal advice.

Motion was made to go back into public session at 8:20 p.m.

Resolution 70-14

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SPENDING OF UP TO \$1,500.00 ON BLOSSOM FARM CEMETERY

On motion of Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney, the following resolution was ADOPTED – VOTE –

Ayes 5            Witherell, Varney, Dumas, Denison, Stark

Nays 0

IT IS RESOLVED, to approve the spending of up to \$1,500.00 for survey, title search and legal work concerning the potential acceptance by the Town of the property known as the Blossom Farm Cemetery and this shall be effective immediately.

It was discussed to obtain two (2) more survey estimates.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Witherell and seconded by Councilman Varney to adjourn meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Total Abstracts:            General \$ 18,147.22  
   Highway \$196,832.06

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk

Dated: October 23, 2014