

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT ANN
HELD OCTOBER 13, 2015 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:01 P.M.**

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Winchell, Highway Superintendent, Jeff Meyer, Town Attorney, Helen Denno, Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor, Barbara Winchell, Town Clerk, Dave Dumas, Richard Moore, Denny Fletcher, William Knapp, Christine Milligan, Skip Bearor, Gene Connell, Joe Loszynski

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Council. A moment of silence for deceased Fort Ann resident, George Fifield.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilman Varney to accept the minutes of the Regular Town Board Meeting of September 14, 2015.

Motion was carried.

Supervisor Dumas asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Budget Workshop held October 5, 2015. It was suggested to table the budget workshop minutes until the November 9, 2015 as Councilwoman Witherell felt there should be more information in them. Councilwoman Witherell wanted her question of money put aside to buy a Highway truck rather than a five (5) year loan because she wanted money set aside for the Rescue Squad. Supervisor Dumas stated it's Highway money not General Fund money. Councilwoman Witherell stated she wanted it mentioned that the firemen that were in attendance stated they felt the Rescue Squad had budgeted as low as they could. Councilwoman Witherell wanted it mentioned that Christine Milligan offered her own \$700.00 for the Rescue Squad. Councilwoman Witherell stated that the exchange between Joe Loszynski and Supervisor Dumas regarding budget appropriations and the issue of a potential tax increase should be included in the minutes. When Supervisor Dumas read the park district appropriations Mr. Loszynski asked her to interpret what she had just read because his interpretation was that he was getting the full appropriations for the budget request that he submitted and wanted to make sure he heard/understood correctly. Supervisor Dumas responded yes, every penny. Mr. Loszynski then asked for clarification concerning a comment Supervisor Dumas made regarding a potential tax increase because of this budget. Mr. Loszynski stated that the approval of this budget should not result in a tax increase because of the \$45,000.00 surplus this year, and with approximately \$140,000.00 in savings in the park district account. Supervisor Dumas corrected Mr. Loszynski on the balance in the account and stated there is more like \$106,000.00 in the account and remarks that all fixed costs are paid through the end of the year so there shouldn't be too many more expenditures on this account through the end of the calendar year. Mr.

Loszynski then stated that due to this years surplus, the pending balance in the account, there needs to be no tax increase for the lake owners. Supervisor Dumas agreed that this is the case. Mr. Loszynski stated again he wanted to be absolutely clear on this tax issue because he needs to put an end of the year message on the Lake Hadlock Association's website and wants to be absolutely accurate as it concerns the issue of taxes. He further states this is an election year and any inference to an increase in taxes could hurt Supervisor Dumas politically. Supervisor Dumas agreed with Mr. Loszynski's assessment. Mr. Loszynski then stated to Supervisor Dumas is it correct to say there is no tax increase for 2016? Supervisor Dumas responded I don't think so and stated that this is only the tentative budget and there are more steps to go through. Mr. Loszynski thanked Supervisor Dumas personally for her objective assessment of Lake Hadlock's needs and he thanked Councilwoman Stark and Councilwoman Witherell as well.

Motion was carried to table the 10/5/15 budget workshop minutes.

Motion was introduced by Councilwoman Witherell, seconded by Councilwoman Stark to pay bills as warranted and audited. Councilman Denison questioned #412. Discussion pursued regarding lights on Goodman Road. The lights on Goodman Road decreased from twelve (12) to eleven (11) in 2015. Councilman Denison will research the removal of lights on Goodman Road with National Grid. Councilman Denison stated that he thought the Time Warner Cable (TWC) bill is too high. The Highway Department's bill for TWC is approx. \$89.00 per month and the Town Hall bill for TWC is approx. \$129.00. Supervisor Dumas stated she believes that the Town of Fort Ann has a contract with TWC through 2016.

Motion was carried.

RESOLUTION #78-15

RATIFY PHONE CONTRACT WITH CORNERSTONE

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to accept resolution entitled "Ratifyphone contract with CornerStone, 2 Third St., Troy, NY 12180"

ADOPTED AYES 5 Denison, Witherell, Varney, Stark, Dumas

RESOLVED, that the Fort Ann Town Board hereby ratifies the contracts with CornerSone, 2 Third St., Troy, NY 12280 for phone services at 80 George St., and at the Fort Ann Highway Department, Route 149, Fort Ann, New York 12827.

Supervisor's Report: The Agenda for tonight's Town Board meeting and the financial report have not been uploaded to the Town's website due to some technical difficulties which she anticipates being corrected in the next day or two. A paper copy is available upon request. Both will be available on the 2015 Town Board meetings page.

Supervisor Dumas received approximately 40 phone calls for the month of September. She reported that there was a 2016 budget workshop 10/5/15 with her, Councilwoman Stark and Councilwoman Witherell and hopes to have this information posted on the website in a day or

two. She will be scheduling another budget workshop meeting because there were four (4) or five (5) items that needed all TBM's to be present. She didn't bring any budget information with her tonight but did state there is a .73 tax cap and she is still under the tax cap even with giving most employees an increase of 1.75%. Supervisor Dumas stated that the Dog Control Officer is currently paid \$75/wk and it was agreed to raise his salary to \$100/wk in order to retain his services. Supervisor Dumas stated that there was money put into the 2016 budget for the Town of Kingsbury equipment and veterinary services that the Dog Control Officer needed.

She is still looking for money for the Rescue Squad. Supervisor Dumas did report that she had a meeting with Cody Jacobsen and Bruce Mason and will be setting up another meeting during the day with them as she still has questions like does there have to be paid staff 24/7? Other towns have mentioned to Supervisor Dumas that they have volunteers during the day and paid employees cover the nights at their rescue squad buildings. Supervisor Dumas is requesting that when she meets with the Rescue Squad personnel again that Helen Denno, Bookkeeper, and Town Attorney Meyer be present preferably during the day. She did find and report out on the following with regards to the Fort Ann Rescue Squad budget:

2010	\$23,000.00
2011	\$28,000.00
2012	\$50,000.00
2013	\$82,000.00
2014	\$88,640.00

Councilman Denison stated that it's his understanding that there is \$150,000.00 in reserve and if we have to use some of that to keep the Rescue Squad going then that is what should be done. He stated the town should do whatever necessary to keep the Rescue Squad whole.

Councilwoman Witherell suggested no one receive a 1.75% increase; say no to the \$4,000.00 ice rink and there are other places to cut in order to keep the Fort Ann citizens safe.

Next budget workshop meeting was scheduled for 10/27/15 @ 6:00 p.m.

Supervisor Dumas stated she doesn't have all the reports back on Mattison Road but has been advised that this will be a very extensive fix.

Supervisor Dumas mentioned at the 10/5/15 budget workshop meeting and again tonight that she had heard from Phoebe Jackson, Sunset Road, Fort Ann on how impressed she was with the handling of a dog issue 9/27/15 by Todd Humiston, Dog Control Officer. This resident was very impressed with his professionalism and his promptness in the handling of the situation.

Town Clerk's Report was given for September 2015. Councilman Denison is hoping to see an increase in dog revenue with the hiring/changing of Dog Control Officer.

Dog Control Report was given to each Town Board member for the month of September 2015.

Public Hearing: None

Public Comment opened at 7:34 p.m. with Supervisor Dumas reminding those in attendance that public comment pertains to items on the agenda.

Public comment was closed at 7:35 p.m. with no comments being made.

Supt of Highways Report: The Highway Superintendent stated they've been busy finishing drawing 6600 ton of winter salt/sand, shoulders done and signs down on Norton Road; shoulder cutting on Tripoli Road, Pattens Mills Road and Buttermilk Falls Road. They finished the bike trail as far as the construction part of it. There is quite a few man hours he has to total up and give to Helen towards the grant. They have to get a quote for fence. So far \$2,372.11 has been spent on gravel. He was happy to report that the surplus equipment went through Auctions International and it closed on 10/2/15 for \$12,500.00. He had only anticipated receiving \$7,000.00-\$8,000.00. He reported that he would be ordering a new plow for approx. \$6,700.00 and it should be here the first or second week of November.

Supervisor Dumas stated she had a conversation with Steve Haskins, Washington County Highway Superintendent, with regards to the possibility of the town receiving more money for mowing. The Highway Superintendent stated it would be good if more money could be negotiated since the mower that was purchased eleven (11) years ago was \$12,000.00 and that same mower now in the 2016 budget is \$24,000.00.

Councilman Varney stated that the concern on Normans Way from last year has resurrected itself (the trailer is back). Supervisor Dumas stated she will follow-up with the Enforcement Officer.

Councilwoman Witherell stated that she was looking for an update on the canal project and wondered if there is any kind of noise ordinance in Fort Ann because they are operating heavy equipment early in the morning and late into the evening. The Town Attorney responded there is no such ordinance in Fort Ann. Attorney Meyer stated that Grande Aggregates has a work permit to use New York State Canal Corporation property to load product onto a barge for shipment down the canal through a pilot program. The work should cease on or about 11/18/15.

Councilman Denison questioned the future of the town website. Supervisor Dumas will check with her brother, Brian Straub, and have an answer at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Stark thanked the highway department for their work on the trail. She reminded people of the upcoming trips sponsored by the Queen Anne Seniors.

Christine Milligan reported out on the opening of the BattleHill Brewery on Route 4. The BattleHill Brewery is very supportive of the historical society and the history of Fort Ann. She is going for the second archaeological grant.

Enforcement Officer, Mark Miller, was unable to attend tonight's meeting as it is the same night as Town of Hartford. He gave his report for the month of September to Supervisor Dumas which included approximately 33 phone calls, 19 emails, 2 voice mails and 1 building permit.

Town Historian: Virginia Parrott, Town Historian, was not present at tonight's meeting but Christine Milligan mentioned that Virginia was quoted in the Post Star October 12, 2015 "If Fort Ann didn't happen, we might not have had the surrender at Saratoga, which was so important. This area is so important. What happened in Fort Ann was the key to future fighting."

Old business: Helen Denno, Bookkeeper, will set up an informational meeting for the Highway Department on deferred compensation between the hours of 6:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday. The Highway Superintendent stated first thing in the morning or latest part of the day works best for his department.

County Update: Supervisor Dumas stated that it is a very busy time at the county with working on the 2016 budget.

Public Discussion was opened at 8:00 p.m.

Public Discussion was closed at 8:01 p.m.

On motion of Councilman Denison, seconded by Councilwoman Witherell to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

Motion was carried unanimously.

Total Abstracts:	General	\$ 15,053.25
	Highway	\$104,436.44

Respectively submitted,

Barbara J. Winchell, Town Clerk

Dated: October 23, 2015