

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:55PM**

Supervisor Suprenant opened the public hearing at 7:02pm

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Suprenant  
Councilman Middleton  
Councilman Orsini  
Councilman Fisher  
Councilman Mercier

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katie DeGroot, Michael Suprenant, Roseanne Lemery, Darlene DeVoe, Todd Humiston, Jeannie Mullen, Town Attorney Mary-Ellen Stockwell

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

The following notice was published in the Post Star on October 3, 2017:

**TOWN OF FORT EDWARD  
NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING**

Notice is hereby given, the preliminary budget for the Town of Fort Edward, Washington County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2018, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York where it is available for inspection during regular business hours.

Further notice is hereby given, the Town Board will hold a public hearing thereon Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:55 P.M. at the Town Hall, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York and at such hearing any person may be heard.

Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	- \$ 10,500
Town Councilman (4)	- \$ 4,433
Superintendent of Hwy	- \$ 61,133
Town Clerk/Collector	- \$ 42,817
Town Justice	- \$ 15,759

In addition, REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW-SECTION 495

Exemption report: shows total assessed value on the final assessment roll that is exempt from taxation: shows the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted: this report is part of the final budget, and made available at the Town Hall.

Publish: October 3, 2017

- Only big increase was in the highway budget for personnel services
- 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the budget is the tax rate comparisons
- Had to cut due to decrease in the tax base, may need to cut more next year as well

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

Supervisor Suprenant closed the public hearing at 7:05pm

Supervisor Suprenant called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:08pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION** by Councilman Mercier, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 11, 2017 and the budget workshop of September 19, 2017 **ALL AYES**

**APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION** by Councilman Orsini, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to approve the reports of the Town Clerk Monthly, Town Justice, Building Inspector, Highway, Code Enforcement Officer & Supervisor's Report as submitted **ALL AYES**

The following report was submitted by Grant Coordinator Darlene DeVoe for October:

### **Grant Coordinator Report for October 2017**

Submitted by Darlene DeVoe 10/10/2017

#### **EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant -**

The Phase 1 and 2 on the Freight House were completed and reports have been submitted for review and approval. We will have the final bills for this grant ready for next month and we will closeout the grant completely by the end of the year.

\* Our request for a debriefing on the FY 2017 Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant application that was not funded was approved but his schedule did not enable him to get here before the FY18 NoFA was issued. He did put together comments for us to work from to strengthen the application for this round and hopefully nail our 7<sup>th</sup> EPA grant. The application for FY18 is due in November ahead of the Brownfields conference in December which will be in Pittsburgh this time.

#### **HOME 2013 –**

We are wrapping up our last approved project and have begun the grant closeout.

### **BOA Step 3 –**

We are working on the reports, budget amendment and a NCTE for submission this month as suggested by our Project Officer. I will be scheduling a committee meeting to review where we are and start plugging in answers to a few big questions. This will help determine next steps for all parties involved.

### **Community Planning –**

The Town Master Plan is coming together. At this point 4 sections are now complete: Demographics, Municipal and Inter-Municipal Resources, Educational, Parks and Recreation.

Town Historian Paul McCarty drafted the Historical section. I am working that in now.

I am seeking assistance from the Friends of the IBA to contribute to the Scenic and Open Space section also.

In progress are Economic Development, Transportation, Land Use, and Agriculture.

I have comments from the Planning Board regarding Land Use and would like thoughts from the Board as well. Although the zoning was recently revised in the north area of the town there have been a few uses identified that the community would prefer be removed from the Route 4 Commercial Corridor. With those minor changes already underway we are focusing on the rural areas of the town.

For the Transportation section, I would like thoughts from the Highway Superintendent and Board regarding concerns, potential projects and investments that will be necessary over the next 5 years. Remember that having priority projects in the Master Plan makes them eligible for potential future grant funding.

Anyone that would like to contribute thoughts or ideas that will positively impact the Town of Fort Edward are highly encouraged to do so this month.

### **Economic Development Initiatives**

The focus at this point in the Town should be expanding the tax base in a balanced manner that will provide a vibrant future for Fort Edward. Cutting services while increasing taxes is a recipe for decline. It's been done before. This Board has invested 10 years paving the way for this moment. It's time to put our preparation to the test.

I would like the opportunity to discuss potential outreach ideas and incentives that will attract new businesses to locate in Fort Edward. This meeting would be extremely helpful for the purposes of shaping the ED section in the new Master Plan. Perhaps I can piggyback a budget workshop?

\*\*\* RESTORE NY Pre application is due Friday, October 13. Complete application and \$500 fee are due December 15<sup>th</sup>.

- **It is a 10% match that comes from property ownership**

National Grid  
Fort Edward Local Development Corp  
Washington County Local Development Corp  
Warren/Washington Industrial Development Agency

- We need an Economic Development Coordinator; I have the tools for that, I'm asking the Board to change the position from Grant Coordinator to Economic Development Coordinator for the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

**Supervisor Suprenant:** Wait until after November and see how the Board feels.

**MOTION** by Councilman Orsini, Seconded by Councilman Mercier to send an application to Restore NY **ALL AYES**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION** by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Orsini to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$37,100.52 **ALL AYES**

#### **ABSTRACT #10**

<b>GENERAL A – 6870-6871,6875-6905</b>	<b>\$15,202.94</b>
<b>GENERAL B- 6906-6908</b>	<b>\$ 1,291.00</b>
<b>HIGHWAY- 6872,6909-6919</b>	<b>\$ 6,032.58</b>
<b>MUNICIPAL- 6920-6929</b>	<b>\$ 4,260.61</b>
<b>SPECIAL LIGHTING- 6873,6930-6931</b>	<b>\$ 2,533.10</b>
<b>SPECIAL WATER- 6874,6932-6934</b>	<b>\$ 302.39</b>
<b>SPECIAL WATER 2- 6935-6939</b>	<b>\$ 884.40</b>
<b>MHW PROPERTIES-</b>	<b>\$ 2,638.50</b>
<b>VERIZON ESCROW-</b>	<b>\$ 210.00</b>
<b>BOA 3 – 26</b>	<b>\$ 575.00</b>
<b>EPA PET. ASSES. 2- 52</b>	<b>\$ 2,744.00</b>
<b>HOME 2013 – 18</b>	<b>\$ 426.00</b>

**TOTAL: \$37,100.52**

**Supervisor Suprenant:** Village DPW will do snowplowing and landscaping at Hudson Headwaters at no charge, thank you to Brody Etu and the Village DPW.

**Brian Brockway:** Town of Whitecreek showed interest in the old mower, and the Hartford snowmobile club did as well, like to make it surplus so that we can get rid of it. Maybe we could put it out to minimum bid at \$25,000.

**MOTION** by Councilman Mercier, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to declare the old roadside mower surplus **ALL AYES**

**Todd Humiston:** Working on a Draft MOU with Northway Animal Clinic. Also, the Sherriff has a key for after-hours now for the shelter if I am not available.

**Mary-Ellen Stockwell:** We need to make some changes to the Animal Control Local Law for situations where animals have to be sheltered for people that are arrested. The Town and tax payers incur costs associated with that.

- Update to the Cold War Vet Exemption was handed to me and I will take a look at it.

**Katie Degroot:** The new mower has made a big difference, it looks great.

**Brian Brockway:** Thanks to Tom and Billy for re-doing the 2 dump trucks, will get a few more years out of them and saved a significant amount of money having them do the work.

**MOTION** by Councilman Orsini, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to send Highway Employees Tom Plude & Bill Gosline a letter of appreciation from the Town Board for the work done on the trucks **ALL AYES**

**Katie DeGroot:** My husband came to get stickers the day of the lock down and he went to the Police Department and they asked him what he wanted and said there was a situation going on. Is there something I can sign up for to get notified of these things?

**Supervisor Suprenant:** The County has a program called Hyperreach and you can sign up for notifications.

**Councilman Orsini:** I would like to thank the Highway Garage for taking down the dead trees at the Visitor's Center; we paid nothing for firewood at the Re-Enactment.

**Supervisor Suprenant:** Met someone at the Patriot Garden who answered the RFP. We sent out 3 RFP's and received a response from 1.

Councilman Orsini will talk to Jim Maskell regarding watering the patriot garden and see if he is interested.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION** by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm **ALL EYES**

DATED: October 11, 2017

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Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk