

**MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00
P.M.**

Supervisor Fisher called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Supervisor Fisher
Councilman Middleton
Councilwoman Collier
Councilwoman Mullen **ABSENT:** Councilman Suprenant

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Cozzens, Brian Brockway, Richard Belden, Elizabeth O’Leary, Erin Donahue, Frank Burkhardt, Town Attorney Bill Nikas and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilwoman Collier, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the minutes of the organizational and regular meeting of January 8, 2024 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve the reports of the Town Clerk monthly, Town Justice, Building Inspector, Highway, Dog Control Officer and Supervisor’s report as submitted **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve Abstract #2 in the amount of \$52,815.39 **ALL AYES**

BUSINESS:

**Keystone Fireworks
Peddling & Soliciting License
Application**

Supervisor Fisher: Keystone Novelties is applying for their license to sell fireworks in the Bowling Alley parking lot at their annual Fourth of July tent sale.

MOTION by Councilwoman Collier, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the 6 month Peddling and Soliciting License for Keystone Novelties, LLC to sell fireworks at 359 Broadway at their annual Fourth of July tent sale **ALL AYES**

**Sandy Hill & Fort Edward Union Cemetery Association
Funding Request**

Supervisor Fisher: We received a letter from the Trustees of the Sandy Hill and Fort Edward Union Cemetery requesting an increase in the annual support they get from the Town from \$5,500 to \$8,500.00 to help with the increasing costs of payroll, insurance, fuel, repair and maintenance of equipment, etc.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve and pay the requested increase to the Sandy Hill and Fort Edward Union Cemetery **ALL AYES**

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 8 OF 2024

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MIDDLETON

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN COLLIER

WHEREAS, Town Boards are required by Town Law to audit the financial records of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Town Justice.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fort Edward Town Board audited the financial records of the Town Justice, Town Clerk and Tax Collector for the fiscal year January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 at a special meeting held on January 18, 2024.

DATED: February 12, 2024

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Middleton – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Councilwoman Collier - AYE
Councilman Suprenant – ABSENT
Supervisor Fisher - AYE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 9 OF 2024

MOTION BY COUNCILWOMAN COLLIER

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN MULLEN

WHEREAS, The Senior Center Kingsbury Fort Edward Area, Inc. is in need of a new bus for transportation, and

WHEREAS, The Senior Center received a contract from the Public Transportation Bureau (NYSDOT) in Albany showing the State paying 80% (\$77,258.31), Grantee paying 20% (\$19,314.58) and the municipality portion being \$4,828.64.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward will pay \$4,828.64 toward the purchase of the new bus for the Senior Center.

DATED: February 12, 2024

Vote: Councilman Middleton – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Councilwoman Collier – AYE
Councilman Suprenant – ABSENT
Supervisor Fisher – AYE

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Fisher: We received a letter from Cindy Raggi, owner of The Garden Barn. The Raggi's do all of the planting of the boxes in front of Town Hall throughout the year and feel that both the ground planter and window box are in rough shape.

Rian Brockway: I know the window box is in bad shape but we can take a look at both and figure something out to either fix them or replace them.

NYMIR Letter Playground Resurfacing

Supervisor Fisher: We received a letter from our insurance company recommending that we improve the playground surfacing under the play equipment with surface materials that meet US Consumer Products Safety Commissioner guidelines. The surface under the swings is thinning and tarps were unrooted. We will take a look and see how to best remedy the situation.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway:

- I have an appointment to get the new pickup truck lettered next Monday.
- We had a water break in Water District 2 last week. We didn't have the part so we fixed it temporarily to get the water back on and I went to Albany Friday and got the part to fix it correctly.

Councilman Middleton: Where do we stand with the trench box?

Brian Brockway: We don't have one ordered as of yet; I will check to see if there are any State Contracts out there.

Councilman Middleton: How are the hydrants fastened?

Brian Brockway: They are bolted; we will dig one out in the spring and see what the hardware is on them.

Councilman Middleton: Clay will not be able to eat through stainless.

Brian Brockway:

- We should look into raising the Water District 2 Budget next year to prepare for issues like we just had. We also need a jumping jack to tamp the ground. I will get a price on that as well.
- New air tank on Steve's truck.
- Billy is trying to weld his but if not that will be around \$800.00 to replace.
- Chuck's truck is back together.
- We have been able to do about 90% of the repairs in house.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kyle Cozzens: I submitted the Trail Towns Application and we are supposed to hear if we were selected by the end of this month. I meet with the Champlain Canal way Trail Working Group which advocates for the Champlain Canal Way Trail and they had mentioned that when the Empire State Trail signs went in that there were supposed to be Champlain Canal Way signs being installed with them. They thought they had either gone to the Village or Town DPW for Fort Edward; I asked the Village and they said don't have them so I am trying to help them track those down.

Supervisor Fisher: We don't have them either.

Kyle Cozzens: Promote Fort Edward had helped to get \$40,000.00 for a Planning Grant and I believe that was supposed to go to Flatley Read. Do you have a status update on that?

Supervisor Fisher: We have the \$40,000.00 and we are waiting on Promote Fort Edward and Flatley Read. They were supposed to work together to figure out what the next steps are. We used some of that money to pay Nasrene.

Attorney Nikas: A few meetings ago the Board informally discussed taking a position on the Biochar project. The question is whether you want to take a formal position. Hudson falls passed a resolution to oppose the project until there was a greater consensus from the scientific community as to the environmental safety of this process. If you go online and google Pyrolysis and sewage sludge you will see a bunch of studies, many of them from Europe because that is where they started experimenting with it and more times than not they are saying that more study is necessary.

MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to take a position in opposition to the Pyrolysis Project until there is a greater consensus of scientific studies **ALL AYES**

Attorney Nikas: I received correspondence from Attorney Fuller regarding some underground utility on Rogers Island.

Supervisor Fisher: Was it the Champlain Hudson Power Express?

Attorney Nikas: Yes because Rogers Island is parkland. Are we supposed to be doing something in regards to that?

Supervisor Fisher: No, I don't believe we have to do anything. I will check with Attorney Fuller tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 7:31pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: February 13, 2024

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk