

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2020 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00PM

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

PRESENT: Supervisor Losaw
Councilwoman Holden
Councilman Fisher
Councilwoman Mullen
Councilman Mercier

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Belden, Brian Brockway, Christopher Goodness, Frank Burkhardt, Terry Middleton, Julie Wilson, Vicky Plude, Theresa Rose, Elizabeth O'Leary, Caitlin Mahoney and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilwoman Holden, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2020 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilwoman Holden to approve the following reports: Town Clerk Monthly, Town Justice, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Zoning Officer, Highway & Supervisor's Report **ALL AYES**

February Project Status Report

Project: Fort Edward Town Barn Rebuild

Client: Town of Fort Edward

118 Broadway

Fort Edward, NY 12828

Work on the Town Barn is continuing schedule. The barn is completely closed in with exception of the doors and windows. The general contractor should start pouring concrete for floor drains this week. The plumbing has all the plumbing ruffed in and will be starting pre-work for the radiant heat. Hour Electric has stated their portion and we are hoping to have power this week.

The invoices are in for February's construction totaling \$ 292,763.29. We have met with the insurance adjuster and we have agreed on a plan for prompt payments. The plan will include –

pre-submitting of the invoicing to the insurance company and they will send us an updated statement of loss.

The highway crew has been performing some of the extra work for example hauling fill or digging for the plumbing to continue to minimize the cost.

For those who have been driving by to follow the work being completed it may not look like much is being accomplished this month please be aware that now most of the work is inside the building. I would gladly meet with any board member at their convenience to give them a tour of the project.

Supervisor Losaw: The building is coming along nicely, the outside is done and they are working on the inside now. Is there a time frame?

Terry Middleton: They are hoping to start pouring trench drains this week and next week they may start skip pouring sections for the floor.

Supervisor Losaw: What is skip pouring?

Terry Middleton: They will do one section then skip a section because it will take a while to get the radiant heat in.

Supervisor Losaw: Do they put the heat in after they pour the cement?

Terry Middleton: No, before.

Supervisor Losaw: Do they run water through and check it first?

Terry Middleton: Yes, its pressure checked.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve Abstract #3 in the amount of \$392,730.61 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #3

GENERAL A: 9005-9009,9016-9033	\$28,344.00
GENERAL B: 9034-9038	\$ 8,590.00
HIGHWAY: 9039-9047	\$31,917.59
MUNICIPAL: 9010,9048-9049	\$ 981.21
SPECIAL LIGHTING: 9011-9012,9050-9052	\$ 2,947.58
SPECIAL WATER: 9013-9014,9053-9055	\$ 519.37
SPECIAL WATER 2:9015,9056-9058	\$16,496.99

H21 1620.4 (HWY BARN): 10-20 **\$292,763.29**
H21 0552.4 (SALT SHED): 3-7 **\$ 10,170.58**

TOTAL: \$392,730.61

Brian Brockway: The reason the Highway is high is because we lost a motor in one of the tandems and it cost \$23,000.00. We are probably going to have to look at transferring some money from somewhere to get through the rest of the year for maintenance; there is only \$35,000.00 in maintenance and we have spent \$23,000.00 already. Every year when we do the budget I tell you that equipment is getting older and we need to start putting some money in the maintenance line and it caught us this year.

Supervisor Losaw: Luckily we have had an easy winter on the snow so we could transfer from there if there is any left over.

Brian Brockway: It has nothing to do with that, you've got \$35,000.00 in maintenance.

Supervisor Losaw: I am talking about a budget adjustment out of snow if there is any left.

Brian Brockway: I don't think you are going to have anything left by the time you haul the sand back. We are deeper into that sand pile than we have ever been.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 16 OF 2020

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MERCIER

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN HOLDEN

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Town Board does hereby approve the Dog Control Officer, Christopher Goodness, to attend the DCO/ACO 2020 Conference May 6th – May 7th, 2020 at the Guilderland Fire Department.

DATED: March 9, 2020

VOTE: Councilman Mercier – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Councilman Fisher – AYE
Councilwoman Holden – AYE
Supervisor Losaw – AYE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 17 OF 2020

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MERCIER

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN FISHER

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Town Board does hereby appoint William LaPan as a member of the Town of Fort Edward Board of Assessment Review to fill the five year unexpired term of Katie DeGroot ending September 30, 2022.

Dated: March 9, 2020

Vote: Councilman Mercier – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Councilman Fisher – AYE
Councilwoman Holden – AYE
Supervisor Losaw – AYE

Christopher Goodness: I met with Elizabeth Holmes from Ag. & Markets and they want us to get another larger crate as well as a lock for the back window on the truck. Also, I would like to get a laptop so that I am not putting information into my personal laptop and have to transfer it back and forth.

Supervisor Losaw: The Board will look into the laptop and Aimee can help you with the crate.

CORRESPONDENCE:

**American Pomeroy Historic Genealogical Association, Inc.
Pomeroy Anvil Monument**

Councilwoman Holden: There is going to be a large monument that looks like an Anvil at the Visitor's Center. This has been months in planning, Paul McCarty has been working with the Pomeroy family and hopefully in the next couple of months it will be here. It is another great way to highlight the history of Fort Edward and also the Island. We had the snowshoe event and even though we didn't have snow, we still had about 20-25 people, 3 re-enactors including Robert Rogers and they shot muskets into the river and its amazing how much you learn every single time. It was a big fundraiser for the Visitor's Center. We looked into having a haunted hayride last fall but it didn't work out so we will look into it again this year but we will be having the battle in September. We will only be doing a battle every other year due to lack of funds, it's pretty costly to put it on. Also, we needed to create a 1A report for Parks and Rec. so that we can create trails and do a Master Plan for the Island.

Julie Wilson: I wish there was a way to get young folks more interested, we have wonderful history here in Washington County.

Councilman Fisher: A lot of the classes at school go to the Visitor's Center.

Councilwoman Holden: Believe it or not it is unbelievable where people come from to take a tour, walk the island or just look at the museum itself; it's a busy place.

Supervisor Losaw: Mostly not people from Fort Edward, we don't know what's in our own back yard.

Supervisor Losaw: I spent an hour this afternoon on a Webinar with the county talking about the Corona Virus. If anybody wants information on that you can go to the county website: washingtoncountyny.gov/coronavirus, the information is from the CDC and NYS Department of Health. Right now there are 4 people under investigation in Washington County, they have tested 2 and they came back negative. If you are going to the hospital or the Dr. and you have a fever, sore throat or congestion, cough or muscle aches call them and let them know so they can take the proper precautions.

BUSINESS:

Vicky Plude Town Wide Garage Sale

Vicky Plude: I mentioned this at the Village Board meeting last week and I came away with the consensus that they had said yes. I did speak with a woman from South Glens Falls who said that they have a moratorium already put in place for the question of: What do people do with all of their leftover garage sale items at the end of the weekend? She said if we have a moratorium in place they can't leave it out anyway so it's not something we would have to concern ourselves with. We would have to start promoting it right away, it does bring a lot of business into your community and my dates will be May 16-17 which is a Saturday and Sunday. The Village had mentioned getting an exemption since you are only allowed 3 garage sales per year. We will get a list of names of people that want to participate and we could also do a mapping.

Supervisor Losaw: We could do a resolution for our April meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor Losaw: Congratulations to the Fort Edward Girls Basketball team on their Championship win last weekend. We wish them luck in Regionals.

Brian Brockway: There was a grant for the salt shed, roof at Town Hall and Fort Miller; has Jim Thatcher done anything with that?

Supervisor Losaw: I have a meeting with him Thursday about it.

Brian Brockway: There should be several dollars left over from that.

Supervisor Losaw: Yes, I think it was a \$100,000.00 grant, and it was for this roof, the salt shed and the Fort Miller Barn roof.

Brian Brockway: As far as the insurance money for the garage, it won't be long and I will be spending quite a bit to replace the stuff that burned. I just want to give you a heads up that as soon as I have a place to put the stuff in you are going to see some bills coming in for contents like shovels, rakes, brooms, all the stuff we are going to need to start cleaning up for spring. I want to make sure that the contents money is being saved for contents and not being spent on something else.

Supervisor Losaw: Do you know how much you will need for that?

Brian Brockway: I don't because we haven't done any pricing, we gave estimates and they wrote us a check. Also, years ago there was a grant for the road going into the Idle Hour to make trails out through there. When will we see anything on these trails? The Town has been spending thousands of dollars on this road, when are we going to see the trails?

Councilwoman Holden: Parks and Rec. needed the 1A report and it is very detailed, we had a consultant come in and make the report outlining our plan for the property. We can't develop the property unless we have that document and it is almost done and then the planning process continues. Everything has to be approved by Parks and Rec.

Brian Brockway: Where is that money sitting right now?

Supervisor Losaw: I don't know.

Brian Brockway: The Town taxpayers are putting stone in there and grading right along and I haven't seen a dime of the Village money spent and that was supposed to be a 50/50 grant.

Supervisor Losaw: I don't know what the grant was or when it was.

Brian Brockway: It goes back to when Darlene was here.

Supervisor Losaw: We just received the property 3 or 4 years ago.

Brian Brockway: It seems like the Town keeps bailing the Village out. We paid for a water line that should have been on the Village into the new barn. It is the Village's responsibility to bring it to the property line, not the Town. It shouldn't have been insurance money either.

Supervisor Losaw: It's not insurance money.

Brian Brockway: It shouldn't be Town taxpayer money either; it's the Village's job to bring it to the property line.

Supervisor Losaw: The only thing I will say with that is if it comes out of the General Fund, those are mostly Village taxpayers and it's a minimal amount.

Brian Brockway: It is a minimal amount but it's getting old.

Councilman Fisher: Didn't we ask for a bigger line?

Brian Brockway: We didn't ask for a bigger line, we went bigger than what was originally in the barn but we paid for it coming up the road and we also paid for it going up the property line and that's not the way it's supposed to be. If it was in the Town then the Town would pay for it and not send a bill to the Village like they did with this.

Theresa Rose: Is the Island Village or Town?

Supervisor Losaw: It's both.

Theresa Rose: What about the pool?

Councilman Fisher: The pool is Town, the Little League is Village.

Theresa Rose: Last year it was brought up about people using the pool that do not live in Fort Edward. My input is that the pool is there to be used and if no one uses it then all those chemicals are for nothing. If Jen has company over and they want to go to that pool they should be able to. People in Fort Edward were having a fit over that last year.

Caitlin Mahoney: I work at the pool and the problem was there were people there from out of Town that were disrespecting everything and ruining the bathrooms.

Aimee Mahoney: There was also the Argyle Daycare that brings the kids down and expects the lifeguards to babysit. It was those types of incidents that people were upset about; of course if someone has company they are more than welcome at the pool. People need to be respectful.

Brian Brockway: They should look in to charging for non-residents.

Julie Wilson: My concern is the placement of W.L. Plastics and how it will impact me and what is going on?

Supervisor Losaw: They haven't signed a contract yet I don't believe.

Julie Wilson: You really haven't had any meetings to exchange information.

Supervisor Losaw: Once they get the contract signed, they have to have durable access which I think they are finally getting.

Julie Wilson: Is the access off 196?

Supervisor Losaw: Yes, then they will close on the deal, pay the taxes and subdivide.

Julie Wilson: I am just wondering if I need to think about selling my property because it's going to run 24 hours a day and I am assuming it will be noisy.

Supervisor Losaw: It's not an outside operation, very little of it will be outside.

Julie Wilson: They have to heat these pellets to a very high degree and there is going to be an exhaust that will become airborne and I am down wind of that.

Councilman Fisher: That's all regulated now by the EPA.

Julie Wilson: I do not mean any personal affront to anyone but I am very concerned about this and the impact it will have on the community and on the value of my property. What else is going in over there? When I moved in almost 50 years ago that was a corn field which I loved. I am not so sure that the benefits exceed the liabilities.

Supervisor Losaw: Once it started to get developed with the Dewatering Facility and the assessment went up to \$72 million dollars; it's not going back to corn fields. Everybody liked that tax dollar coming in.

Julie Wilson: I interacted with GE many times when the Dewatering was there and I survived that. They ran into many environmental problems that they did not for see. They tried to take care of them but you just can't for see the potential of problems and I am trying to think if I should sell my property.

Supervisor Losaw: Bring those concerns up at the Planning Board meeting.

Julie Wilson: You said you would notify me when those are.

Supervisor Losaw: Yes, I will

Julie Wilson: I made a list for your information, I have many wonders:

- Does the Town Board render decisions on reliable, accurate information?
- Is the health and well-being of the community a primary factor in important decision making?
- Are affected residents notified timely of important issues relating to environmental situations or changes which will impact quality of life?
- What qualities does one expect of the persons elected to represent tax paying citizens, high on my list would be intelligence, honesty, fairness, openness, sincerity and respectfulness.

I constantly wonder about all these things when decisions are made. All of this was so not open and I was not notified and I do not like that. I've paid taxes to this Village and Town for almost 50 years and I feel put aside, cast off.

Terry Middleton: Mr. Supervisor I would just like the record to show that Mrs. Wilson has been involved with the redevelopment of the Dewatering Site through the grant for the past 10 years. She is very much aware that the intent was for it to be an Industrial Site.

Councilman Fisher: We have been open so I disagree with that statement.

Councilwoman Mullen: We all live here so we aren't going to do anything that is detrimental to you because it would affect us also.

Theresa Rose: The recycling bin behind the building has a hole to put the items that is too small for even a laundry soap container. It's a waste.

Frank Burkhardt: I use it regularly and the problem was that people were throwing furniture in it because of the doors being open. I don't think it's a waste to put slots in there so that people can't put those items in there. If you step on your laundry soap bottles and flatten them they fit just fine. I have been down there and found bundles of unopened newspapers; I don't know who does that.

Councilman Fisher: Dave Cutler went up and addressed that with The Post Star.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm **ALL AYES**

DATED: March 10, 2020

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk