

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 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
Councilman Suprenant
Councilwoman Mullen
Councilwoman Collier

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Davie, Brian Brockway, Richard Belden, Elizabeth O’Leary, Frank Burkhardt, Katie DeGroot, Nasrene Haj, Melanie Dickinson, Mike Dickinson, Therese Gillis, Town Attorney Bill Nikas and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2023 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve the reports of the Town Clerk monthly, Town Justice, Dog Control, Building Inspector, Highway and Supervisor’s Report **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve Abstract #4 in the amount of \$72,799.50 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #4

GENERAL A – 11503-11512,11520-11549	\$19,286.01
GENERAL B – 11550	\$ 44.50
HIGHWAY – 11551-11559	\$12,698.16
MUNICIPAL – 11513,11560-11564	\$ 2,861.19
SPECIAL LIGHTING – 11514-11515	\$ 20.99
SPECIAL WATER – 11516-11518,11565-11569	\$24,669.74
SPECIAL WATER 2 – 11519, 11570	\$ 263.41
ARPA – 14	\$12,955.50

TOTAL: \$72,799.50

BUSINESS:

**Keystone Novelties Distributors, LLC
Peddling & Soliciting License Application**

Supervisor Fisher: We received an application from Keystone Novelties for their annual Fourth of July tent sale of Fireworks in the Bowling Alley parking lot. They are there every year so they must do well in that location.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve the Peddling & Soliciting Permit for Keystone Distributors, LLC for a period of 6 months for their annual Fourth of July fireworks tent sale at Broadway Lanes **ALL AYES**

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 12 OF 2023

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN SUPRENANT

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MIDDLETON

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Town Board does hereby approve the Highway Superintendent, Brian Brockway, to attend the Association of Town's Highway School held in Ithaca, New York June 5 – June 7, 2023.

DATED: April 10, 2023

VOTE: Councilman Middleton – AYE
Councilwoman Collier – AYE
Councilman Suprenant – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Supervisor Fisher – AYE

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Fisher: We received the Historian's Report for 2022 (copy attached to the minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway: Last year we got \$175,000.00 in CHIPS and this year tentatively we are getting \$166,278.00 but the budget is not finalized yet and when that happens I will pick up another road or 2. There is talk that she may cut back on the pot hole money. I signed a contract with Evolution again this week because we can't do it with the tow behinds because it blows everything on the front lawns. For paving we are looking at East Rd. from Brownell's where we quit last year; we went from the bridge to Brownell's. I think we are going to wind up replacing that culvert so I don't dare go past that until we find out. Also Parry St., Olive St. and all of Lower Allen St. and then if I have money left I will do Thomas and Denis because we did Lower Oak 2 years ago and that would finish that area.

Councilman Suprenant: How are we doing with the culverts? Aren't we putting in for a grant for that?

Brian Brockway: I haven't heard anything yet; I think they are waiting on the Governor to see what she releases for money for that Bridge New York program.

Councilman Suprenant: They are looking for red stone dust at the Little League Park and I asked Brian if he had any problem with our trucks going to get it. Sometimes they donate it but if not I would like to ask that the Town pay for 2 truckloads if the Board agrees.

MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to have the Town supply 2 truckloads of red stone dust to the Little League Field **ALL AYES**

Councilman Middleton: Some of the caretakers at the Fort Miller Cemetery have asked if we could assist with a couple of limbs that fell in the cemetery and I spoke with Brian and he has agreed to help out with that.

Supervisor Fisher: Paint has been ordered for the pool, we are fully staffed with guards and we actually have an extra guard because we have been having so many swimmers and by law you need a certain amount of guards for so many swimmers. We want to make sure that we have more than enough. Personally I don't think we spend enough on the youth and I think maybe next year we should look at bumping it up.

Councilman Middleton: I like that we have James involved because he is making it part of the rec.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Katie DeGroot: Is anyone going from the Town to the solar meeting at the Durkeetown Baptist Church?

Councilman Middleton: April 18th? Yes I will be there.

Supervisor Fisher: What time is that meeting?

Councilman Suprenant: I believe it is 4-7pm

Katie DeGroot: Thank you to Brian and the Highway Department for sweeping our road after the rain to keep that dust down.

Mike Dickinson: We are close to getting the Glamping Project approved and we found out that all the property that we thought was owned by the Village is not; it is owned by Canal Corp. That moves it forward because the Canal Corp. wants it. Regarding the pool, we were wondering whether we could offer that to visitors for a fee; I spoke to James about it and he said he was going to think about it but I wanted to get the Board's feelings on it as well.

Supervisor Fisher: I would be in favor of it. (Board is in favor as well)

Mike Dickinson: At the end of East St. there is a bunch of flags and I'm told that it's a culvert that is going under the road and that project will be taking place next year. I just want to know if you have any information that if they have that project and that road dug up are they going to do the sewers while they are there or anything else that would lengthen that project because that is the access to East Rd. and without that we are hoping it will be a couple of weeks and not several months.

Supervisor Fisher: That would be the Village.

Mike Dickinson: The Village says there is no plan to do that and Terry, you are on the IDA Board so I am wondering what they have said about it.

Councilman Middleton: What they have been talking about at the IDA is doing archeological digs and are a long ways away from putting a shovel in the ground to put any sewer lines in.

Therese Gillis: It doesn't sound like that in the most recent meeting Terry. Are you on the IDA now?

Councilman Middleton: No I am not on the IDA Board.

Therese Gillis: The IDA is moving forward but you guys must have information about that because you are on the Washington County Sewer District.

Councilman Middleton: I represent the Town with the project for putting sewer in the dewatering site.

Therese Gillis: Right so where do we stand with that? I just listened to a meeting today that said they are moving forward.

Councilman Middleton: They are moving forward, which I said, they are doing soil testing along the edge of the Canal.

Mike Dickinson: Are they going to tunnel under the bridge?

Councilman Middleton: They have no plans as to actually dig or laterally push the pipe; that's what they are doing the soil testing for.

Therese Gillis: Do you guys have any information on the remediation of Bond Creek that is going to be going on because I have been in touch with Canal Corp. about that.

Councilman Middleton: No

Therese Gillis: How do you guys not know?

Councilman Middleton: Because it's in the Village.

Councilman Suprenant: What are they supposed to be doing with that?

Therese Gillis: I have no idea there are flags all over the place. There are 12 trees that have flags on them and that's a big deal for environmentalists. If they are going to remediate Bond Creek then that is a huge issue when the dewatering facility went in there. Today also, the last meeting as of April 4th, I don't know what communication you have with IDA but I'm hoping some because they said that this affects Washington County, Town of Fort Edward so I'm going to go to a meeting to see what they have got to say. At the April 4th meeting they were talking about waiting for the Army Corp. of Engineers report to be able to fill in wetlands because if Hilltop Construction is going to be laying blacktop they don't want to have to come back in and do that again.

Councilman Suprenant: Laying blacktop where?

Therese Gillis: I have no idea; I'm listening to a meeting.

Councilman Suprenant: I will have to read their minutes.

Therese Gillis: It never comes out in the minutes but I know there were a lot of wetlands there that were preserved when the dewatering facility went in and it was open communication, there were meetings and we knew about it. If Terry was at a meeting every 2 weeks, everybody was at a meeting every 2 weeks. I guess what I need is a sense from you guys what you're looking at for that Canalside Energy but if you're not listening to the IDA meetings then why am I? Terry if you have information that's what we need to hear.

Councilman Middleton: I told you all I have. They rented the small building to Hour Electric, a Fort Edward Company. They have access to get their workers in on East Street. I saw either on the news or in the paper that Hour Electric has a contractor going to store the big spools of wire that Champlain Hudson Power Express will be using.

Supervisor Fisher: Champlain Hudson Power Express is leasing land in there.

Councilman Middleton: That was all in the paper.

Therese Gillis: Was filling in the wetlands in the paper?

Councilman Suprenant: Why would they be filling in the wetlands?

Therese Gillis: Because they need to pave it.

Councilman Middleton: It makes no sense to me because at the dewatering site where the wetlands are is Wood Creek which is between the outside of the park and a fenced in area.

Therese Gillis: I was under the understanding that anything that went on there that you guys were going to be aware.

Supervisor Fisher: Right now what they are working on is getting water and sewer in there before they can get anyone in there.

Therese Gillis: Then I'll work on researching what's going on with the wetlands and the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Supervisor Fisher: Yes this is our first time hearing about it.

Therese Gillis: But are you interested in finding out what is going on with the wetlands before they get an approval?

Supervisor Fisher: Yes, I can ask Dave tomorrow.

Therese Gillis: This came from Dave and what Dave said in the meeting was if you're going to blacktop they might as well blacktop the whole thing.

Supervisor Fisher: Where are they talking about blacktopping?

Therese Gillis: I can't figure it out.

Brian Brockway: Hilltop doesn't blacktop.

Therese Gillis: I think they probably need a parking lot. It's at Canalside Energy Park.

Councilman Middleton: A guard will be starting there today or tomorrow because they are going to start bring the wire in and it is very valuable. I believe they will have a guard there 24 hours per day.

Therese Gillis: Dan Washburn owns the property they were talking about with the wetlands.

Supervisor Fisher: You are talking about property up at the airport in Warren County where Hilltop is building their headquarters.

Councilwoman Mullen: Back to the Glamping; are they still planning on 4 sites?

Mike Dickinson: They are going to do 4 sites; they were originally going to do 8 and potentially even 12. Since it took 5 months to get through the Village Board and it's still not resolved they were contacted by Schuylerville and they would like to have 4 sites there as well so they decided to split it up. Remember this is only a test pilot; we would love to have Glamping out on the Rogers Island point and utilize that land and have something that would really bring tourists to Fort Edward. Part of that plan is also the kayak launch which I think you guys were working on one concept and we were working on another one. Have you gotten anywhere?

Supervisor Fisher: No, Mitch handed it over to Nasrene.

Nasrene Haj: Yes, we applied for the Canal Corp. grant in February and are supposed to hear back sometime this month. Once that happens we can bring the Village & Town together to help put it together. The company we used was recommended by Canal Corp.

Councilman Suprenant: Town or Village can apply for the permit from the Canal Corp. to put the dock in.

Therese Gillis: You can send your comments to DEC now regarding Saratoga BIOCHAR and they will keep them on file until the public comment period opens.

Mike Dickinson: Asking Brian to push the snow to the wood line behind the church instead of on the marketplace lawn. We work hard to make that place beautiful and it creates a lot of extra work.

Brian Brockway: We can look at it in the fall but we can't push it to the wood line because then we would be plowing the church lot and we can't do that.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: April 12, 2023

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk