

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:55 P.M.

Supervisor Fisher opened the Public Hearing at 6:57pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Fisher
Councilman Middleton
Councilman Suprenant
Councilwoman Mullen

ABSENT: Councilwoman Collier

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth O’Leary, Frank Burkhardt, Peter Ives, Brian Brockway, Lynn Griffin, Kerri Culhane, Nina Lockwood, Steve Davie, Town Attorney Bill Nikas and Town Clerk Aimee Ives.

Supervisor Fisher read the following notice that was published in The Post Star on June 4, 2024:

**TOWN OF FORT EDWARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 6:55 P.M. at Town Hall, 118 Broadway Fort Edward, NY 12828 for the purpose of hearing comments on the 2023 Town of Fort Edward MS4 Annual Report.

Interested persons may review the Annual Report on the Town website at:
www.fortedward.net

By Order of the Town Board

Dated: June 1, 2024

Publish: June 4, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Brian Brockway: We were grandfathered from this year’s report because we did something earlier in the year and Sara turned all the paperwork in from the Engineer’s Dept. so we will not be required to do an Annual Report this year.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to close the public hearing at 6:58pm **ALL AYES**

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Supervisor Fisher

Councilman Middleton
Councilman Suprenant
Councilwoman Mullen

ABSENT: Councilwoman Collier

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth O’Leary, Frank Burkhardt, Peter Ives, Brian Brockway, Lynn Griffin, Kerri Culhane, Nina Lockwood, Steve Davie, Town Attorney Bill Nikas and Town Clerk Aimee Ives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2024 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the monthly reports of the Town Clerk, Town Justice, Building Inspector, Highway, Assessor & Supervisor’s Report as submitted **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to approve Abstract #6 in the amount of \$236,577.41 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #6

GENERAL A – 12509-12518,12524-12556	\$11,347.92
GENERAL B – 12557	\$44.00
HIGHWAY – 12558-12568	\$217,444.39
MUNICIPAL – 12519,12569-12576	\$4,017.30
SPECIAL LIGHTING – 12520	\$2,566.00
SPECIAL WATER – 12521-12522,12557-12580	\$999.80
SPECIAL WATER 2 – 12523,12581-12582	\$158.00

TOTAL: \$236,577.41

BUSINESS:

Supervisor Fisher: We started this discussion 2 months ago; Paul Mercier retired from the Highway Dept. and Frank Colvin will be retiring in January 2025 and the Board has talked about hiring Mark Carpenter.

Brian Brockway: We have made it a year and a half without Paul and as far as Frank, we were going to do the same thing we did with Paul which is drop a wing man and save the tax payers \$60,000.00-\$80,000.00/year. If we find after the first of the year that we can’t operate this way then we will look to hire someone. I believe that we can run the department minus 2 guys. We are going to 2 guys on the garbage truck when the new truck comes in and we are considering dropping garbage to 2 days per week.

Councilman Suprenant: What happens if somebody gets sick?

Brian Brockway: We still have more than enough guys.

Councilman Middleton: This is why they asked for quite a bit more in negotiations.

Supervisor Suprenant: I am all for saving money but do you think you can operate the same with 2 less people?

Brian Brockway: Yes, with Paul being gone Billy doesn't take a wing man because his truck is automatic and he has cut 20 minutes off his route by doing it that way. When Frank leaves then Chuck will give up his wing man. Jeremy and John and going for their CDL's now so we will have an extra driver. We will try it and if it doesn't work out then we will have to hire someone.

Councilwoman Mullen: I agree with saving money and I am going to go with what Brian says because it's his department.

Councilman Suprenant: We brought this up because we thought with one person already retired and another one going we would get him in and have him get a CDL License and training.

Supervisor Fisher: I just hope the services don't start dropping.

Brian Brockway: If we feel it's more than we can handle we will hire someone at that time and there is no training for a laborer, they are on the garbage truck.

Councilman Suprenant: We were thinking that you were going to need another CDL driver and we were planning to have him trained.

Brian Brockway: The contract says you can't send them for their CDL until they have been there for 1 year to prove they are worth spending the money on.

Supervisor Fisher: If it's going to save money that's what we are here for.

**Sign Quote
Town Hall**

Supervisor Fisher: We received a quote from West Signs because we were hoping to upgrade the sign in front of Town Hall but we may have to look for a grant due to the price.

- Single Sided LED sign 4'2"x6'3" ----- \$15,500.00
- Single Sided LED sign 4'2"x5'1" ----- \$14,500.00

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 11 OF 2024

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN SUPRENANT

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN MULLEN

WHEREAS, Jointa Lime Company has submitted a quote of \$19,765.00 to place and compact 3” of recycled asphalt, approximately 1,000 tons on the road to the Idle Hour Club, and

WHEREAS, the Town, Village and Idle Hour Club are going to split the cost making the Town’s portion of the project cost \$6,588.33.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward agrees to pay a total not to exceed \$6,588.33 for the project.

DATED: June 11, 2024

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

Supervisor Fisher: Brian has had to grade that road because the Town agreed to work with the Village to maintain it. The Grader is getting old and a new one costs around \$500,000.00.

Lynn Griffin: Are you talking about the dirt portion of the road that goes all the way down to the Idle Hour?

Supervisor Fisher: Yes, it’s going to be beneficial for Rogers Island.

Brian Brockway: You have to realize that it’s not black top and it will hole up.

Lynn Griffin: Is that the best way to go about it?

Brian Brockway: It needs a base and that is what that does but eventually you will wind up black topping it.

Councilman Suprenant: The millings are coming from the re-paving of River St. in Hudson Falls.

Councilman Middleton: The only issue I have is spending \$7,000.00 of Town money on a Village Rd.

Supervisor Fisher: It is in the best interest of the community because of Rogers Island.

Lynn Griffin: I think over the years the Town has helped with that road so it is not really anything new for them.

Councilwoman Mullen: What is the difference between doing this and doing additional dirt? You said it is still going to get holes.

Brian Brockway: This will pack together better and makes a better base.

Councilwoman Mullen: How long is that road?

Councilman Suprenant: The part that is going to be paved is less than ½ mile.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kerri Culhane: My husband and I live on North River Rd. and half of the road just got paved and the other half is what I am here to talk about. The road surface at the end of my driveway is a waste cement product (gave Board a box of the material).

Brian Brockway: It is cement that has been run through a crusher.

Kerri Culhane: Because there are such large chunks they get thrown out to the side when cars pass by which creates a path in the middle that is a really fine cement dust. Last week when we had no rain we had billowing clouds of dust when cars would go by. Everyone on that road is in a house from the 1800's and right on the road. This would be a fine material if it was away from houses but it's not. One issue is the environmental hazard and the second issue is we are on The Empire Trail which is a bikeway and we live where the pavement ends (thank you for not paving in front of our house, the dirt road is very important to our rural character). We have people now turning around on their bicycles and going back because they cannot ride on this material. This is a bikeway that is supposed to go through to Montreal and New York and people can't ride on it because of the surface. I wanted to bring this to your attention and I know Brian has constraints but I feel like there should be some middle ground in having a toxic, difficult surface and having it paved. It used to be dirt and that was fine, you never heard from me when it was dirt. I would like to discuss if screened gravel could be an option to cap the material there now so that it is not a hazard to the public.

Brian Brockway: Screened gravel is just as toxic according to the MSD sheets. We used to use liquid calcium to keep the dust down but we can't anymore due to the animals and the river.

Councilman Middleton: My suggestion and I have talked with the Board about it due to the condition of the grader; I think the whole road should be paved.

Nina Lockwood: I live next door to Kerri on the other side of the cemetery and I can't ride my bike over that crushed cement because it's so difficult plus that material is carcinogenic. The fact that it is part of the bike trail is also significant.

Brian Brockway: There is money left in the blacktop budget so we can just go blacktop it.

Supervisor Fisher: Long term that is what the Board is looking to do.

Councilman Suprenant: We tried to keep your dirt road for you but I believe the only way to keep the dust down is to pave.

Kerri Culhane: When it was a dirt road it was fine.

Councilman Middleton: The grader was going down there 2 or 3 times a month.

Kerri Culhane: In recent years, the more it's been graded the worse it's gotten and I believe that is from the base getting sheared off by the plow when the ground isn't frozen.

Councilman Middleton: Could we get some millings?

Brian Brockway: Millings will be worse than what is there now if they aren't micro millings. They will be starting Burgoyne next week and those millings will be big chunks of blacktop and stone.

Councilman Suprenant: I believe Peckham has millings.

Kerri Culhane: This discussion is not meant to be accusatory in any way and I am happy that you all are willing to discuss options for the road.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Suprenant: I was at the Memorial Day Parade and it was a nice parade but it had no entertainment. I have talked with the Commander of the American Legion to have him set up some bands, old cars, etc. In the past we gave FESTA (Fort Edward Strategic Alliance) \$12,800.00 for the Heritage Days Parade and I think if they come back with a reasonable cost to add entertainment and get it to us by September we can put it in the budget for next year's Memorial Day Parade. I know we have somebody working on a parade for next September and maybe the parades could be combined.

Brian Brockway: There weren't very many people out to watch the parade either.

Lynn Griffin: It wasn't publicized well.

Councilman Middleton: We have the Highway Contract ready for Board review and approval with 4% each year.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: June 13, 2024

Aimee Ives, Town Clerk

