

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2023 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:55 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Supervisor Fisher opened the public hearing at 6:57pm

The following notice was published in The Post Star on June 5, 2023:

Notice is hereby given, that the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:55 P.M. at Town Hall, 118 Broadway Fort Edward, NY 12828 for the purpose of hearing comments on the 2022 Town of Fort Edward MS4 Annual Report.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to close the public hearing at 6:59pm **ALL AYES**

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilwoman Collier, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2023 **ALL AYES**

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve Abstract #6 in the amount of \$200,885.27 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #6

GENERAL A – 11640-11653,11661-11685 Void 11638	\$ 15,689.90
GENERAL B – 11686-11687	\$ 7,541.00
HIGHWAY – 11688-11698	\$160,846.39
MUNICIPAL – 11654-11655,11699-11707 Void 11639	\$ 5,541.83
SPECIAL WATER – 11656-11658,11708-11712	\$ 1,245.64
SPECIAL WATER 2 – 11659-11660,11713-11714	\$ 10,020.51

TOTAL: \$200,885.27

- Monthly amount is high due to the paving invoices

CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Supervisor Fisher:** We received a letter from Paul McCarty regarding 11 locust trees in the Town that need trimming and elevating that may start spreading into traffic lanes where they could be in the way of larger vehicles as well as some have a great deal of dead wood. He included a quote from Richard Sears totaling \$2,585.00 and offered to assist with the funding. I feel the Town should pay to have this done and not Paul and his wife.

Brian Brockway: Some of the trees are lifting the sidewalks up in that area and if someone falls the Town is responsible.

Councilman Middleton: I suggest getting a price from Bill Dornan, the County uses him and also we should ask Paul to identify the 11 trees so that we can make sure none of them are lifting the sidewalk.

Supervisor Fisher: I will contact Paul and also speak with Deb Donohue at the County and get a contact for Bill Dornan.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to table this until we get another quote and identify the 11 trees **ALL AYES**

- **Supervisor Fisher:** We received notification that the Village of Fort Edward is seeking Community Project Grant funding to bring sewer utilities to Canalside Energy Park. This is all in the Village which is why Dave O'Brien came to the Village meeting and laid this project out but they just gave us notice since it will not affect Town property and we have no authority over it. The correspondence states that the project will likely also include a combined sewer separation component consisting of installation of approximately 500 linear feet of new storm sewers. The project is located at the Canalside Energy Park and along the Barge Canal in the Village of Fort Edward.

Councilman Suprenant: LaBella has been over there digging into the ground, they replaced a culvert on Argyle St.

Councilman Middleton: LaBella is collecting soil samples and doing archeological digs at the entrance to the Canalside Park on East St.

- **Supervisor Fisher:** Scott has retired from Greater Glens Falls Transit and Mary Hastings is taking over.

Councilman Suprenant: It was approved by the State Legislature recently sponsored by Carrie Woerner to turn over Greater Glens Falls Transit to CDTA and it's a done deal and we know nothing about it. Warren County decided to do this so why do we pay the City of Glens Falls and why were we not notified if our services would be changing?

Supervisor Fisher: I believe they are working out the details of that may be why they haven't contacted us. I will reach out to Mary Hastings.

Katie DeGroot: Carrie talked about that when she came to talk about the grant; she said they would be adding more bike racks and I don't think it's going to be bad news.

- **Supervisor Fisher:** Bill contacted DASNY about the Betty Little Grant, we re-submitted paperwork September 9, 2022 and the Senate has to approve the changes from the original submission.

Attorney Nikas: The sponsoring bodies essentially have to start from scratch to get the approval.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway: The new garbage truck is ordered but we won't see it until after the 1st of the year; International is having issues getting parts so it won't come out of this year's budget. Tim had asked me to get a price on a pick-up to replace the one that I drive and they don't do State Contract anymore on the truck itself just the equipment (plow, sander). The trucks are in such high demand that they aren't doing State Contracts on trucks. The price I got is for a 2024 Chevy with a plow and sander is about \$69,000.00. There is quite a bit of money left in the snow budget because we had a light winter; on the contractual side there is over \$29,000.00 and we will need about \$7,000.00 for sand and salt and on the personnel side there is over \$22,000.00 and there is no way in a month that we would use \$22,000.00.

Councilman Suprenant: Where did you get the bid from?

Brian Brockway: Robert Green Chevrolet which is where the last 2 trucks came from; he deals with State Contracts normally.

Councilman Middleton: How much do we normally save on State Contract pricing?

Brian Brockway: Roughly 10%-15%, the one I have now was about \$49,000.00 in 2015. My recommendation would be to pay for the plow and the sander out of the winter contractual

budget which comes out to around \$15,500.00 which will knock the truck price down to about \$55,000.00.

Councilman Suprenant: What are you doing with your old truck?

Brian Brockway: Putting it in the fleet and getting rid of the 2009 Ford we have that is rotting away. We would put the 2009 Ford on govdeals.com or auctions international.

Councilman Suprenant: What is the delivery time?

Brian Brockway: They said 4-5 months so around November.

Supervisor Fisher: We are going to have to get 3 quotes because it's not State Contract.

Councilman Suprenant: We should get a quote from Greenwich Chevrolet as well to keep it in the County.

Supervisor Fisher: Terry did hear back from DEC and we got the okay for Brian to clear the trail down in Fort Miller by the fishing spot and that is done.

Councilman Middleton: I talked to Greenspark Solar and DEC stopped them because they have to change the platforms and they are presently waiting for approval from our Engineering firm. Their goal is to still commission this fall and be operational.

Supervisor Fisher: I spoke to C.T. Male and they said within 2 days they will have sent the approval to Greenspark.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nasrene Haj: We got the grant for the kayak launch through the Village and I am told that is not going to happen this summer it will be more like next summer. Thinking it was going to happen this summer we spoke with Upstate Kayak Rentals who does setups in Schuylerville and many other areas around here as well and she was ready to set up where the launch was going to be. You would put in a code and get everything that you would need. We are wondering if there is a spot at Rogers Island or Bradley Beach that she could set up just for this summer and then next year it will be at the Yacht Basin. The only thing she would need is a concrete pad to connect it to. When I did the site visit with Canal Corp I was told there are 2 docks, 1 is the old Firehouse Dock but there is another one that is either Village or Town owned he said if we wanted to use it they would like for us to put it back where it was on Rogers Island. He also said the reason that it stopped going in and out is because Canal Corp used to do that but they don't anymore and if the Town or Village want to take it they can it is all there ready to go.

Supervisor Fisher: The Town never purchased a dock; I assumed Canal Corp owned that dock.

Mike Dickinson: Bradley Beach is too shallow and there would be no place for the dock there.

Councilman Suprenant: I'm sure we could pay someone to move it.

Nasrene Haj: Can we get a concrete pad if we can get the dock?

Supervisor Fisher: There may be something at the Visitor's Center currently that can be used.

Councilman Suprenant: Did Canal Corp say we would need a permit for the dock?

Mike Dickinson: How do we let the large trucks know there is a bridge ahead before they turn onto East Rd.? I understand there is a sign on East Rd. if you are turning off St. James Rd. but by the time they get there it's too late because there is no place for large trucks to turn around along East Rd.

Brian Brockway: It won't matter because they will still follow their GPS.

Mike Dickinson: A lot of municipalities will put a sign up that says no truck traffic.

Councilman Suprenant: If you want signs out on the County road before they make the turn then you will have to go through the County. You would call Deborah Donohue.

Attorney Nikas: I looked into the proposal you have from Dog Control for the safe keeping local law; that was written by Todd Humiston. I don't believe you have the authority to pass it; Ag. & Markets Law has a statute that covers it and they preempt local laws so you can't just go ahead and change the state statute. They have 3 entities, law enforcement, dog control officer or an SPCA that depending on the situation has the authority to pick up a dog. Shannon wants to have the dog control officer given the authority to pick up a dog for safe keeping in circumstances where they statute doesn't provide. The statute isn't well written so I can understand why they are trying to cover some holes in it and I have a memo into the Ag. & Markets counsel to have them give us an opinion as to why the State doesn't take care of that. I do not recommend a local law at this point.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: June 14, 2023

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk

