

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:55 P.M.

Supervisor Fisher opened the public hearing at 6:55pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Brockway, Peter Ives, Steve Davie, Chuck Bump, Elizabeth O’Leary and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

**Public Hearing
2022 Preliminary Town Budget
6:55pm**

The Town Clerk read the following notice published in the Post Star:

**TOWN OF FORT EDWARD
NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING**

Notice is hereby given, the preliminary budget for the Town of Fort Edward, Washington County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2022, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York where it is available for inspection during regular business hours.

Further notice is hereby given, the Town Board will hold a public hearing thereon Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:55 P.M. at the Town Hall, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York and at such hearing any person may be heard.

Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	- \$ 10,815
Town Councilman (4)	- \$ 5,000
Superintendent of Hwy	- \$ 67,380
Town Clerk/Collector	- \$ 46,845
Town Justice	- \$ 16,556

In addition, REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW-SECTION 495

Exemption report: shows total assessed value on the final assessment roll that is exempt from taxation: shows the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted: this report is part of the final budget, and made available at the Town Hall.

Publish: October 5, 2021

Supervisor Fisher: The tax rate for 2021 was \$11.45/thousand and for 2022 the rate is down to \$11.25/thousand.

Councilman Suprenant: I do not get why we are still in the garbage business, I feel we need to look at it because it is getting out of control.

Supervisor Fisher: The sticker sales are down and the cost to get rid of the garbage is going up.

Peter Ives: The sticker sales do cover the trash plant bills. If you went down to a 2 man garbage crew you would save 1/3 of \$148,000.00.

Councilman Suprenant: It's one of the largest items in the budget and should be discussed soon.

Councilman Middleton: My concern if we do away with garbage pickup is the elderly population who only has 1 bag or half a bag a week.

Councilman Suprenant: Other Towns don't have garbage pickup and their elderly figure it out. I suggest that when people retire from the Highway Dept. we look at it then; I don't want to see any layoffs or lost jobs.

Councilman Middleton: We could look into forming a refuse district and put it up for referendum. We should schedule public meetings to start the discussions.

Peter Ives: We have to look at some cuts in the general fund for next year.

Brian Brockway: My concern if we have 1 guy in the plow and he has an accident and gets hurt and there isn't anyone with him to call anyone. We should look at getting a repeater somewhere out where the service is bad or non-existent.

Councilman Suprenant: Talk with the school and maybe you can get on with them.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to close the public hearing at 7:21pm **ALL AYES**

Regular Session began at 7:22 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 2021 and the 2022 budget workshop of September 22, 2021 **ALL AYES**

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

Councilwoman Mullen: The Dog Control Officer report mentions Broad St. and I want to make sure she means Broadway.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$90,700.88 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #10

GENERAL A – 10228-10235, 10246-10267	\$13,999.26
GENERAL B – 10268	\$ 26.50
HIGHWAY – 10269-10274	\$ 4,265.46
MUNICIPAL – 10236, 10275-10279	\$ 5,173.44
SP. LIGHTING – 10237-10241	\$ 3,248.04
SP. WATER – 10242-10243, 10280-10286	\$57,548.66
SP. WATER 2 – 10244-10245, 10287-10288	\$ 6,439.52

TOTAL: \$90,700.88

BUSINESS:

General Code Updates

Supervisor Fisher: General Code is recommending that an enhanced supplement be completed, including a reprinting of the entire Code as 8 ½ x 11 inch size in new binders, along with the update to incorporate uncodified legislation for a total price of \$2,345.00.

MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to authorize Supervisor Fisher to sign the proposal from General Code for Code updates at a price not to exceed \$2,345.00 **ALL AYES**

**Pittsburgh Tank
Water Tower Inspection**

Brian Brockway: There were a few things marked critical that I think we should address first; adjust the windage rods as needed, replace the existing roof vent with a vacuum-pressure, frost proof vent & screen and perform a dry interior cleanout of up to 3” of sediment.

Supervisor Fisher: We should also take care of the OSHA requirements.

Brian will get a quote to address all of the critical and OSHA deficiencies.

**Uniform Proposal
Cintas**

Brian Brockway: The quote is for \$164.69 total/week which is about half of what Unifirst is charging. The quote includes shirts, pants, jackets and rug service.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to switch to Cintas from Unifirst as of January 1, 2022 **ALL AYES**

A letter will be sent to Unifirst thanking them for their years of service

2021 Highway Inventory Sheets

Councilman Middleton: I didn't see the new welder on the list or the excavator from Kingsbury.

Brian Brockway: I will add them along with the new water truck.

Councilman Middleton: Yes, because that is what the Insurance Company goes by in case of a fire or some type of loss. Also, do we have the items labeled as junk?

Brian Brockway: Yes, we have it and we use it but its junk.

Councilman Middleton: How do we go about replacing those items? Should we look at doing so much per year?

Councilman Suprenant: If it's junk it needs to be replaced.

Brian Brockway: I talked with the Insurance Company about putting the trucks on Govdeals.com and she said we could but the buyer would have to be aware that they could only get liability coverage on them.

Tax Cap Reporting

Supervisor Fisher: It was brought to my attention that we have to file our tax cap calculation before we approve our budget and it was not completed last year. Aimee and I got it all up to date.

County Reassessment Project

Supervisor Fisher: The County informed the 6 Towns involved in the reval that the grant is only for 1 year and instead of having to only pay \$500.00 like the original agreement stated now our share would be \$18,486.27. Supervisor Hall and Supervisor Campbell went to bat for the 6 Towns and said the County should have to pay for their own mistake so the County is paying instead of the individual Towns involved.

I also spoke with Dave O'Brien and the Towns portion of the agreed upon PILOT for the Champlain Hudson Power Express is \$2,936,229.00 over 30 years which we should start receiving in 2024.

We are currently waiting to hear back from the Attorney on the next step for adopting a Nuisance Law.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Davie: Any updates on the Dewatering Facility property?

Supervisor Fisher: There is some interest but it's not far enough along to be public yet, the sewer is a hold up and the IDA is looking into grants for that.

Councilman Suprenant: Village Resolution #16 of 2021 declares the 0.65 miles of road from the Visitor's Center to the Idle Hour property as Dr. Starbuck Lane. I do not feel the entire road should be named after Dr. Starbuck. The Town was never consulted and we maintain the road. I feel we should honor him in the circle and we should also send a letter to the Village saying we do not agree. A lot of people did stuff on the island and I do not feel the road should be named after just one person.

Brian Brockway: We maintain it ½ to ¾ of the year.

Supervisor Fisher: We can send a letter letting them know that we would like some input.

Councilman Suprenant: The Patriot Garden looks good.

Councilwoman Mullen: Ruth's son did some work in it.

Councilwoman Collier: What do you want to do with the new welcome sign? I received a price of \$625.00 from West Signs.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to order the new welcome to Fort Edward sign from West Signs at a price of \$625.00 **ALL AYES**

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. **ALL AYES**

Dated: October 15, 2021

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk

