

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020 VIA ZOOM COMMENCING AT 6:55 PM

Supervisor Losaw opened the public hearing at 6:55pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Ives, Brian Brockway and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

The following notice was published in The Post Star on October 6, 2020:

**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, 2021, 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 13, 2020 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	- \$ 10,500
Town Councilman (4)	- \$ 4,433
Superintendent of Hwy	- \$ 62,356
Town Clerk/Collector	- \$ 44,547
Town Justice	- \$ 16,074

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 6, 2020

Supervisor Losaw: This year's budget is down \$10,254.00 from last year which is about 8%.

Councilman Mercier: I would like to cut Rogers Island to \$18,000.00.

Supervisor Losaw: Why is that?

Councilman Mercier: Because I do not see the need for that large of an increase at this time.

Councilman Middleton: I would like to propose \$19,000.00 to Rogers Island, \$1,000.00 additional to the Old Fort House Museum seeing as they couldn't fund raise this year due to COVID and an additional \$1,500.00 to cemeteries so that the Fort Miller Cemetery can get the mower they need.

Supervisor Losaw: The cemeteries still have \$1,000.00 in their equipment line from this year.

Councilman Middleton: Then add \$500.00 to it.

Supervisor Losaw: We don't own the Old Fort House, we own the Visitor's Center.

Councilman Middleton: What needs to be done at the Visitor's Center?

Supervisor Losaw: The furnace needs to be replaced, the roof leaks.

Councilwoman Mullen: Why are we just hearing about the roof?

Councilman Middleton: A new roof would be roughly \$30,000.00 or more, this is the first I've heard of the roof leaking. We should be getting the minutes of their meetings as well as a building report.

Councilman Fisher: This is new to me but I have missed the last 2 meetings.

Supervisor Losaw: I don't believe it was brought up at a meeting, my wife told me about it.

Councilman Middleton: I agree we own the building but we have to know these things so that we can plan.

Councilman Fisher: Is the furnace coming out of grant money?

Supervisor Losaw: We haven't submitted for it yet but yes that will be included, we may not see any money until next year though so we will have to pay for it.

Do we have a consensus on the new furnace?

BOARD: Yes

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Mercier to give \$19,000.00 to Rogers Island, an additional \$1,000.00 to the Old Fort House Museum and an additional \$500.00 to cemeteries for Fort Miller Cemetery (Riverside) to purchase a new mower in the 2021 Budget.

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Mercier – AYE, Councilman Fisher – AYE, Councilwoman Mullen – AYE, Councilman Middleton – AYE, Supervisor Losaw - AYE

Councilwoman Mullen: Where is the 1A report?

Supervisor Losaw: I asked about that and they are having trouble getting it from the preparer.

Councilman Middleton: Seeing as we paid the Village \$7,500.00 for recreation this year and they didn't have it they could reimburse us and we could use that money toward the pool repairs.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to close the public hearing at 7:12pm **ALL AYES**

Supervisor Losaw called the regular meeting to order at 7:13pm

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Ives, Brian Brockway and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 14, 2020 & budget workshop of September 28, 2020 **ALL AYES**

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$55,012.06 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #10

GENERAL A: 9432, 9436 9443-9463	\$19,330.90
GENERAL B: 9464	\$ 55.50
HIGHWAY: 9465-9478	\$ 9,008.30
MUNICIPAL: 9437, 9479-9481	\$ 886.25
SPECIAL LIGHTING: 9438-9439, 9482-9484	\$ 2,548.82
SPECIAL WATER: 9440-9442, 9485-9487	\$23,101.38
SPECIAL WATER 2: 9488-9489	\$ 80.91

TOTAL: \$55,012.06

Supervisor Losaw: I thought the price on the excavator from Kingsbury that we agreed upon was \$8,000.00 and the voucher is for \$10,000.00.

Aimee Mahoney: The minutes show a motion agreeing on \$8,000.00.

Brian Brockway: I will contact them and find out what the extra cost is for before we pay it.

BUSINESS:

Councilman Middleton: We have to have a discussion with the dog control officer regarding paperwork that is not being done. He should also be submitting a monthly report to the board.

Supervisor Losaw: I will reach out to him tomorrow

Town Website Update

Aimee Mahoney: I spoke with Nathan about the website and why I can't upload large documents. He said it's because we are working off an old web design from 2014 and suggested we update for a one-time fee of \$500.00.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to have Nolee-O Web Design update the Town Website for a fee of \$500.00 **ALL AYES**

Councilman Middleton: In the Historian report from Paul McCarty he mentions not having an office. I was wondering if he could use the vacant desk upstairs that the grant coordinator used to use.

Supervisor Losaw: All of the Chamber of Commerce and LDC stuff is in there; he has the museum, his house, and the art center so I'm not sure of the need. I don't mind if he uses it but I'm pretty sure the museum has an office.

Brian Brockway: I will be back to work Monday, October 19th.

Councilman Middleton: Brian have you received any pricing?

Brian Brockway: I have not heard back from anyone yet about the generator but I did receive some pricing on the water truck; that will be no more than \$40,000.00 with a utility body on it, same as what we have now.

Supervisor Losaw: My understanding is that we can take it from the fund balance of the water district and that should pay for it.

Peter Ives: I was talking with Terry about it today and his idea was that we take it from DB somehow and see if we can't buy a truck from a dealer that would give us 0% interest for 72 months. Another thing is if you take the money out of SW1 and went down and used it in water district 2 for some reason, I don't know how kosher that is.

Supervisor Losaw: I don't think it's a major deal seeing as there are no taxes in water district 1.

Peter Ives: I know but like I'm saying there would be if we didn't save money. They would be paying big taxes on that tower that we had repaired. I'm not crazy about taking any money out of that water fund because I saw what happened the last time that we had to fix the water tower. We used most of the money that we had in the SW fund to help pay off GE \$400,000.00. We bonded \$100,000.00 last time we painted the tower inside and out. The more we save there the more secure we are going to be if any problems arise.

Supervisor Losaw: Absolutely, I think right now there is around \$100,000.00 in there.

Peter Ives: \$108,000.00

Brian Brockway: I don't know if through the state contract they will offer the 0% or any kind of a loan on a state contract vehicle but I will ask.

Peter Ives: Do we have to do state contract?

Brian Brockway: If you don't buy it through state contract you are going to pay more for it.

Peter Ives: Maybe not if you have to pay interest. It's a lot better for our budget if we spread something out over 7 years.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24 OF 2020

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MERCIER

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN FISHER

RESOLVED, By the Town of Fort Edward that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

(a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;

(b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Dated: October 13, 2020

VOTE: Councilman Mercier – AYE
Councilman Fisher – AYE
Councilwoman Mullen – AYE
Councilman Middleton – AYE
Supervisor Losaw - AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Mercier, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm **ALL AYES**

DATED: October 14, 2020

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk