

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 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 Suprenant
Councilman Middleton
Councilwoman Collier
Councilwoman Mullen

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Swensen, Mark DiIanni, Ron Renoni, Elizabeth O’Leary, Kathy Roome, Frank Burkhardt, Linda Anderson, Brian Brockway, Richard Belden, Steve Davie, Joanne Morrison, Nina Lockwood, Roseanne Lemery, Kerry Culhane, Maria Rosenblum, Brian Katz, Tracy Frisch, Therese Gillis, Nasrene Haj, Jim Thatcher and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 11, 2022 **ALL AYES**

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve Abstract #11 in the amount of \$44,741.25 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #11

GENERAL A: 11137-11145,11158-11189	\$11,573.81
GENERAL B: 11190-11191	\$ 7,520.50
HIGHWAY: 11192-11201	\$ 8,628.81
MUNICIPAL: 11146-11147,11202-11208	\$ 4,403.69
SPECIAL LIGHTING: 11148-11152,11209-11210	\$ 4,549.66
SPECIAL WATER: 11153-11155,11211-11216	\$ 1,055.31
SPECIAL WATER 2: 11156-11157,11217-11220	\$ 266.47
ARPA: 10-11	\$ 6,793.00

TOTAL: \$44,741.25

BUSINESS:

Grassland Bird Trust
Keith Swensen

Keith Swensen: We are in support of the Town moving forward with the Boralex Solar project. We recognize the financial benefit to the Town but we have concerns about the placement of some of the panels. We would like to work with the Town to make some modifications to the project plan. Boralex plans to install solar panels on 800 acres in the heart of the Important Bird Area (IBA). The land was selected due to its close proximity to the electrical transmission line but the number of panels and the location of the panels represent a significant risk to the species that winter and breed in the IBA. We have been informally communicating with Boralex and have proposed some changes that would protect the birds but have not yet come to an agreement.

Supervisor Fisher: It has been 2 years since we have spoken to Boralex about the project and Renewable Energy is overseeing the project.

Mark DiIanni: We have asked for a buffer but they keep sending us the same map which is not encouraging.

Keith Swensen: We proposed they conserve additional land for mitigation purposes.

Councilman Middleton: Where are your offices located?

Keith Swensen: Schuylerville

Nina Lockwood: Gordy Ellmers photos attract a lot of people from out of the area.

Maria Rosenblum: Every time we do a tour we have people from 2 hours away and they are always full. DEC will have no say in this due to the size of the project.

Frank Burkhardt: Will this be on private land?

Councilman Middleton: Yes

Frank Burkhardt: Maybe try reaching out to the individual landowners.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION NUMBER 20 OF 2022

MOTION BY COUNCILMAN MIDDLETON

SECONDED BY COUNCILWOMAN COLLIER

GARBAGE STICKER PRICE INCREASE

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward offers curbside garbage pickup to all residents of the Village and Town of Fort Edward, and

WHEREAS, the current charge for a garbage sticker is \$1.50, and

WHEREAS, the Town is incurring a significant increase in the cost of fuel as well as garbage disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward is hereby increasing the cost of a garbage sticker from \$1.50 to \$2.00 effective January 1, 2023.

Dated: November 14, 2022

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Suprenant -AYE
Councilman Middleton-AYE
Councilwoman Mullen-AYE
Councilwoman Collier-AYE
Supervisor Fisher-AYE

AYES: 5
NAYS : 0
ABSENT: 0

RESOLUTION NUMBER 21 OF 2022

MOTION BY COUNCILWOMAN COLLIER

SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN MIDDLETON

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward held its public hearing on the 2023 Preliminary Budget on October 11, 2022, and

WHEREAS, there was limited public comment on the town budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward hereby adopts the 2023 Town Budget in the amount of \$1,971,062.00

Dated: November 14, 2022

Roll Call Vote: Councilman Suprenant -AYE
Councilman Middleton-AYE

Councilwoman Mullen-AYE
Councilwoman Collier-AYE
Supervisor Fisher-AYE

AYES: 5
NAYS : 0
ABSENT: 0

**Countryside Veterinary Svc.'s
Fee Changes**

Supervisor Fisher: We received the new fee schedule from Countryside and it has increased quite a bit from last year. If we stay with them we have to send the contract and administrative payment by 12/1/2022.

Councilman Middleton: I believe there is a place in Greenwich we can check into.

MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to authorize the administrative fee be included in the pay before audit if we choose to stay with them **ALL AYES**

Fort Miller

Supervisor Fisher:

- We received a quote from BSN Sports for \$1,545.00 for 2 new basketball hoops. We will be ordering them and the highway department will install them at Mill Park in Fort Miller.
- Started work in Fort Miller thanks to Terry and Brian and Councilman Middleton reached out to GE and they are going to come and look to see if they can open any of the fishing spots up.

**Northern Enterprises
Quote for building renovations**

Supervisor Fisher: We received a quote from Northern Enterprises for renovations to the building in an effort to add security and stop people from wandering around the building. The total for work on the Village end is \$12,855.00 and the Town end is \$5,500.00.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to accept the quote from Northern Enterprises for renovations to the building at an amount of \$12,855.00 for the Village and \$5,500.00 for the Town **ALL AYES**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joanne Morrison: It is very dark on Route 4 over to Fort Miller or onto County Route 46; can we get a street light there?

Brian Brockway: Those are State & County roads, I will check to see if there are any poles there.

Brian Katz: The speed limit is 15mph on Fort Miller Rd. and people fly up and down that road. Maybe we could get an additional sign?

Supervisor Fisher: Have you reported it to the Sheriff's or Troopers?

Brian Brockway: The 15mph sign is illegal; the State says that is a 30mph road so I don't think the police will enforce that.

Kerry Culhane: North River Rd. isn't posted at all so by law that is 55mph which is a danger to both the birders and the bikers that pass through there.

Councilman Suprenant: Can we do a speed limit local law like they do in the Town of Moreau?

Brian Brockway: I will check with Mike Graham.

Brian Brockway: I think as far as the cemetery goes on Breton Way, I think we should say preserved by Paul Breton but not name it Breton Cemetery.

Councilman Middleton: Once we find out the name of the cemetery we can have a sign made and then just add preserved by Paul Breton and Friends.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to have a sign made for the cemetery on Breton Way with the Cemetery name as well as preserved by Paul Breton & Friends **ALL AYES**

Brian Brockway: We put the plows on today.

Brian Katz: Thank you for the help during the storm and for the quick response.

Brian Brockway: I would like to take the berm out in Fort Miller and replace it with Jersey Barriers seeing as they wanted to keep it forever wild but no one cared for it and it looks terrible.

Kerry Culhane: Jersey Barriers are depressing to look at so we would like to propose alternatives to taking the berm out if that is possible.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Jim Thatcher
Town Grant Coordinator

Jim Thatcher: I do not have any update on the DASNY Betty Little grant money at this time but they have accepted the amended proposal and now it just has to make its way through the process. Last week the State DOT put out Bridge NY for bridges & culverts and the Town is an eligible applicant. The applications are due in January and no public hearing is required.

Brian Brockway: We could use that for culverts on Plum Rd. and Towpath Ln.

Jim Thatcher: Engineering reports would be good for anecdotal information for the application if you have any.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: November 18, 2022

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk