

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 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
Councilwoman Collier
Councilman Middleton
Councilwoman Mullen
Councilman Suprenant

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Brockway, Chuck Bump, Andrea DeBernardis, Katie DeGroot, Richard Belden, Steve Davie, Elizabeth O’Leary, Roseanne Lemery, Stephanie Iuliucci, Peter Ives and Town Clerk Aimee Mahoney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 8, 2021 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilwoman Collier, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the reports of the Town Clerk, Town Justice, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer, Dog Control Officer & Supervisor as submitted **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve Abstract #12 in the amount of \$49,430.72 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #12

GENERAL A – 10353-10360,10372-10397	\$12,304.10
GENERAL B – 10398-10411	\$ 2,760.49
HIGHWAY – 10412-10425	\$19,516.49
MUNICIPAL – 10361-10362,10426-10430	\$ 3,895.21
SP. LIGHTING – 10363-10367	\$ 3,619.43
SP. WATER – 10368-10369,10431-10435	\$ 1,418.15
SP. WATER 2 – 10370-10371,10436-10438	\$ 358.24
C.S. ENERGY ESCROW - 2	\$ 5,558.61

TOTAL: \$49,430.72

BUSINESS:

**AC Power 9, LLC
Andrea DeBernardis
PILOT Agreement**

Roseanne Lemery: The Town Attorney reviewed everything with AC Power's Attorney and everything was resolved and everyone is happy to move forward.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to enter into a PILOT agreement with AC Power 9, LLC **ALL AYES**

LED Lighting Conversion Program Proposal

Supervisor Fisher: The LED proposal has been looked at previously and I think we are all in favor of it but I am going to check into whether or not we can use the American Rescue Plan money to cover the \$6,847.61 cost. We are currently waiting to hear how much of that money we can transfer into the general fund.

Councilman Suprenant: Where is that money now?

Peter Ives: It is in a separate account until we find out what to do with it.

Supervisor Fisher: According to the Association of Towns, no paperwork has to be done on that until March, 2022. I believe the Village already heard back that all of their money could go into the general fund.

Councilman Suprenant: Its 3 different districts that it is coming out of; the Fort Miller District, the special lighting district at the top of McIntyre on Anthony Dr. and over on Broadway. If it doesn't come out of that it will have to come out of 3 different funds.

Postage Meter Proposal Metroland Business Machines

Aimee Mahoney: Metroland Business Machines provided a quote for postage meter services, they currently do business with several local entities and they can save the Town around \$20.00/month.

Supervisor Fisher: We will look into it and talk to the Village since it is a shared service and go from there.

Councilman Suprenant: I like the idea that it is locally owned.

Councilman Middleton: If it's the same service and saves us money then I think it's a good idea.

Letter to Retirees Health Insurance

The following letter was sent out to the retirees regarding a change in their health insurance:

November 22, 2021

Dear Retirees:

At our last meeting we discussed that some of you would continue the current CDPHP Plan and pay \$150.00 per month to do so and others would be enrolled in a similar plan with less hospitalization coverage.

The Town has decided that everyone will continue the current coverage that you have had all along and require you to pay 10% of the cost or \$32.60 per month beginning January 1, 2022. This payment should be received by the Town no later than the final two days of the preceding month. For example when you pay for January 2022, the payment should be received by the Town on December 30, 2021.

If you no longer want this insurance you will need to call Peter Ives at 518-760-3066 as soon as possible. If you choose to continue your coverage please send or deliver a check or money order for \$32.60 by December 30, 2021 for your coverage for January 2022.

Sincerely,

Timothy Fisher, Supervisor

**End of Year
Meeting Date**

MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to set the end of year meeting date for December 30, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. **ALL AYES**

- **At the meeting all newly elected officials will be sworn in**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stephanie Iuliucci: (Gave pictures to the Board) the rear of this property is right next to the front of mine. I am behind Cumberland Farms and the Bowling Alley.

Councilman Middleton: Do all of the trailers have a license plate on them?

Stephanie Iuliucci: Matt said they were registered, one was recently delivered so I don't know how he knows that but I'm sure they are registered. I didn't know if there was a limit and since it's a business not his residence if something could be done.

Councilwoman Mullen: Is someone paying him to store it there?

Stephanie Iuliucci: I don't know; I know one is not his but I don't know about the others. I did find some information on the Town site but it was unclear and the first time I asked Matt he said 3 boats and several vehicles were allowed and I told him they weren't boats they are campers. He didn't answer me. On the Town website it says a mobile home is any portable vehicle or structure that is designed to be transported on its own wheels or those of another vehicle for which is used or capable of being used as living or sleeping quarters for permanent residence. I am assuming those are mobile homes based on that definition. They do have to be certain feet away which they are now but in the summer they were much closer. I did find something about mobile homes outside of mobile home parks; no mobile home shall be parked, placed or sited in the Town of Fort Edward outside of a licensed mobile home park. Then it says with the exception the storage of mobile homes or travel trailers not being used for living purposes. The purpose of the Bowling Alley business is not to store trailers. It is not just the trailers either; in some of those pictures you can see years of junk, 15 years of it and I didn't say anything about it because it was kind of set-back, but lately it has been one thing after another and the owner has been very rude lately. I did call the Sheriff because he is using the private driveway to deliver the trailers and he doesn't have rights to use it. They put on a golf simulator and all of that waste was put into a pile next to my house and they don't pick it up unless I complain, then they do pick it up but they end up doing it again. I know I live next to a bowling alley but I don't think I should have to look at eyesores constantly. They also pushed all of their snow back there, how high are they allowed to pile snowbanks? The snow spills onto my property and breaks my fencing.

Supervisor Fisher: We will send Matt up to see if there are any violations.

Councilman Middleton: If they are all registered I don't think we have any law against him storing them there.

Councilman Suprenant: No we don't. Are they his or is he storing them there for somebody and making money?

Stephanie Iuliucci: I know one is not his because I saw who delivered it, one might be his and then there are all of the other utility trailers there too which probably are theirs.

Councilman Middleton: If he plows snow and it damages your fence, he would be responsible for that.

Stephanie Iuliucci: I've called different Towns around us and they do have regulations regarding this. Is there any right that I have for eyesores or anything like that and maybe distance? That is the first thing people see when they drive down my driveway because they are pushed forward even more and blocking my view of the street. I have to look out my windows right into the windows of the trailers.

Times Union Article
Re: Hughes Energy

Katie DeGroot: What bothers me is that Fort Edward seems to be a garbage company magnet. They think we are stupid enough to take trash from other places. There is also the tax issue; they talk in this article and also in listening to the ZOOM call they do not have a facility in the United States and they could not give an example of a functioning facility anywhere and yet they want to get tax dollars from us and the government to run this supposed plant. All it does is take garbage and turn it into mush and then they pelletize it or put it into paper. If you put Drano in your garbage or medical waste, kitty litter or baby diapers, what happens to that? They couldn't even say. Why should we give them a tax break of which they will be asking for to come here on a totally unproven basis? I just ask that as our representative of the Town of Fort Edward that you keep us posted on what is going on because I do feel like the IDA has an agenda which is to understandably find something to fill the place and bring the taxes in and I get that but I feel like it's really important that we find the right fit.

Councilman Suprenant: DEC is on top of it right?

Supervisor Fisher: Just so everyone knows, this article is about Hughes Energy down in the Catskills. They want to build a 115sf plant. Right now our garbage either goes to a landfill or the trash plant and neither one them are good choices. Looking for an alternative is a good thing but it has to make sense and that is why the DEC has stepped in.

Katie DeGroot: The idea of us getting rid of sorted recycling to single stream means that it all gets put in together and goes someplace and is unusable again.

Supervisor Fisher: It is my understanding that the only things that are in demand are newspaper and cardboard.

Katie DeGroot: We should be figuring out what to do with the rest of the stuff in this country instead of building these types of plants. They have to use water from the Hudson to use the autoclave because it is steam. They also said they were going to use farm waste which is used on fields already. It is pointed out that this would be next to a rail line and that rail line goes to the cement plant and also to the trash plant so one of things that they are talking about possibly and he wouldn't say yes or no is that once the stuff is created it could be used as a fuel and that is a terrible thing too. I'm glad the DEC stepped in.

Letter from Carrie Woerner

Supervisor Fisher: We received correspondence from Carrie Woerner's office regarding a new state program announced by Governor Hochul last week that will make grants to municipal applicants to upgrade housing for farmworkers in order to prevent, prepare for or respond to the Coronavirus.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway:

- The sidewalk machine has a steering cylinder issue; we ordered the part which was a little over \$2,000.00 and its 16-18 weeks out. We will continue doing sidewalks with the little tractor.
- The new plow is great on fuel, 3 trips only used ¼ of a tank
- The dirt roads have been patched but will have to be done again
- New uniforms should be in between Christmas and New Years
- Boralex wanted information on the roads, I answered all of their questions and I suggest getting a video of the condition of the road when they begin and a video at the end so we don't get stuck paying for any damages that might happen during the construction process.

Councilman Middleton: No one was notified in Water District 2 of the water break.

Brian Brockway: The Village needs to contact Tim Hardy so that he is aware and can do the reverse 911 calls.

Supervisor Fisher: I will talk to Tim.

Elizabeth O'Leary: Regarding the mask mandate, how far do you want me to go if someone refuses to wear a mask? Can I refuse service?

Supervisor Fisher: Tell them the recommendations that came from the State and if they are argumentative then don't engage.

Councilman Suprenant: If they come in for stickers and refuse to wear a mask you can refuse service and call Brian and let him know they didn't get stickers because they wouldn't comply with the mask mandate.

Councilman Middleton: I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. **ALL EYES**

Dated: December 17, 2021

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk

