

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016 AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:00PM

Supervisor Suprenant called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

PRESENT: Supervisor Suprenant
Councilman Orsini
Councilman Mercier
Councilman Middleton
Councilman Fisher

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Attorney Mary-Ellen Stockwell, Darlene DeVoe, Jeannie Mullen, Tim Livsey, Debbie Parker, Todd Humiston, Sarah Humiston, Richard Belden, Caitlin Mahoney, Brian Brockway, Dan Shaw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Mercier, Seconded by Councilman Fisher to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 9, 2016 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Orsini to approve the reports of the Town Clerk, Supervisor, Highway Superintendent, Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer and Town Justice as submitted **ALL AYES**

The following report was submitted by Grant Coordinator Darlene DeVoe for June:

Grant Coordinator Report for June 2016

Submitted by Darlene DeVoe 6/12/2016

~~Former Grand Union Brownfield Redevelopment Project~~

MARKET 32 Construction Project

The attorney for Price Chopper has initiated amended language in the Site Management Plan which they had already reviewed and edited prior to the original submission and approval by DEC. These proposed changes are being reviewed by Jeff Marx and he has provided his comments. Since the Town is still a co-applicant in the BCP, and the SMP was submitted to the EPA and must now be resubmitted, but ultimately it is the Engineer of Record that has to sign-off before submitting the revisions to DEC.

That's not what you want to hear about though...

The footers are complete today and the foundation walls are being formed and poured this week!

The Price Chopper groundbreaking photo-op is Tuesday on-site.

EPA Petroleum Assessment Grant -

Working with Beth on weighing a new Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant application. Preparation and review of reports.

BOA Step 3 –

I have been working with Jim Thatcher and Jim Edwards on preparing preliminary plans for the Route 4 Truck Access Road. Route exploration: the terrain is rough and there are extremely steep slopes in some areas. They are debating the best 2 possible routes to be considered. Make no mistake, this will be an expensive and slow process.

The Inter Modal Facility road is still being worked out as far as the boundary line adjustments needed before it can be transferred by the EPA. WCC and Canal Corp are finalizing these.

Ownership of the road update..... County Board of Supervisors refuse to discuss it any further. This lack of commitment to economic growth in Fort Edward and Washington County proves that many of them fail to understand that the best way to cut taxes is not to cut spending but to INCREASE the tax base and provide jobs to our residents. It's sad that this cannot be grasped by the County Budget Officer and scary that not one Supervisor in that Committee meeting felt this was important enough to even continue discussion. Aty Wicks and Supervisor Campbell feel they have accomplished their mission, to stop much needed economic development.

HOME 2013 –

We have received 4 bids back on the first project and they were opened with the Homeowners and Rehabilitation Coordinator last week. We will all meet with the selected Contractor on Wednesday to sign paperwork and get rolling.

Note: It is important for people to READ the information in the application packet BEFORE submitting it to us with incorrect or insufficient information. This does not expedite their application and instead is likely to cause the application to be dropped down on the list. Most importantly, we DO NOT want original documents. That includes taxes, deeds, pay stubs, insurance certificates, and bank statements.

Bradley Beach –

At the request of the Supervisor, I met with Jeff Marx from CT Male about preparing a proposed sampling plan for the beach and soil/sediment deposited during and after the temporary rock wall was in place. I am trying to put together pictures and/or mapping from prior to 2009 for their reference. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

I supplied the DOS Project Officer and several others the contact information for the EPA to confirm the conditions at the beach and our concerns however I expect that they will encounter the same “lack of available data” response that we received.

Community Planning –

I am currently drafting the updates to the Master Plan.

Champlain Canalway Trail –

The 3rd bike tour is slated to being in Schuylerville’s Fort Hardy Park and go to, and through, the National Park. The cost is \$50. An extra \$25 if you would like to ride the boat back.

The group would like Fort Edward to host this year’s Community Leaders gathering. I plan to speak with the Village about this since the section from the Town line out to the Feeder Canal Trail would be highlighted as the key connection. More details to come next month.

CFA Round 6

Last month, I reported that the CFA Round 6 had opened and that I would be “attending” several webinars for programs related to water infrastructure. Unfortunately, not one of the programs can be applied for until the district is formed. One of the programs is not included in the CFA funding, its applications are being accepted this fall and then another round early next spring. These are competitive and we stand a really good chance but *proposed* WD3 continues to sit in limbo.

Last month I posed the following questions and hope that there are answers for me to run with:
Board- We are back to the question that is holding me up... are you going to create the district?
Attorney- If the Board would like to proceed, is there a way to create the district with a nominal fee for the first 2 years while the work is being engineered and funding sought/finalized?
Especially, if the plan is to install the district in phases?

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Mercier to approve Abstract #6 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #6

GENERAL A: 5680-5682, 5686-5687, 5692-5726, 5765	\$24,152.91
GENERAL B: 5727-5736	4,434.32
HIGHWAY: 5737-5749	67,067.15
MUNICIPAL: 5688, 5750-5756	13,974.32

SPECIAL LIGHTING: 5683-5684, 5689	2,327.38
SPECIAL WATER: 5685, 5757-5762	1,103.08
SPECIAL WATER 2: 5763-5764	364.73
BOA 3: 20-21	5,779.85
HOME 2013: 7-8	1,080.00
PET ASSESS 2: 47	157.50

TOTAL: \$120,441.24

RESOLUTIONS:

**TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF NEW YORK**

Resolution No. 19 of 2016
Adopted June 13, 2016

Introduced by Councilman Middleton
who moved its adoption.

Seconded by Councilman Fisher

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING CLOSURE OF EAST STREET/EAST ROAD BRIDGE &
FORT MILLER ROAD BRIDGE OVER CHAMPLAIN CANAL**

WHEREAS, the Town Board (the “Board”) of the Town of Fort Edward (the “Town”) is in receipt of a letter directed to the Village of Fort Edward dated April 21, 2016 from the New York State Department of Transportation discussing a proposal from DOT to consider the closure of the existing bridge across the NYS Champlain Canal connecting East Street and East Road in the Village and Towns of Fort Edward; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has also been advised that the New York State Department of Transportation is discussing a proposal to close the Fort Miller Road Bridge which connects North River Road and New York State Route 4; and

WHEREAS, the DOT noted that the potential cost to rehabilitate the East Street bridge could be \$4 million, with replacement upwards of \$7 million; and

WHEREAS, the DOT noted that traffic studies for the East Street Bridge supporting closure showed around 702 average annual daily trips (AADT), which DOT believes could have been influenced by the GE dewatering facility; and

WHEREAS, the Board does not agree that the traffic figures for the East Street Bridge are significantly impacted by the dewatering facility as the access to that facility is not generally off East Street, rather it is accessed via an access road through the Town of Kingsbury and Fort Edward west of the canal; and

WHEREAS, what DOT did not note is that this East Street bridge serves a local business known as Wedgewood Golf Course and also numerous residences along East Road; and

WHEREAS, the East Street bridge also provides emergency access to the properties on the east side of the bridge along East Road which would be negatively impacted by the significantly increased travel distance and response time for emergency medical services and fire services; and

WHEREAS, though the Board can understand the significant costs associated with maintaining these bridges, there is no reasonable connection to the properties on East Road that will be negatively impacted by the proposed closure. Properties located East of the Champlain Canal will have to travel out East Road and either proceed East or West, adding by measurement anywhere from 5-10 minutes, to upwards of 20 minutes or more, to access the Town and Village of Fort Edward; and

WHEREAS, the loss of connection between the East and West sides of the Champlain Canal will have a significant impact to the Town and the residents of the Town; and

WHEREAS residents of the Town of Fort Edward use the Fort Miller Road Bridge to connect New York State Route 4 and North River Road.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby voices its opposition to the removal or abandonment of the bridge across the Champlain Canal connecting East Street and East Road; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby voices its opposition to the removal or abandonment of the bridge across the Champlain Canal in Fort Miller over Fort Miller Road; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board supports the rehabilitation and if needed, replacement by the DOT of the bridge across the Champlain Canal connecting East Street and East Road and the Fort Miller Road Bridge; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Supervisor Suprenant: Met with NYSDOT, the mayor and the fire chief regarding the closure of the East St. Bridge. We have a better chance of keeping the East St. Bridge open than the Fort Miller Bridge. The decision has not yet been made and will not happen overnight. We gave them several reasons to keep them open. The Fort Miller Rd. Bridge cannot be traveled by firetruck anyway but is part of our Champlain Canalway trail, the most scenic part.

Neal: Can we do a resolution for the Hudson-Hoosic Rivers Partnership?

BUSINESS:

Supervisor Suprenant: Our Annual Report is complete and our accounts are in good shape and the Annual Report is available in the Town Clerks Office

Dan Shaw: Town of Easton Supervisor in regards to the GE staging area becoming a boat launch: The 8.04 acre site is to be decommissioned in 2016 and I would like to propose that it be turned into a boat launch.

Councilman Middleton: Have you asked GE to donate it?

Dan Shaw: I have spoken to GE and they are excited about it

Councilman Middleton: I asked GE 6 years ago to donate it to the Town, I live 2 houses down and the only downfall I see to it is that there is a PCB dump right there due to the dredging.

Dan Shaw: That would all have to be part of the feasibility study.

Darlene DeVoe: Who would own it?

Dan Shaw: The County most likely

Darlene DeVoe: The Bradley Beach project is our boat launch project

Supervisor Suprenant: I can't see the County going for this

Councilman Middleton: If the County was interested I would like to see something more than a boat launch there.

Supervisor Suprenant: Has anyone talked with you about the contamination at the flood plain level?

BOARD: The Town Board is not behind the project; don't bring the Town of Fort Edward into any of your discussions going forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debbie Parker: Gave approval to a company to look at a solar farm, we have been informed that the Town has a moratorium for 6 months on solar, why?

Supervisor Suprenant: We are looking at regulations, the moratorium may not be a full 6 months it depends on when we get our regulations done. Make sure that your attorney looks at the lease agreement from the solar company.

Richard Belden: 84 Perkins Drive Dog Complaint, barking dog

Brian Brockway: We had a break in at the highway garage, the kids that broke in were on the computer on pornographic websites and I just want it documented. The kids have been arrested and petitioned to probation.

Supervisor Suprenant: We have to re-do our fee schedule, remodeling commercially needs to be added to the fee schedule. Stewarts came in for a remodel and it cost the same as new construction and if we do change it Stewarts should be refunded.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Orsini to set a workshop Public Hearing for the review of the fee schedule change for the July 11th meeting at 6:45pm **ALL AYES**

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Orsini to go into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters at 8:03pm **ALL AYES**

MOTION by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilman Mercier to come out of executive session at 8:51pm **ALL AYES**

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Fisher, Seconded by Councilman Mercier to adjourn the meeting at 8:55PM **ALL AYES**

DATED: June 16, 2016

Aimee Mahoney, Town Clerk

