

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD TOWN BOARD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025 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 Middleton
Councilwoman Collier
Councilman Suprenant
Councilwoman Mullen

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Davie, Brian Brockway, Richard Belden, Elizabeth O’Leary, Kyle Cozzens, Rick Fisher, Chuck Bump, Rob Martin, Katie DeGroot, Therese Gillis and Town Clerk Aimee Ives

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilwoman Collier, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 18, 2025 **ALL AYES**

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve Abstract #3 in the amount of \$50,028.74 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #3

GENERAL A – 13159-13167,13173-13190	\$ 9,254.76
GENERAL B – 13191	\$ 618.75
HIGHWAY – 13192-13197	\$19,499.50
MUNICIPAL – 13198-13203	\$ 4,989.39
SPECIAL LIGHTING – 13168	\$ 4,779.40
SPECIAL WATER – 13169-13171,13204	\$ 389.57
SPECIAL WATER 2 – 13172,13205	\$10,497.37

TOTAL: \$50,028.74

Supervisor Fisher: I would like to thank the Highway crew for their efforts this winter in keeping the roads clear.

BUSINESS:

**Keystone Novelties
Fireworks Sales
Peddling & Soliciting Permit Application**

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to approve the 6-month peddling/soliciting permit for Keystone Novelties to sell fireworks at Broadway Lanes, permit expiring 9/30/2025 **ALL AYES**

Hour Electric Quote

Supervisor Fisher: We received a quote from Hour Electric for upgrade of the main electrical panel at 118 Broadway as well as to update the wiring in the basement. The Quote to upgrade the panel is \$5,186.27 and the quote to upgrade the wiring is \$5,564.13.

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to accept the quotes from Hour Electric for both the upgrade to the electrical panel and the upgraded wiring throughout the basement **ALL AYES**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Supervisor Fisher: David Earsing submitted a parade update and flyer with a schedule of events taking place on September 13th at the Founders Day Festival. He is still looking for volunteers as well.

Supervisor Fisher: We received a letter from Mary Clear who resides in the Town of Moreau in favor of a moratorium on PFA's related facilities. The Village is working on this, and I believe this letter may have been meant for the Village not the Town.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway:

- I have been working on getting pricing for sweeping, so far, I have one for \$250/hr. and one for \$175/hr.

Councilman Suprenant: Go with the lowest price.

Brian Brockway:

- I need to get the trailer ordered that the Board previously approved for the lawnmowers, I will work on getting quotes.
- It has been 6 weeks since I ordered salt and still haven't heard anything. We have around 30 ton left.

Supervisor Fisher: I received an email from Katie DeGroot regarding Code Red and Civics Plus to aid the Town in doing a mass email notification system.

Supervisor Fisher: I mentioned this at the County, and they are willing to help us with this if we can get our Town emails changed over to (.gov) emails.

Councilman Suprenant: I wasn't at the meeting last month and I saw that a letter was sent out to DEC after that meeting in regard to ESMI. I have an issue with that because the letter is requesting stuff that happened 10 plus years ago, what the permitting process is and whether or not there were any public hearings. It says their permit now is only for soil contamination, but I know that in 2015 they put an addendum into their permit to be able to process PCB soil up to certain parts per billion and I did not see anything in the minutes authorizing the letter to be sent without the Board reviewing it. I think people are coming after ESMI for no reason at all due to the PFA issue. It has been said that they are storing contaminated soil outside the building leading to run-off and pollution and that is not true. Rob Martin is here and can tell you that everything that goes through is regulated by DEC and anything brought in has to go inside the building and when it gets burned, they can stockpile it in 2 places where it comes out of the conveyor belt or on property in the Town up on the hill by ESMI. None of these issues were brought about before the PFA's stuff started and now everyone is complaining they can smell it and it's burning their eyes, but they were complaining when ESMI was shut down and not burning. The letter is out there, and I am totally against the letter.

Katie DeGroot: I totally disagree with you, PFA's is an issue. I didn't know that anything was going on there let alone this kind of thing. If you read about PFA's you should be seriously concerned.

Councilman Suprenant: This is a 2-week program that they want to do and it hasn't been approved yet by DEC.

Rob Martin: I am with Clean Earth and if you go to the Washington County website and look at the flood plain maps for Fort Edward you will notice that the properties that are labeled ESMI are not in the flood plain. Same thing on the FEMA website.

Katie DeGroot: You have people that disagree with you?

Rob Martin: I would ask those people to review the information on the County website. Also, PCB's have been part of the permit since it's inception.

Katie DeGroot: Yes, but PFA's is new correct?

Rob Martin: Correct, that is why there is a CP-29 Policy because it is a research permit.

Katie DeGroot: If the experiment works, would you start doing it there regularly?

Rob Martin: Yes

Katie DeGroot: ESMI is only worried about making money from burning a horrible substance and then putting it in fertilizer and on farmland.

Rob Martin: Clean Earth does not produce Biochar and does not sell it as fertilizer. We treat soil for beneficial use determination. Our material that comes out of the drum is sterile soil.

Councilman Suprenant: If you read the letter, it was going back years ago saying that they didn't have the proper permit, it's in a flood plain, etc. and it's not true.

Councilman Suprenant: I think from now on when we do the MS4 report we should go out to bid. We used to pay around \$3,600.00 for it and this year it is almost \$16,000.00.

Brian Brockway: I have been telling the Board to budget for it because the State keeps saying that its going to get more costly and this is just step 1 of the new process they are talking about doing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rick Fisher: Last Fall when Peckham was done paving the road on Burgoyne Ave., they laid soil down in the sides of the road and if you ride up there you will see where anyone that goes off the road up there creates a huge rut. The stuff they put down is at best compost mixed with sand. It needs to be taken out.

Supervisor Fisher: I will speak with Deb Donohue at the County DPW.

Rick Fisher: Any update on the trailer on Burgoyne?

Supervisor Fisher: Matt French has sent them a letter; I will ask him for an update.

Kyle Cozzens: I received an update from Canal Corp. and they will be working through May 15th.

Katie DeGroot: I am making a request that the street sweeping on DeGroot Rd. be done on a damp day or we get a 24 hour heads up before they are coming.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: March 13, 2025

Aimee Ives, Town Clerk

