

The Town of Forestburgh Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 4, 2024**, at the town hall.

Supervisor Hogue called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call – Present – Daniel S. Hogue, Jr., Supervisor
Karen Ellsweig, Councilperson
Steve Budofsky, Councilperson
Susan Parks-Landis, Councilperson
Vincent C. Galligan, Jr., Councilperson

Recording Secretary – Teresa Collins, Town Clerk
Troy Johnstone, Esq. – Attorney for the town
Others Present – Richard Robbins, Planning Board Chair

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Miller - Dear board members, supervisor, it pains me to once again address a double standard by employees by the town. I have expressed months the minutes consistently failed to accurately reflect my comments compared to those of others. However, when I submitted a letter addressing this issue, the supervisor instructed the clerk to place it at the bottom of the pile upside down. subsequently a newly craft argument emerged that it's not considered correspondence since it was received after hours. Allow me to remind you that about a year ago you encouraged Hartwood club board member Justin Evans and Jerome Day to submit letters after the meeting had started criticizing Lost Lake. To remind you about Evans he emailed you Mr. supervisor and Mr. Evans and the chair of the ZBA expressing concerns about our religious group buying up the project forming a religious voting block community that subsequently community is wrecked forever. Evans stated in the e-mail that the worst-case thesis of his Hartwood friends includes the possibility that a religious group buys up hundreds of parcels. Previously neither of you had any issue with receiving these letters after business hours in these cases. These letters were written for the record and included in the minutes exclusion of my letter is not only shameful but also runs contrary to the town's own resolutions of past practices.

MINUTES – December 7, 2023, Meeting, December 20, 2023, Emergency Meeting and December 28,2023, Year End Minutes

MOTION by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky, to approve December 7, December 20 and December 28 minutes.

Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS - #246-251 in the sum of \$2,675.15 as set forth in abstract #14 of 2023 were audited for payment. MOTION by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky to pay the General Fund Vouchers. Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS - #127 in the sum of \$2,352.84 as set forth in abstract #14 of 2023 were reviewed. MOTION by Councilperson Ellsweig, seconded by Councilperson Landis to accept the highway fund vouchers. Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

ESCROW FUND VOUCHERS – # 6 in the sum of \$660.00 as set forth in abstract #1 were reviewed. MOTION by Councilperson Budofsky, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig to accept Escrow vouchers. Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Dear Town Board Members,

I am writing to express my ongoing concerns once again regarding the accuracy and completeness of the meeting minutes.

Regrettably, the minutes fail to accurately capture my comments and, in some instances, selectively censor them. For instance, during the public hearing on 9/27/23, an almost verbatim quote of Richard Robbins was included, while my way more extensive comments and discussion with the Supervisor were not.

Furthermore, another example is the minutes of the 11/2/23 meeting that do not adequately or accurately reflect my comments, which covered substantial issues related to both process and substance, including concerns about the budget and the premature closure of the public hearing of the Zoning.

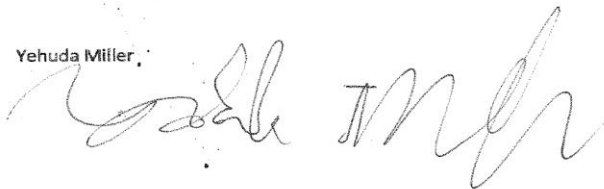
Notably, the minutes incorrectly state that questions and comments on the budget were answered, when, in fact, no answers were provided at all.

Additionally, my comments regarding violations of the Open Meetings Law and errors in the resolution, which led to a correction, are also omitted from the minutes. The minutes also do not include the appendices of the resolution.

I kindly urge you to ensure that the minutes are accurate, comprehensive, and aligned with the town's priorly established procedures, resolutions, and practices, as well as in compliance with state law. The current state of the minutes does not meet these standards.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yehuda Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yehuda Miller', is written over the typed name.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

EMS Contract- Supervisor Hogue motion to table for next month pending further research such as the legislature and the initial contact.

Volunteer Fire department property tax exemption- Motion by supervisor Hogue to have a joined public hearing for local law 1, 2024 with the Forestburgh Town Board and the Forestburgh Fire Dept on February 1, 2024, at 6 P.M. Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

Permit Application fees- Motion for the following permits

Home Business - \$500 per business per address

MOTION by Supervisor Hogue, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig

Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

Short Term Rental - \$2000 per unit annually

MOTION by Councilperson Budofsky, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig

Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

Clearing Cutting -\$250

MOTION by Councilperson Galligan, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig

Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

Sign - \$250

MOTION by Councilperson Galligan, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig

Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

New Tax lookup website - *sullivancounty.totalcollectionsolution.com user forestburghpublic password public*

Fuel/Gas /Oil Bid – Motion for bid opening date January 25,2024 at 2 p.m.at town clerk office

Lifeguards – To reimburse lifeguard training.

Motion by Supervisor Hogue, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky to reimburse lifeguards at the end of the season should they fulfill their terms of contract.

REPORTS – BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

VACANCIES – We are currently still looking for a ZBA Secretary

Planning Board – One item for application for solar facility. Public hearing for 22 Mile North. A public hearing will occur in our January meeting, presuming they finish submitting the materials that are due by January 8th.

Fire Department -113 calls for 2023.

**Town of Forestburgh Highway Dept.
HIGHWAY REPORT FOR January
Highway Superintendent,**

January 4th 2024

Members of the Town Board

Winter -Town Residents

**Winter is here we will be getting snow starting Saturday 7:00 pm – Sunday 9:00 pm please
don't park on the road or leave your garbage cans on the road there is sand at the town barn
if you don't have to travel please don't**

Thank you,


**Joseph Ruggeri
Highway Superintendent**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by Supervisor Hogue, second Councilperson Landis to enter executive session for tax certiorari and invite attorney Troy Johnstone at 7:16 p.m.

Enter executive session at 7:23pm.

Councilperson Budofsky motion to come out of executive session, second by Karen Ellsweig.

Motion made by Councilperson Ellsweig for resolution second by Councilperson Budofsky.

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION to adjourn by Councilwoman Landis at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Collins,
Town Clerk