

*******DRAFT*******

PUBLIC HEARING UPON

2025 BUDGET

November 7, 2024

Supervisor Hogue called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m.

Roll Call: Present – Daniel S. Hogue, Jr., Supervisor
Karen Ellsweig, Councilperson
Steven Budofsky, Councilperson
Susan Parks Landis, Councilperson

Absent – Vincent Galligan, Councilperson

Recording Secretary – Teresa Collins, Town Clerk

Present – Troy Johnstone, Attorney for the Town
Richard Robbins, Planning Board Chair

2025 BUDGET – Public hearing held for the 2025 Budget, questions and comments on the budget were answered with regard to the budget.

MOTION by Councilperson Budofsky, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig to adopt the preliminary budget as presented, as the budget for the Town of Forestburgh for fiscal year 2025.

Vote: 4 ayes –0 nays. Motion carried.

MOTION by Supervisor Hogue to close the public hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Collins
Town Clerk

*******DRAFT*******

The Town of Forestburgh Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, November 7, 2024**, at the town hall.

Supervisor Hogue called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Roll Call: Present – Daniel S. Hogue, Jr., Supervisor
Karen Ellsweig, Councilperson
Steven Budofsky, Councilperson
Susan Parks Landis, Councilperson

Absent – Vincent Galligan, Councilperson

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

MINUTES – October 2024, Budget Workshop and regular board meeting minutes are acknowledged receipt. **MOTION** by Councilperson Budofsky, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig. Councilperson Landis Abstain. Vote: 3 ayes – 1 nay. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS - #185 –202 in the sum of \$226,838.88 as set forth in abstract #9 of 2024 were audited for payment. **MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky to pay the General Fund Vouchers. Vote: 4 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS - #64-74 in the sum of \$6,912.01 as set forth in abstract #8 of 2024 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Councilperson Ellsweig, seconded by Councilperson Landis to accept the highway fund vouchers. Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

ESCROW FUNDS VOUCHERS- #16 in the sum of \$165.00 as set forth in abstract #6 of 2024 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig accept the escrow funds vouchers. Vote: 4 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

911 Numbering- will be table for next month.

2025 Budget - Motion to adopt the 2025 preliminary budget as the 2025 adopted Budget.

MOTION by Councilperson Ellsweig, seconded by Councilperson Landis.

Vote: 4 ayes 0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

House of worship (presentation by Yahuda Miller)

Mr. Miller – The issue is, we would like to defend the rights of places of worship to exist without unjustified, unreasonable and burdensome or unnecessary restriction. Everybody knows how these restrictions come about. A place of worship as you know is basically handed down to this board by the zoning committee that was appointed by this board and was adopted as is the law of the land right now here at forestburgh. Which has very problematic zoning with regards to places of worship. To say that there is a problem, on the contrary there were dozens and dozens. To address that I asked for a work session where this could be discussed. I asked for a work session to be set up engaging with the community. There is no public comment that was entertained, and it was shut down and table. Now let me address the claim that was raised. Local Law 2 2024 trying to solve the problem. It's going to make an easier view to make the place of worship, to establish a place of worship and you be able to live in the Town of Forestburgh. Let me tell you why that is not correct and not true. Local Law 2 as you are all well aware doesn't go back to what it was before Local Law 3 2023. The biggest problem that was raised are still there. Local Law 2 double the size of place of worship in all residential areas. In the comprehensive plan from this town. The town actually complains that we don't have a place of worship. The last place of worship closed down. Now what is the problem? Now central places of worship naturally would be in a commercial district in the central area and that will mostly be used on weekdays where people drive.

Supervisor Hogue – When the board looks at these issues they don't focus on one religion. Our job is to focus on all religions. It would be discriminatory to only look at one religion. So, we look at all religions and their use. You had over 35 to 40 people who spoke against Local Law #2. I think there was a misunderstanding about maybe you and them on what we were trying to attempt. The laws were actually to ease restrictions. According to the attorney general letter that this town board has received asking us to do exactly what local law #2. So, when you say it's flawed is it possible that the attorney general opinion was flawed too.

Mr. Miller – The attorney general didn't ask you to maintain 5 acres residential area.

Supervisor Hogue – They said the flaw part was in the business district and that should be reduced. We agreed with that, and we were trying to address that. The five acres was never addressed by the attorney general or anywhere else. We have to look at all religions and we try

to do that, and I realize that some people walk to their houses of worship. But then there are other things such as weddings, funerals and community events which require large lots and parking and setbacks and such. We don't have infrastructure in this town, roads, sidewalks, water and sewers. That was the concern that we are thinking of when looking at places that have a potential for large uses. The town board tried to pass local Law#2 which reduces the setbacks and uses acreage in the business districts. Because we feel that was appropriate and right. When we heard 35 to 37 comments opposed to local law#2, we said if so, many people are opposed to it. We're not going to do it. We didn't hear one comment in favor of it. So that is why we decided to take it off.

Mr. Miller – the total opposition of local law #2 maintains the five acre requirement.

Supervisor Hogue- Local Law #2 did not create 5 acres. It was already pre-approved months ago. That law was passed. I didn't hear 40 comments saying anything about that. You may have spoken up and said this is discriminatory. You didn't give any other input.

Note: there were many comments/responses made by Mr. Miller and the Town Board on the question of five acre requirement for the house worship.

REPORTS – BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

PLANNING BOARD – Chairman Robbins- We had our regular meeting. There was one matter on the agenda. We declared ourselves leading agency and scheduled a public hearing. As far as the November meeting this is the only matter so far on the agenda.

FIRE DEPARTMENT- Good turn out on our pancake breakfast.

FORESTBURGH FIRE CO # 1

2539 State Route 42

Forestburgh, New York 12777

The annual Firehouse Santa Run will be on Sunday, December 15th. If you recently moved into town or know of a family with children 12 and under please contact Ron Geysen at 845 794-1912 so we can add them to Santa's gift list.

Town of Forestburgh
Highway Department
1401 Sackett Lake Road, Forestburgh, NY 12777
Phone (845) 794-8069 – Fax (845) 794-0360
Email: forestburghhighwaydepartment@gmail.com

November 2024 – HIGHWAY REPORT

Regular hours

We are back on regular hours Monday thru Friday 7:00 am till 3:30 pm

Roads

We will be doing more ditching around town

Mowing

We are down mowing for the year

Chips we will be receiving chips money in December talked to our representative in Albany and she told me sometime in December

Winter – we have started preparing for winter with trucks, plows and the sand shed is ready for resident use

Any question call the highway department

Happy Thanksgiving from the highway department

Thank You


Highway Superintendent

ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION – MOTION by Supervisor Hogue, second by Councilperson Landis to enter into executive session inviting Chairman Robbins for discussion on two issues one on personnel pertaining to the planning board and the second issue pertain federal lawsuit regarding Lost Lake.

Enter into executive session at 6.38 p.m.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by Supervisor Hogue to adjourn at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Collins,
Town Clerk