

**\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*\***

The Town of Forestburgh Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 6, 2025**, at the town hall.

Supervisor Hogue called the meeting 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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Mr. Miller had comments on irrelevant items on the agenda

**MINUTES** – February 2025 regular town board meeting minutes are acknowledged receipt.

**MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky.

Vote: 4 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

**GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS** - #33-57 in the sum of \$28,995.82 as set forth in abstract #3 of 2025 were audited for payment. **MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky to pay the General Fund Vouchers 2025. Vote: 4 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS** - #20-37 in the sum of \$48,144.91 as set forth in abstract #3 of 2025 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Councilperson Ellsweig, seconded by Councilperson Landis, to accept the Highway Fund Vouchers 2025. Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**911 Numbering** – No update.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ARPA Funds** – Government COVID funds, according to the town accountant Cooper Arias funds can be used for the benefit of the town residents. The accountant suggests that the remaining \$34,934 can be used for the town tax certiorari for 2024. **MOTION** by Supervisor Hogue, seconded by Councilperson Budofsky to use the ARPA funds for the purpose of replenishing the tax certiorari for 2024. Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.



Ann-Marie Foss  
District Clerk  
afoss@k12mcsd.net

**Monticello Central School District**

60 Jefferson Street, Suite 3, Monticello, NY 12701  
TEL: 845-794-7700 FAX: 845-794-7710  
[www.monticelloschools.net](http://www.monticelloschools.net)

Matthew T. Evans, Ed. D., *Superintendent of Schools*  
Timothy Crumley, *President - Board of Education*  
Lisa Failla, *Asst. Superintendent for Business*  
Theresa Carlin, *Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction*

March 4, 2025

Ms. Teresa Collins  
Town of Forestburgh, Town Hall  
P.O. Box 114  
Forestburgh, NY 12777

Dear Ms. Collins:

The Monticello Central School District requests the use of the Town Hall for our upcoming Annual Meeting and Election, which will be held on May 20, 2025. The polls will be open from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. In addition, we request the use of the Town Hall for personal registration on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please inform me if the Town Hall is available. I can be reached at 845-794-7700, ext. 70523.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ann-Marie Foss', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ann-Marie Foss  
District Clerk

**MOTION** by Supervisor Hogue, seconded by Councilperson Landis to allow the Monticello School District to use the town hall on May 6 and May 20, 2025, for the purpose of their Annual meeting and Election. Vote: 4 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

## REPORTS – BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

### **Councilperson Steve Budofsky -**

#### NYS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION UPDATED FRESHWATER WETLAND REGULATIONS 2025

Recognizing the importance of freshwater wetlands, the DEC has updated their regulations to provide for increased protection. These updates to the Freshwater Wetlands Act will protect an estimated one million additional acres of sensitive wetland habitat. Small wetlands of “unusual importance” will be regulated if they meet even one of the 11 newly established criteria. The default size threshold is also scheduled to decrease from 12.4 acres to only 7.4 acres.

There are multiple species identified by the DEC which are classified as “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” which inhabit or frequent wetland areas. Many of those species have been observed in Forestburgh. Among them are:

Snapping turtle

Wood turtle

Multiple varieties of dragonflies and damselflies

Multiple varieties of salamanders

Brook trout

Smooth greensnake

Timber rattlesnake

American woodcock

Scarlet tanager

Red headed woodpecker

American kestrel

Peregrine falcon

Red shouldered hawk

Barn owl

American black duck

And of course the American bald eagle

The DEC identifies a number of primary threats to valuable freshwater wetland habitat which include residential and commercial development as well as human activity which results in environmental disturbance.

In light of the new regulations, it's important to note that Section IV of our Comprehensive Plan includes the recommended action to "protect important wildlife habitats, such as trout streams; protect endangered and threatened species, especially the bald eagle and rattlesnake; and protect wetlands, pursuant to DEC regulations."

My fellow board members are to be commended for having the foresight, and then demonstrating by their actions, a strong commitment to protecting and preserving the rural character, natural resources, wildlife, wetlands and other sensitive areas of which there are many within the borders of our town.

The updated DEC regulations will undoubtedly support and assist our continued efforts to protect the valuable natural environment in Forestburgh.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Budofsky

Council Member Forestburgh Town Board

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Councilperson Karen Ellsweig** – The town received a reimbursement check under our DASNY grant for \$28,426 for townhall roof. The

outstanding balance of \$96,574 will be used for the two generators and for the outdoor gazebo within now until May of 2026.

**PLANNING BOARD – Chairperson Robbins-** February meeting there were several items. Trip2Wins application for a special use permit and site plan approval. A public hearing on the application was scheduled for the next meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Sketch plan review for the property Another Sky Campground group. Lot line revision application from Lake Joseph will be expected for our next meeting.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT –** Corned beef dinner on March 15, 2025, 4 to 7pm.

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

**March 4th 2025**

Winter

Winter is still around we have had major snow in March, and April so call the highway for sand

Roads

As the weather starts getting mild I will be checking roads for potholes and ditch work also the cutting back of brush

Asphalt plant open in April around the 15<sup>th</sup> , mowing season will be upon us soon

Happy St Patricks Day

Hwy Dept

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** – MOTION by Supervisor Hogue to enter into executive session for discussion pertaining to the actions of a certain person in a certain department at 6.22 pm.

No action taken.

**ADJOURNMENT** – MOTION by Councilperson Ellsweig to adjourn at 7.22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Collins,  
Town Clerk