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

The Town of Forestburgh Town Board held their regular monthly meeting on **Thursday, October 1, 2026,** at the town hall.

Supervisor Hogue called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Present – Daniel S. Hogue, Jr., Supervisor
Vincent Galligan, Councilperson
Susan Parks Landis, Councilperson
Robert Sipos, Councilperson
Karen Ellsweig, Councilperson

Absent Troy Johnstone, Attorney for the Town

Recording Secretary Teresa Collins, Town Clerk

MINUTES – September 3, 2026, regular town board meeting minutes are acknowledged receipt. **MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig. Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND VOUCHERS - #180-197 in the sum of $11,816.81 as set forth in abstract #11 of 2026 were audited for payment. **MOTION** by Councilperson Landis, seconded by Councilperson Sipos to pay for the General Fund Vouchers 2026. Vote: 5 ayes – 0 nay. Motion carried

HIGHWAY FUND VOUCHERS - #108-111 in the sum of $1,789.62 as set forth in abstract #9 of 2026 were reviewed. **MOTION** by Councilperson Galligan, seconded by Councilperson Ellsweig, to accept Highway Fund Vouchers 2026. Vote: 5 ayes - 0 nays. Motion carried.

ESCROW FUND VOUCHERS – None

CORRESPONDENCE –

09/25/2026

Town Board

Town of Forestburgh
322 King Rd, Forestburgh, NY 12777
By: Electronic Mail

Dear Members of the Town Board:

While I generally refrain from commenting on litigation, I believe it is necessary in this instance to set the record straight regarding the memo recently posted on the Town's website and included in the Town newsletter concerning the double-digit tax increase.

The memo is incomplete and, in material respects, inaccurate. It does not fully or fairly describe the decisions made by the Town that contributed to the current financial burden on taxpayers.

Lost Lake was grossly over-assessed, as was repeatedly confirmed by the courts. After Lost Lake obtained summary judgment, and it became clear that the Town and County faced tens of millions of dollars in reduced assessed values, I personally reached out to then-Board Member and Deputy Supervisor Budofsky to discuss the possibility of settlement. That outreach was rejected.

Instead, the Town pursued a path that added further costs. It appealed to the Appellate Division and lost, then sought leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals and lost there as well. The Town was required to pay Lost Lake's costs by Court of Appeals, further increasing the burden on taxpayers.

Notably, Lost Lake was the only case the Town chose to litigate rather than settle, in contrast to the approach taken with Hartwood and Merriewold Club. These were deliberate decisions by the Town, and they carried significant financial consequences for residents.

Throughout this process, the Board never discussed these matters publicly. Mr. Budofsky himself recently sold his home and left the Town, again without saying a word at a Board meeting. That history is relevant because the current memo continues the pattern of presenting residents with an incomplete picture of how the Town arrived at its present financial position.

Now that taxpayers are bearing the costs of these decisions, the Town has an obligation to be candid. A vague memo does not provide the full or accurate explanation residents deserve. The Board should provide the public with a complete account, including the Town's decisions refusing to discuss settlement, the subsequent appeals, the costs incurred, and the resulting financial impact on taxpayers. Residents deserve to know not only the size of the tax increase, but how and why the Town reached this point.

Sincerely,

Yehuda Miller

OLD BUSINESS

Highway Diesel Fuel Tank- Supervisor Hogue-public bid for the diesel Fuel tank for the town highway dept was submitted twice and no response. I asked the town clerk to contact our town attorney to see what the next course of action the town can take.

2027 Budget – Supervisor Hogue – I ask the board to go thru and review the 2027 tentative budget that is in their folder for the October 14 budget workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution – Supervisor Hogue- What this is, it's for the federal government FEMA comes up with hazard mitigation grants or monies, this would make us eligible. We have to adopt this before we're eligible for any hazard mitigation funding. **Councilperson Ellsweig-** I went through and I was looking specifically for Forestburgh what local actions they have for us. Nothing stuck out as being surprising. Lots of flooding on streets, evacuation routes. They also have a bunch of stuff in there about mitigation for dam rehab and I would think it would be in our best interest to approve this because we can get monies to do any of this. **Supervisor Hogue** – They typically meet with highway superintendents and town supervisors of every town. They talk about what the hazards of your town. Our hazards are storms with trees blowing down, ice storms, loss of electricity for long lengths of time for residents around town. The big one that tends to be a lot of money is the flooding. This is a countrywide thing that they do because it's a FEMA program. Flooding is the biggest hazard, and our town could get money for it. That doesn't necessarily mean the Town of Forestburgh because we don't own any dams. We do have many dams around in the Town of Forestburgh, some owned by power companies, and a lot of private little dams on private little lakes. So possibly this would even open it up to private places, getting grants to rehabilitate stuff.

TOWN OF FORESTBURGH, NEW YORK

RESOLUTION NO. 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FORESTBURGH ADOPTING THE 2026 SULLIVAN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Board recognizes the threat that hazards pose to people and property within Town of Forestburgh; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Forestburgh has prepared a multi-hazard mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2026 Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, 2026 Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Town of Forestburgh from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by the Town Board demonstrates their commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2026 Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town of Forestburgh, New York, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with local rule for adopting resolutions, the Town Board adopts the 2026 Sullivan County Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan, approved by the community, may be edited or amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in 5 years.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote roll call, as follows:

ROLL CALL VOTE

Supervisor Hogue	Aye
Councilperson Ellsweig	Aye
Councilperson Lanis	Aye
Councilperson Galligan	Aye
Councilperson Sipos	Aye

Adopted by the Town of Forestburgh Town Board on the 1st day of October 2026

The resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

TOWN CLERK CERTIFCATION

I, the undersigned Town Clerk of the Town of Forestburgh, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board at its meeting held on the 1st day of October 2026, and that the same is true and correct transcript therefrom.

Dated: October 1st, 2026

Forestburgh, New York

Teresa Collins, Town Clerk

Deputy Building Inspector- The board agrees that they would like to see the credentials of the new deputy building inspector before motion of appointment.

REPORTS – BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

PLANNING BOARD- Chairman Robbins- we did not have a September regular meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT- we had a very successful roast beef dinner. We are having our breakfast on October 10.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION – MOTION by Supervisor Hogue, to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss the union contract.

Enter into executive session at 6:31 pm

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT – MOTION by Councilperson Galligan, second by Councilperson Sipos to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Collins, Town Clerk