

Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, December 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Traver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustee Williams, Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Boucher, Trustee Cutler
Absent:

Present: Larry Clute, Dave Earsing, Jeff Caprood, Lisa Carpenter, Blaine Carpenter, John Myers

Approval of November minutes

Motion by: Trustee Williams
Seconded by: Trustee Cutler
Dated: December 1, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Reports - Clerk, Code, Street, Water

Motion by: Trustee Carpenter
Seconded by: Trustee Williams
Dated: December 1, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Abstract #7

General Abstract - \$26,566.19	Water Abstract - \$4,957.70
Pay Before - \$12,329.08	Pay before - \$969.75

Motioned by: Trustee Carpenter
Seconded by: Trustee Boucher
Dated: December 1, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meeting covered a range of municipal topics, including approval of previous minutes and financial reports, highway work permits, snow and ice control agreements, and significant discussions on property development and zoning changes. Additional sessions focused on housing development concepts, water project updates, community sports initiatives, equipment budgeting, bike trail restoration, parade planning, and administrative matters such as parking enforcement and demolition projects. Key decisions included authorizing permits, budgeting for equipment, and outlining next steps for development proposals and community events.

New Business

Highway Work Permit

- Resolution 19 was passed to authorize the DPW superintendent to execute necessary documents for the annual highway work permit with New York State.
- This permit allows the village to conduct work within state right-of-ways.

RESOLUTION # 19 of 2025-2026

Renewal of the 2025 Annual Highway Work Permit between the Village of Fort Edward and the NYS Department of Transportation

Motion by: Trustee Cutler

Seconded by: Trustee Williams

Dated: December 1, 2025

WHEREAS, the Village of Fort Edward is a municipality in New York and from time to time, the Village Street Department may need to conduct activities and operations upon highways and/or within right-of-ways controlled by the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, as detailed on Perm 1, the State of New York requires municipalities to execute an Undertaking (entitled “UNDERTAKING for the benefit of The New York State Department of Transportation In Connection with Work Affecting State Highways”) once every twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, the Undertaking was executed on May 1, 2017 via resolution #80 of 2016-2017 and according to NYS DOT standards the Undertaking will not need to be renewed until May 1, 2027; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees authorizes Bryan Etu, DPW Superintendent, to execute the required PERM 1 forms and any other documents pertaining to said renewal.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Snow and Ice Control Program

- Resolution 20 was approved to enter into an agreement with Washington County for participation in the state snow and ice control program for the 2025-2026 winter seasons.
- The village will be reimbursed for snow removal on Route 4.

RESOLUTION # 20 of 2025-2026

State Snow & Ice Control Program

Motion by: Trustee Carpenter

Seconded by: Trustee Boucher

Dated: December 1, 2025

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby enter into an agreement with Washington County for participation in the State Snow and Ice Control Program for the 2025-2026 winter season and authorizes the Superintendent of Public Works to execute documents pertaining to same.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Discussion on Property Development by Larry Clute

Larry Clute presented preliminary ideas for developing a property known as the old Williams farm, suggesting multi-unit housing options. The property consists of 50 acres, with 30 acres deemed manageable for development.

a. Zoning Change Considerations

The current zoning is residential R1, and discussions included the potential for changing it to R2 to allow for higher density housing.

Concerns were raised about the impact on existing single-family homeowners and the process required for any zoning changes.

b. Next Steps for Development Proposal

The board agreed to table the discussion for further consideration and to allow time for feedback on the proposed development.

Future meetings will include discussions on the zoning change process and community input regarding the development.

c. Housing Development Discussion

Ethan suggested a preliminary concept for a housing project that could include a building with apartments to address community needs. Feedback is needed to refine the design, with Ethan and Matt responsible for incorporating recommendations into the plans.

Water Project Update

The water project is currently out to bid, with results expected next Thursday. Moon Street paving is complete, but tree stump removal needs to be addressed, with discussions on budgeting for equipment or rental options.

Knox Trail Parade Planning

The Knox Trail parade is scheduled for the 13th at 9 AM, with a lineup confirmed by county officials. Churches along the route will ring bells, and participants will gather for lunch at Fort Miller after the parade.

Community Sports Initiatives

Members of the Four Every Baseball League Board introduced themselves and discussed plans for early registration to boost participation.

The board aims to improve youth engagement in sports by offering open gyms and revising sponsorship strategies.

Stump Grinding Options

A quote for stump grinding was received at \$175 per stump, totaling nearly \$9,000 for approximately 50 stumps. It was suggested that purchasing a towable stump grinder for around \$15,000 could be a more cost-effective solution for ongoing maintenance.

a. Equipment Purchase Discussion

The maintenance issues with stump grinders were discussed, emphasizing the need for a stump grinder instead of renting equipment.

The current budget is tight, and there is a need to plan for equipment purchases in the upcoming budget review in mid-January.

Bike Trail Restoration Update

Kiewit has begun a second restoration of the bike trail to address grading and erosion issues identified in previous work.

The restoration is expected to take about four weeks, with improvements aimed at making the trail level with the surrounding land.

Memorial Day Parade Planning

The American Legion has moved the Memorial Day parade to September 12th for the Founders Day Parade, which will be veteran-themed.

Organizers are seeking points of contact for various military branches to participate in the parade and honor veterans.

Budget Utilization for Seed Purchase

There is a remaining budget of \$415 that needs to be spent by December 8th, with suggestions to purchase seed for spring planting.

The group agreed to obtain three quotes for the seed purchase to comply with budget requirements.

Demolition Project Discussion

The demolition of properties is pending until asbestos issues are resolved, with discussions on potentially completing some work in-house to save costs.

The group is considering using fill material from other projects to reduce expenses related to the demolition.

Parking Ticket Enforcement

The board discussed the possibility of transitioning parking tickets from a criminal to a civil violation system to streamline enforcement.

Concerns were raised about the administrative burden and the need for proper legal documentation to support the enforcement process.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee **Carpenter**, seconded by Trustee **Boucher**.

All ayes. Motion carried.