

Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, February 2, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Roll Call: Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Cutler

Absent: Trustee Williams, Trustee Boucher

Present: Matt Steves, Larry Clute, Chris Racicot, Sharon Tasker-Dalton, James Campagnone, John Mumblo, Matthew Rimkunas, Dave Earsing, Angelique Smith, Paul Guillet, Liz DaBramo

Approval of January minutes

Motion by: Trustee Carpenter

Seconded by: Trustee Cutler

Dated: February 2, 2026

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Reports - Clerk, Code, Street, Water, Sheriff

Motion by: Trustee Cutler

Seconded by: Trustee Carpenter

Dated: February 2, 2026

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Abstract #9

General Abstract total - \$121,832.59 <i>Wash County sheriff - \$96,784.00 of total above.</i> <i>LaBella EFC – \$88,302.50 - Water Project, separate from monthly abstract.</i>	Water Abstract total - \$1,958.74
Pay Before - \$89,423.21 <i>NYSLRS 2026 - \$75,179.91</i>	Pay before - \$14,555.35 <i>NYSLRS 2026 - \$11,307.09</i>

Motioned by: Trustee Carpenter

Seconded by: Trustee Cutler

Dated: February 2, 2026

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meeting covered approval of previous minutes, financial reports, awarding a water project contract, a crossing guard appointment, grant opportunities for an EV charging station, property development discussions, multi-family housing design, traffic and neighborhood impact, construction phasing, electrical contract approval, project timeline updates, grant applications for property demolition, scheduling a public hearing, street vendor permit issues, DPW staffing, and upcoming community events. Key decisions included awarding the water project to Trinity, appointing a volunteer crossing guard, moving forward with an EV charging station grant application, exploring phased construction for housing, awarding an electrical contract, bidding demolition projects separately, scheduling a public hearing, and considering enforcement for unpermitted vendors.

Outline

Water Project Bids Discussion

Bid summary for water project was discussed: VMJR (\$3,998,999 base bid) and Trinity (\$4,009,323 base bid), with Trinity offering a lower alternate bid for paving.

Decision on Water Project Contractor

Motion to hire Trinity for the entire project (base bid plus alternate for paving) was made by Trustee Cutler, seconded and approved by Trustee Carpenter. Roll call with three ayes. Motion carried.

Board discussed implications of awarding contract, and the change order presented by LaBella. Paul Guillet will review the change order in further detail to try and come up with a more reasonable cost associated with the error in missing the tank inspection all together.

RESOLUTION # 21 of 2025-2026

Resolution awarding contract and authorizing mayor to issue notice of award and notice to proceed.

Motion by: Trustee Cutler

Seconded by: Trustee Carpenter

Dated: February 2, 2026

New York State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 18458

New York State Community Development Block Grant Project No. 410PW134-23

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fort Edward previously authorized the Mayor to let bids for a drinking water project consisting of water tank replacement and booster pump improvements in the Village of Fort Edward (the "Project"); and

Whereas, bids were let and solicited in accordance with New York law; and

Whereas, bids received by the Village were opened and read aloud; and

Whereas, the Village's engineers, LaBella, have reviewed the bids and issued a Project Award Recommendation Letter dated January 27, 2026, a copy of which is attached to this resolution; and

Whereas, the Village's engineers have opined that that the lowest bidder by price was not responsive because said bidder, WMJ Keller & Sons, materially failed to comply with the bid specifications by failing to include unit prices; and

Whereas, the Village's engineers note that the determination as to who is the lowest responsible bidder depends on the Board of Trustees' determination as to whether or not to award the bid alternate work, as more fully set forth in the Project Award Recommendation Letter, a copy of which is attached to this resolution; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees offered the second and third bidders, VMJR Companies and Trinity Construction, an opportunity to be heard on the award of the bid and bid alternate no. 1; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees, having reviewed the bid recommendation and discussed the award of the bid and bid alternate no. 1 and the overall project budget, is prepared to render a determination on the award of the bid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby finds and determines that the bid submitted by WMJ Keller & Sons failed to materially comply with the bid requirements because the contractor failed to submit unit prices which then does not permit the Board of Trustees or the Village's engineers to properly review and evaluate the

bid, which unit prices were a material component of the bid and which, if disregarded, would not only waive a material requirement of the bid, but also potentially provide WMJ Keller & Sons an opportunity to unfairly weight unit prices after having seen other bidders unit prices, which could negatively impact the project budget and the taxpayers of the Village, but also would award WMJ Keller & Sons an unfair competitive advantage by allowing it to submit an incomplete bid which, if other bidders had known they could do, could have offered such bidders the same opportunity, and in any event, the failure to submit unit prices is such a substantial deviation from the bid requirements that the Board of Trustees finds it cannot waive, and the Village's engineers having alerted WMJ Keller & Sons and no objection to the rejection of their bid being made, the bid of WMJ Keller & Sons is rejected as non-responsive to the bid requirements; and be it further

Resolved, that as to the award of the bid, the Board of Trustees finds that in reviewing the two lower competing bids of VMJR Companies and Trinity Construction, the base bid amounts are roughly \$10,000 apart, whereas the bid price for alternate 1, being the construction and paving of the entrance road to the proposed replacement water tank, are roughly \$28,000 apart. Whereas the VMJR bid price for alternate 1 is \$63,000, the Trinity Construction price for alternate 1 is \$35,000, which is generally more in line with other bid prices for alternate 1 which range from \$32,000 to \$42,000. In reviewing the combined base bid and alternate 1 bid, VMJR's bid is \$4,061,999.96 and Trinity's bid is \$4,044,323.00, a difference of roughly \$18,000 +/- . Completing the construction of the entrance road for roughly \$18,000 less constitutes a good value for the taxpayers, and in reviewing the totality of both bids, and having offered the bidders the opportunity to be heard, the Board finds that awarding the combined base bid and alternate 1 bid to Trinity Construction is in the best interest of the taxpayers of the Village; and be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees awards the bid for the general construction portion of the Project to Trinity Construction in the sum of \$4,044,323.00 [including the sum of \$35,000.00 for bid Alternate No. 1] pursuant to Trinity Construction's submitted bid, and the sums totaling thereof be appropriated therefore, such award being contingent upon the receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents; and be it further

Resolved, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and issue notice of award for the Project, subject to receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents; and be it further

Resolved, that upon receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents, and approval thereof by counsel to the Village and the Village's engineers, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and issue notice to proceed for the Project; and be it further

Resolved, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to take such other further action as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Trustee Cutler – Aye
Trustee Carpenter – Aye
Mayor Traver - Aye

Crossing Guard Appointment

Trustee Carpenter volunteered as backup crossing guard during another guard's absence due to surgery. Appointment confirmed as non-paid to maintain crossing security.

RESOLUTION # 22 of 2025-2026

Mayor to appoint a back up crossing guard for Route 4

Dated: February 2, 2026

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees are seeking an alternate/back up crossing guard for the remainder of the 25-26 school season; and

WHEREAS, Ed Carpenter being a trustee for the Village of Fort Edward has expressed his interest in being a backup for Peter Amorosi, crossing guard on Route 4; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby approve Trustee Carpenter as a backup volunteer Crossing Guard. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant

Discussion on DEC grant for EV charging station, potential funding of \$2,600–\$2,800 for Grant Admin with CT Male.

Concerns about grant application difficulty; assistance offered for writing the grant.

Williams Property Development

Board feedback solicited on layout ideas for Williams's property, including proposed senior apartment buildings. Discussion included potential access points and traffic considerations.

Multi-Family Housing Design Options

Proposal includes one-story and three-story units to maximize property efficiency.

Consensus on demand for 315 senior units in the area, confirmed by Mr. Clute.

Traffic Concerns

Mayor Traver raised concerns about traffic on Wincrest, lack of sidewalks, and impact on school children.

Trustee Cutler emphasized avoiding Wincrest for access due to residential nature and potential traffic increase.

Property Layout and Density

Mr. Steves indicated density requirements allow for about 20 units depending on layout.

Mr. Clute noted challenges of building single-family homes due to high costs and infrastructure issues.

Access Points and Neighborhood Impact

Discussion of creating entrance off Marion Street to minimize neighborhood disruption.

Concerns about traffic flow and need for emergency access routes expressed by Speaker 1 and others.

Construction Phasing

Mr. Clute suggested phased construction: start with foundations and grading, then staggered building completion.

Group agreed phased approach is more efficient and manageable.

Electrical Contract Approval

The board discussed the electrical contracts and agreed to award it to O'Connell Electric in the amount of \$280,601.

Motion made to accept contract, pending roll call vote from board members.

RESOLUTION # 23 of 2025-2026

RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO ISSUE NOTICE OF AWARD AND NOTICE TO PROCEED

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**

Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**

Dated: February 2, 2026

New York State Community Development Block Grant Project No. 410PW134-23

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fort Edward previously authorized the Mayor to let bids for a drinking water project consisting of water tank replacement and booster pump improvements in the Village of Fort Edward (the "Project"); and

Whereas, bids were let and solicited in accordance with New York law; and

Whereas, bids received by the Village were opened and read aloud; and

Whereas, the Village's engineers, LaBella, have reviewed the bids and issued a Project Award Recommendation Letter dated January 16, 2026, for the electrical portion of the Project, a copy of which is attached to this resolution; and

Whereas, the Village's engineers have opined that the lowest bidder by price is O'Connell Electric Company; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees, having reviewed the bid recommendation and is prepared to render a determination on the award of the bid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved, that Board of Trustees finds and determines that O'Connell Electric Company has submitted the lowest responsible bid; and be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees awards the bid for the electrical portion of the Project to O'Connell Electric Company in the sum of \$280,601.00 pursuant to O'Connell Electric Company's submitted bid, and the sums totaling thereof be appropriated therefore, such award being contingent upon the receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents; and be it further

Resolved, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and issue notice of award for the Project, subject to receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents; and be it further

Resolved, that upon receipt of all complete and proper bonds, insurances, signed agreements and other documents required by the bid documents, and approval thereof by counsel to the Village and the Village's engineers, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to execute and issue notice to proceed for the Project; and be it further

Resolved, that the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, be, and they hereby are, authorized to take such other further action as they may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Trustee Cutler – Aye

Trustee Carpenter – Aye

Mayor Traver – Aye

138-140 Broadway – Chris Racicot

Chris reported project delays due to contractor availability and other commitments for the current project he is involved in putting the project to rehab 138-140 Broadway further away. The grant has an expiration date, and he does not want to put the village in a situation.

Group discussed possibly terminating current contract to allow a new contractor, pending further discussions.

Vacant and Blighted properties – 50 East Street and 62 Canal Street

Officer Community Renewal indicated no penalty for applying for only one property with the grant.

Recommendation to bid for both properties separately for accurate pricing and future readiness.

Properties: 50 East Street (more challenging/costly) than 62 Canal Street.

Scheduling Public Hearing for Cooper Prospect Grove Street Grant

Second public hearing required to discuss accomplishments of Cooper Prospect Grove Street CBG grant.

Public hearing scheduled for March 2nd at 6:45 PM.

Hearing will highlight successful use of grant funds and is a formality.

Street Vendor Permit Issues

Cousins Main Lobster has not responded to permit application and invoice.

Concerns about vendors operating without permits and upsetting local business owners.

Village considering enforcement actions if vendor appears again without permit.

Village DPW Staffing and Operations

Village DPW has been busy with snow removal and water breaks, leading to increased overtime.

Upcoming Events and Community Engagement

Snowshoe event planned for Saturday, February 7th ; severe weather may affect attendance.

2026 Founders Day Festival

Veteran-themed parade scheduled for September 12th; planning ongoing.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer