

**Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Absent:

Present: Therese Gillis, Leonard Gillis, Katherine Reid, Keith Maziejka, Heidi Brownell, Sharon Tasker-Dalton, Dave Earsing, Jim Thatcher, Kenneth Ormsby

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Approval of all May minutes

Motion by **Trustee Carpenter** seconded by **Trustee Cutler**

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

Motion by **Trustee Williams** seconded by **Trustee Cutler**

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Audit of the bills

Abstract #1 – General \$18,683.83

Abstract #1 Water \$7,475.07

Motioned by **Trustee Carpenter** seconded by **Trustee Cutler**

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meetings covered approval of prior minutes, monthly reports, and bills, along with several formal actions including the tax warrant resolution, zoning and fence-law amendments, summer recreation staffing, and authorization for the Supervisor to sign the Sheriff contract before July 1. Trustees also discussed DPW summer help, builder's risk insurance for the water tower project, damage from a National Grid outage, water-system and East Street project updates, demolition planning for Canal Street and East Street properties, and a possible street transfer/sale involving Mill Street and Eddy Street. A substantial portion of the discussion focused on nuisance-property enforcement, code issues, sheriff coverage, traffic safety, and the Thornwood Drive residence, including court action and child welfare concerns. The later portions of the meetings covered CHPE roadway repairs and tax payments, community events and Founders Day/Festival planning, SMI/Veolia hearing outreach, downtown storefront beautification ideas, and fundraising and volunteer needs for upcoming village events.

Approval of minutes, reports, and May bills

- The board reviewed the May meeting minutes, including both meetings, and approved them after a motion and second.
- The clerk, street, water, code, and sheriff reports were approved after no questions were raised.
- May bills were approved, with the general fund totaling \$18,683.83 and the water fund totaling \$7,475.07.
- The board noted that some bills had already been paid the previous week to close out the fiscal year.

A motion to approve the minutes from May was made by Trustee **Carpenter**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**.

All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**. All ayes. Motion carried.

Tax warrant and clerk tax collection authority

The board adopted a resolution authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to sign the 2026–2027 tax warrant in the amount of \$1,699,205.80. The resolution also authorized the clerk to begin collecting taxes effective June 1, 2026. The vote was unanimous, and no roll call was required.

RESOLUTION #1 OF 2026-2027**Collection of 2026-2027 Village Taxes**

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to sign the tax warrant for the fiscal year 2026-2027 in the amount of \$1,699,205.80 and authorizes the Clerk to collect taxes as of June 1, 2026.

Motion by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**. All ayes. Motion carried.

Zoning amendment adoption

The board adopted a negative declaration under SEQRA after reviewing Parts 1 and 2 of the Environmental Assessment Form. The board determined that the zoning amendment was in the best interest of village residents and taxpayers. The adopted local law amends Chapter 350 of the Village Code to change the zoning district for property at 11 Lincoln Street. The same local law also amends the village fence regulations and took effect immediately upon adoption. The board approved the resolution by roll call vote.

Resolution 2 of 2026-2027**RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 350 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10 of Municipal Home Rule Law and Article 7 of the Village Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Fort Edward (the “Village”) has the authority to adopt local laws amending the Zoning Law of the Village found at Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has been presented with a petition by the owner of real property located at 11 Lincoln Street in the Village asking that said property be re-zoned from the single family zone to the industrial zone, and the Village’s code enforcement officer has pointed out an irregularity in the calculation of fence heights pursuant to §350-5-15(B) of the Zoning Law; and

WHEREAS, a local law providing for amendment to the Zoning Law regarding the above proposed changes has been drafted and reviewed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board held a public hearing on and referred the proposed local law to the County Planning department as required by the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed the proposed local law in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and taken a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed local law; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of proceeding with adoption of the proposed local law amending the Zoning Law of the Village in the form attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that upon review of parts 1 and 2 of the environmental assessment form provided with the proposed local law, and having reviewed same and taken a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed local law, hereby finds that the proposed local law does not have the potential to cause one or more adverse environmental impacts and hereby adopts the findings set forth in part 3 of the environmental assessment form, adopting a negative declaration thereon; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward titled “Zoning” amending the Zoning Map to change the Zoning District for property at 11 Lincoln Street, and to amend the regulation of fences as set forth in the Zoning Law, to be in the best interests of the residents and taxpayers of the Village; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village titled “Zoning”, in the form attached to this resolution, is hereby adopted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustee Williams	Aye
Trustee Boucher	Aye
Trustee Cutler	Aye
Trustee Carpenter	Aye

Summer recreation staffing

The board appointed staff for the 2026 Summer Recreation Program.

Resolution 3 of 2026-2027

Appointment of 2026 Recreation Employees

Motion By	Trustee Williams
Seconded By	Trustee Cutler
Dated:	June 1 2026

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby appoint the following employees to the 2024 Summer Recreation Program:

James Donahue	Recreation Director	\$700.00/week
Preston Gulick	Recreation Employee	\$17.50/hour
Bryce Tyler	Recreation Employee	\$17.50/hour
Patrick Boucher	Recreation Employee	\$17.50/hour
Gabrielle Durkee	Recreation Employee	\$17.50/hour

Summer DPW help search

Trustees discussed the need to hire summer help for the DPW. One high school senior has shown interest and is expected to submit an application during the week. Janelle was asked to contact the county LEAP program to identify additional candidates. The board noted that a previous LEAP placement had worked well for the village and remained a strong employee.

Builder’s risk insurance for the water tower project

The board discussed whether the village should carry builder’s risk insurance for the water tower project. Matt explained that the village would ultimately pay for the coverage either through the contractor or directly, but the village should be the insured because it will retain possession of the improvements. He said village control over the insurance proceeds would be preferable if a problem occurred during construction. The premium was discussed as \$13,630 on a project approaching \$4.5 million, and the board agreed it should be treated as a project cost. The board approved purchasing the builder’s risk insurance. A motion to enter the builders risk insurance for the water project was made by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**. All ayes. Motion carried.

National Grid outage damage and insurance claim

The water system suffered damage during a scheduled National Grid power outage on May 8. Reported damage included electrical problems, eight breakers, a ruined flow meter, a fried relay, and burned compressor fuses. Staff estimated the damage at roughly \$7,000, not including all replacement details. The board agrees the village should

file a claim with National Grid and notify its own insurer. Matt was asked to be copied on the insurance submission so he could stay informed. Janelle and Bill will work on getting the total dollar amount for the claim.

Canalside Energy Park and East Street corridor updates

The board said the water project was progressing slowly, but the water line project was expected to go out to bid through the county IDA. The road into Lock 8 from East Street was expected to be completed by the next day. The East Street corridor work was described as part of broader industrial-site access improvements tied to a new tenant prospect. The county is replacing a temporary bridge, which will increase traffic on East Street for several weeks during construction. The IDA is also installing a new water line from the railroad tracks on East Street to the dewatering facility, replacing a line believed to be more than 100 years old.

Vacant property demolition and fire department proposal

Sean Doty was expected to have bid-ready demolition documents by the end of the month. The demolition is being split between 50 East Street and the former Williams property at 62 Canal Street. The original grant funding totaled \$275,000 for the projects, but asbestos remediation has driven estimated costs to around \$400,000. Chief Miller said the fire department is interested in taking over the Canal Street property if the village transfers it. The fire department would use the site for a garage/storage building for trailers, brush trucks, and related equipment. The fire department said it would absorb demolition costs and manage the property, which would relieve the village of the grant burden and improve storage conditions.

Champlain Hudson Power Express – Road repairs and tax payments

The contractor, Kiewit, is responsible for repairing roadway damage caused during the Champlain Hudson Power Express drilling work, including damage at the corner blacktop and other road spots. Village attorney Fuller has contacted the contractor's representatives, and officials expect a response soon. The company has officially stated that the project is completed, which starts a six-month payment window for project-related payments. Village officials expect the first payments to arrive around late November or December. The project will generate three types of tax-related payments for the village, town, and school district, with the village expecting roughly \$90,000 per year. Officials noted that the underground nature of the line means the long-term impact on the village should be limited despite construction disruptions.

Possible sale of Mill Street and Eddy Street

Irving Tissue asked the village to transfer Mill Street and Eddy Street as part of his property expansion plans. Officials noted that Church Street had already been handled through a similar process and provided a useful model. Sewer and water infrastructure runs beneath the streets, so the village needs engineered drawings and utility information before any transfer can proceed. The proposed sale price for both streets is \$50,000, compared with about \$33,000 received for Church Street. Officials said the money from the street sale could be earmarked for the planned bandstand project at the yacht basin, along with donated funds from local contributors and businesses. The village agreed to move forward with gathering the necessary documents and utility/right-of-way information so the matter can be set up for a future motion.

Code enforcement questions on nuisance-property points

A board member asked whether a police call requires an arrest in order to count toward nuisance-property points. Legal guidance explained that the answer depends on the type of violation, and criminal matters do not always require an arrest to qualify. Officials were warned that point assessments must be handled carefully so victims are not discouraged from calling police. The code enforcement process requires reviewing each incident individually to determine whether it qualifies under the penal law or nuisance rules.

Difficulty locating owners for code violations

Officials discussed the challenge of contacting property owners who live out of town or whose properties appear abandoned. One example involved the former Bob Tierney property, where the owner could not be reached because phone numbers were disconnected or unanswered. Guidance was given that if owners cannot be found after reasonable effort, the village may need to proceed directly to court rather than issuing repeated warnings.

Thornwood Drive nuisance and safety complaints

Residents described worsening conditions at a single-family residence on Thornwood Drive that they said has repeatedly violated zoning and nuisance rules. They reported that an inoperable motorhome was previously placed on the property and was discharging wastewater into the backyard. Residents said illegal tenants and multiple adults and children were living in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in the home and cellar. Complaints included garbage left outside, failure to follow garbage-can rules, children playing unsupervised in the street, and speeding vehicles on the road. A resident alleged harassment and defamatory accusations related to security cameras, and said a civil lawsuit has not been ruled out. Officials confirmed that the matter is going to court the next day and said Child Protective Services has been notified about concerns involving the children.

Sheriff coverage and enforcement activity in the village

Officials clarified that after the Fort Edward Police Department was lost, the village currently has sheriff coverage for 20 hours a day, seven days a week. The village is considering scaling that coverage back, but officials emphasized that deputies are active in the community even when not visible. In May, the sheriff's office handled 344 calls in the village, including 153 traffic stops, 12 domestic violence calls, 20 disturbances, 2 felony arrests, and 8 misdemeanor arrests. Officials said the number of traffic stops appears to be significantly higher than what was previously seen from the village police department. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting concerns, and officials said the sheriff's office responds quickly when called.

Police staffing costs and inability to retain officers

Village officials said they would have preferred to keep a police department, but the village could not retain employees after paying for academy training and then losing officers to other departments. The overtime cost for maintaining the police department was projected to rise to about \$700,000 to \$800,000 per year, which was far above the village's earlier budget level. Officials said nearby counties were attracting officers by offering starting salaries that were \$20,000 to \$30,000 higher, and the lack of applicants made retention even harder.

Court case and nuisance-law enforcement for the residential property

Trustees discussed the upcoming court appearance for the residents, and the village attorney and code enforcement staff were expected to represent the village. The village had collected violations and believed the property might reach the 18-point threshold needed to revoke the certificate of occupancy if court action did not resolve the issue. Officials said the nuisance law could provide a stronger enforcement path if the court process did not produce the needed result, and the owner would be notified if the village pursued that route. The discussion included concern for the children in the home, but officials said the property owner and occupants had created repeated code and safety problems.

Conditions inside and outside the house

Several speakers described the property as unsanitary and cluttered, with garbage on the back deck and trash covering the floors inside the house. Officials said they had observed young children outside in diapers with little or no adult supervision, and one speaker described the backyard as extremely unsanitary. The village said public health had already visited the property, but the inspection appeared limited and did not fully address the broader living conditions. Speakers questioned whether the children were truly being cared for, and one official said concerns about child welfare would need to be taken up with the county.

Leaf pickup, brush disposal, and street sweeping guidance

A resident asked how to handle dirt and stones collected along the roadside, and officials explained that small amounts are typically part of normal street cleanup. The village said leaves and brush should be raked to the curb or road edge so the street sweeper or crew can collect them more easily. Officials clarified that the village is not responsible for full tree removal, but it will pick up storm debris and smaller brush when residents call Village Hall. Residents were told to cut brush into about 3-foot lengths if possible because longer pieces are harder for crews to handle.

Property issues, easement access, and resident behavior

Officials said the residents did not understand the property boundaries or the village easement, including access to a water line that the village may need to reach for repairs. A fence had reportedly been installed beyond the actual property line onto village land, and the village said it would remove the fence if necessary to access the water line. Trustees said the residents were hostile during prior interactions and accused village staff of trying to take their property, even though the village said it only needed access for maintenance. Officials also noted that if the owner lost the certificate of occupancy, the residents could be forced to leave for up to six months, which would pressure the property owner financially.

Speeding concerns and traffic-calming measures

Residents said speeding in the area remained a concern, and officials agreed that the issue may require a stronger response. The village suggested asking the sheriff's office to place a speed sign in the area to remind drivers to slow down. One speaker noted that a speed display sign on Factory Street was not working properly and should be checked. Officials discussed placing the sign where it could catch drivers both entering and leaving the area so the warning would be visible in both directions.

Community events and local updates

Washington County will host a 250th anniversary of the American Revolution celebration at the fairgrounds on July 11 and 12. The Visitor Center will celebrate 25 years of operation on July 6, and officials plan to highlight Fort Edward Day there. A representative from the marketplace announced that the first farmers market of the season will be held Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The farmers market will include 16 vendors, boutique vendors, and a new bread vendor from Moreau.

Founders Day budget and event planning

The organizer reported that Founders Day sponsorships were \$75 above current expectations, with mostly new sponsors contributing. The event was still about \$3,000 short of the target fundraising amount, but prior-year leftover funds meant the announced activities were already paid for. Plans included a basket raffle in the Marketplace building, a planning meeting on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m., and additional outreach to last year's sponsors. The group also mentioned a possible pickleball tournament at the small all-sports facility as part of the broader community event planning.

Veteran-themed Founders Day festival planning

The event will include a veteran recognition ceremony at the Fort Hudson Home from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with Assemblywoman Warner and the New York State Commissioner for Veterans Services attending. Organizers plan to provide Danishes, red-white-and-blue cupcakes, music, and a command coin or similar keepsakes for veteran residents. If weather allows residents who are able will be brought outside to watch the parade. The parade will be veteran-themed and will include free miniature flag giveaways coordinated by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts near Fort Edward School and East Street/Broadway. Mr. Etu was identified as the oldest known veteran and is expected to serve as grand marshal unless an older veteran is found.

Festival vendors, exhibits, and entertainment

The Old Fort Museum will be open from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with special admission, and organizers are trying to add a working lock exhibit. The Washington County Historical Society may host lectures by Grant's Cottage or Revolutionary War presenters, and reenactors are being asked to stage there rather than on Rogers Island. Food offerings are expected to include pulled pork, pizza, lemonade, soda, free popcorn from Village Baptist, free ice cream if Stewart's approves it, free coffee, fried dough, hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries. Washington County draft horses will return for the parade and wagon rides between museums. The marketplace will also feature a cornhole tournament, a limited craft show, balloon art, patriotic music, and fireworks in the evening.

Family activities and volunteer needs at the yacht basin

The yacht basin will host free family activities including a petting zoo, pony rides, sheriff display, Adirondack axe throwing, dunk tank, Paintball practice, an Army National Guard obstacle course, and an inflatable attraction. A car show will not be held because Lake George National events overlap that week. The dunk tank is expected to raise money for the school PTO, and organizers are seeking volunteers, especially teachers, to participate. Food

at the yacht basin will be kid-focused and include hot dogs, chips, soda, snow cones, and cotton candy. Snow cones will be sold for one dollar to help cover machine and supply costs, and the fireworks were donated by Irving Tissue.

Festival raffle fundraising

Raffle tickets are available at both the village office and town office and cost \$10 each or 3 for \$20. The grand prize is \$1,000 cash, with additional prizes including a campground trip, a Hudson River fishing trip for two, a Blackstone griddle, and a portable wood-burning fire pit. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets over the next three months, with the goal of reaching about 30 sellers in total. Proceeds from the raffle will support next year's Founders Day Festival so the boards will not need to be asked for additional funding. Cups are being offered as a thank-you to people who help sell tickets.

Community support ideas for parade participation

The festival will include more free children's activities than last year, and organizers said they now have at least eight people helping across different areas. Parade participation is expected to include Navy and Army floats, the Bad Tigers, Cambridge Band, Shriners cars, and possibly the large duck from a recent Memorial Day event. The group discussed contacting the Kiwanis to help secure the big duck for the parade. A volunteer suggestion was raised for the dunk tank, and the team discussed recruiting additional participants through the school PTO.

Curtain display idea for vacant storefronts

A visitor suggested using curtains in vacant Broadway storefronts to make empty buildings look more welcoming and visually active. The board discussed two badly deteriorated buildings it owns at 138 and 140 Broadway, which are near the parking lot and have a mural on one of them. Those properties have a \$500,000 renovation grant associated with them, but a prospective sale fell through. The board agreed the two village-owned buildings could be a starting point for a pilot curtain display, and staff offered access to inspect the windows and interior.

ESMI and Veolia hearing updates

The in-person DEC public hearing is scheduled for Monday the 8th at Hudson Falls High School at 6:00 p.m., followed by a virtual hearing on the 16th. Speakers will be limited to three minutes at one session only, and participants must register in advance for the virtual meeting. The team emphasized that comments made at the company-sponsored meetings last year will not count unless they are repeated at the DEC hearings. More than 500 written comments have already been submitted, and DEC must consider each one. The Veolia sale timeline appears to have moved up to a possible June 1 close, though no final confirmation was available, and the ZBA hearings were praised for staying orderly and focused. The next ZBA hearing is set for July 15, and the board asked for website and social media updates, so residents understand the hearing process and why they need to speak again.

Sheriff contract approval

The Supervisor reported that the new Sheriff contract must be signed before it expires on July 1. The board approved a motion authorizing the Supervisor to sign the contract on behalf of the village. The meeting then moved into executive session for additional contract-related discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer