

Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Public Hearing Meeting
Monday, March 2, at 6:45 p.m.

Mayor Traver called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

Present: Larry Clute, Damian Clute, Dave Earsing, Jim Thatcher, Dave Armando

PUBLIC HEARING

The meeting centered on the completion of the Cooper Prospect Grove waterline project, which was funded by a \$1 million Community Development Block Grant. The discussion covered the project's scope, its impact on the village, and the handling of remaining grant funds. Key decisions included closing the public hearing and determining the process for returning unused grant money.

Outline

Cooper Prospect Grove Waterline Project Overview

A public hearing was held to review the results of the Cooper Prospect Grove waterline project, funded by a \$1 million grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program. This project represented the fifth phase of waterline improvements since 2010, replacing approximately 40-50% of the village's water lines. An income survey conducted in 2023 confirmed the neighborhood's eligibility for the grant, enabling the project to move forward. The project was bid out in summer 2024, with Bellamy Construction awarded the contract at \$578,000, which was significantly below the initial estimate of \$1.13 million. The scope included full street restoration and sidewalk repairs, directly benefiting 93 residents who are now connected to the new water lines.

Discussion on Remaining Grant Funds

There was \$415 left over from the grant funds, originally intended for purchasing grass seed for spring planting. The purchase was declined due to regulations prohibiting the storage of inventory after the grant's expiration. The remaining funds will need to be returned, and the board expressed hope that this would not cause issues with the grant administrators.

Future Projects and Grant Opportunities

The board discussed potential future projects that could be funded by similar grants, given the success of the current waterline improvements. Suggestions included continuing waterline upgrades in other areas of the village and exploring additional infrastructure improvements. The board agreed to monitor upcoming grant opportunities and conduct necessary surveys to ensure eligibility.

Closing of Public Hearing

The public hearing was officially closed after the discussion of the project results and grant fund handling. No further public comments or objections were raised regarding the project or the grant process.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Trustee **Boucher**, seconded by Trustee **Williams**.
All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer