

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

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

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

Present: Larry Clute, Damian Clute, Paul McCarty, Elizabeth O’Leary, Dave Earsing, Jim Thatcher, Amanda Durkee, Jessica Donnelly, Melanie Dickinson, Mike Dickinson, Sharon Tasker-Dalton, Cam Cardinale, Mikayla Miles.

Approval of February minutes

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: March 2, 2026
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: March 2, 2026
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Abstract #10

General Abstract total - \$36,799.72	Water Abstract total - \$6,910.33
Pay Before - \$14,876.27	Pay before - \$2,096.83

Motioned by: Trustee **Williams**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: March 2, 2026
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meetings covered a range of village business, including acceptance of previous minutes, review and approval of financial reports, personnel changes, infrastructure projects, and community development proposals. Discussions addressed water line issues, development options for the Williams property, DPW performance, multifamily housing feasibility, traffic and solar project concerns, annex building maintenance, contractor estimates for renovations, farmers market preparations, snow and ice management, environmental monitoring, and upcoming community events. Key decisions included approval of bills, contracts for the water tower project, acceptance of a resignation, planning for infrastructure improvements, and actions to address community concerns.

New Business

Resignation of Deputy Clerk

Diane Eddy's resignation as deputy clerk was accepted with appreciation for her service.

RESOLUTION # 26 of 2025-2026

Resignation of Deputy Clerk

Motion by: Trustee Carpenter

Seconded by: Trustee Williams

Dated: March 2, 2026

WHEREAS, Diane Eddy was hired as Deputy Clerk for the Village of Fort Edward on February 27, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby accept the resignation of Diane Eddy and extends their appreciation to her for her service to the Village of Fort Edward, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resignation is effective immediately.

All ayes. Motion carried

Electrical Contract for Water Tower Project

The Board awarded the electrical contract for the water tower project to O'Connell Electric Company for \$280,601. The award is contingent upon receiving all required documentation and approvals.

RESOLUTION # 27 of 2025-2026

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

Motion by: Trustee

Seconded by: Trustee

Dated: March 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 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 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 Williams - Aye
Trustee Boucher - Aye
Trustee Cutler - Aye
Trustee Carpenter – Aye

RESOLUTION # 28 of 2025-2026

Authorize the Mayor to sign TSCO #3 from LaBella for water project

Motion by: Trustee Carpenter

Seconded by: Trustee Cutler

Dated: March 2, 2026

WHEREAS, LaBella Associates submitted a TSCO (technical service change order) related to the Village of Fort Edward's Water System Upgrade Project which includes adjustments to the scope and fees for specific tasks, driven by changes in the anticipated construction observation and special inspection requirements, and associated adjustments to the planned utilization of minority and women owned business enterprise (MWBE) subconsultants, and

WHEREAS, the Water Tower and Booster Pump Station improvements project has progressed to the construction phase and as construction will soon commence, LaBella has identified substantial increases in the required scope of work for construction observation and special inspections that exceed our original budget estimates. These additional services are necessary to ensure proper project administration, quality assurance, and regulatory compliance with conditions of approval, and

WHEREAS, the TSCO's detailed justification identifies a budget increase of \$310,287.00 bringing the total project cost to \$1,349,106.56, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees at the February 2 meeting asked Paul Guillet from LaBella to see if they could go back and look at the detailed justification to see if there was any room to decrease the change order amount as it's a substantial increase, and

WHEREAS, Paul Guillet from LaBella Associates presented TSCO #3 to the board of trustees showing a decrease from \$310,287.00 to \$281,687.00, a difference of \$28,600.00 which brings the project total to \$1,320,506.56, and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby accept this budget increase of \$281,687.00 and authorizes the mayor to sign the change order, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

All ayes. Motion carried

Water Line Issues on East Road

A water line break on East Road is leaking significantly, estimated at 20-30 gallons per minute. The owner of the line, Brownell, is working with Canal Corp to address the issue, and the village will assist as needed.

DPW Performance

The DPW was commended for their performance during the winter season.

Washington County Youth Bureau

Information for reimbursement from Washington County Youth Bureau was submitted, amounting to approximately \$2,200.

Development Proposals for Williams Property

Larry Clute presented various development options for the Williams property, considering traffic and community needs. Discussions included the potential for public park space and mixed housing developments to benefit the community. The younger demographic is increasingly favoring apartment-style living due to affordability issues in the housing market. Multifamily development can maintain green space and minimize disruption to existing neighborhoods.

Feedback is needed from the village on the acceptability of multifamily housing before further planning can proceed. There are concerns about traffic density with the addition of multifamily units in areas with limited road capacity. Suggestions were made to explore alternative access routes to alleviate traffic issues, including potential connections to King Street. The lack of sidewalks in the neighborhood raises safety concerns for residents.

The potential installation of a solar field near the proposed housing development raises concerns about property values and desirability. The village needs to gather more information on the solar project and its impact on the community. Discussions highlighted the importance of balancing solar development with residential needs.

Water Tower Project Update

A change order for the water tower project was discussed and approved by the board. The necessary paperwork for the project is being finalized for signatures. The project is crucial for maintaining the village's water infrastructure.

Annex Building Maintenance

The annex building has ongoing issues with water damage due to a broken cellar window and requires remediation. Approximately \$23,000 has been identified for maintenance projects, and a collaborative approach is needed for budgeting. The urgency of addressing the cellar's condition was emphasized, as it affects the storage of important village records. The group discussed the need for professional contractors to assess the removal of a wall and ensure the building remains watertight. It was suggested to gather a project scope and obtain rough estimates from multiple contractors to plan for necessary renovations. Paul McCarty emphasized the importance of these renovations, noting the long-standing efforts to secure funding for the project.

Mayor Traver asked if the speculation was true about Stewarts wanting the Jane McCrea House 111 Broadway to expand their store. The sale of the house officially closed as of 4:00 p.m. and the new owner is going to baby the property and take very good care of it as Elizabeth O'leary stated.

Farmers Market Preparations

Mike Dickinson highlighted the upcoming opening of the building for rentals in the third week of April and the need to address a sewer pump issue. Concerns were raised about cracked concrete on the gravel side, which poses safety risks for accessing the building. Plans were discussed to install bicycle racks and a repair station before the bicycle season starts. Mike mentioned that the marketplace lost their funding for music for the upcoming season. The first rental is May 2, 2026. Mayor Traver will contact Kevin Gorman to see if they can get that done prior to the opening.

Community Concerns about Snow and Ice Management

Sharon Tasker-Dalton – 115 Broadway raised concerns about inadequate snow removal at a neighboring driveway, causing water to back up and create hazards on sidewalks. The board discussed potential actions, including sending a letter to the property owner regarding snow and ice management responsibilities. Mayor Traver mentioned the possibility of involving the Department of Public Works to assist with snow removal in problematic areas. Mayor Traver mentioned that this could be a code issue and Dave will send a letter to property owner. Mayor Traver mentioned clean up on Broadway which is reimbursable to the village from the state.

Correspondence to village board –

Cam Cardinale – Lower ADK Pride asked if they received the letter from Lower ADK Pride Organization requesting to fly a flag on the building. The mayor explained that the Town of FE owns the building and we pay an annual fee to be in it. He stated to Cam that he would discuss it with the town board and asked if they received the letter as well. Cam stated he sent letters to the town board as well. Mayor will get feedback after the town board meeting on Monday, March 9th.

Update on ESMI and Environmental Concerns

Melanie Dickinson – 4 East Road inquired about updates on ESMI's operations and the potential for air and water quality monitoring due to ongoing burning activities. The board discussed the upcoming appeal hearing and the need for community members to attend for updates on environmental regulations. Amanda Durkee noted that new regulations from DEC may lead to improved monitoring and oversight in the future.

Upcoming Community Events

Trustee Carpenter announced the annual Rogers Island snowshoe walk scheduled for **Saturday night, March 7, 2026**, emphasizing its educational and recreational aspects. The event will include historical insights and activities for participants, with a nominal fee for donations to the visitor center.

Dave Earsing discussed preparations for the upcoming parade, including outreach to veterans and fundraising efforts for the event.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose

DRAFT