Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, November 3, 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: Dave Earsing, Jeff Caprood, Ben Bramlage, Amanda Durkee, Jim Thatcher, Thomas Trepanier, John Guglielmo, Mike Dickinson, Scott Fitzgerald.

Approval of October minutes
Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: November 3, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Reports - Clerk, Court, Code, Street, Water, Sheriff
Motion by: Trustee **Williams**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: November 3, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

General Abstract - $141,489.15 – *Included is Rozell invoice for emergency water replacement on Moon St - **$121,685.49***	**Water Abstract - $1026.46**
Pay Before - $10,201.17	**Pay before - $894.18**

Motioned by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: November 3, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary
The meeting covered a comprehensive agenda including approval of previous minutes, financial reports, and bills; emergency waterline repair funding; appointment of a new Department of Public Works laborer; permits for special events; updates on water and solar projects; property rezoning; downtown revitalization and grant opportunities; community engagement; housing and property maintenance; homelessness; village service consolidation; blighted property redevelopment; local business engagement; electric vehicle charging station grants; waste management permit concerns; support for local rescue squad expansion; marketplace surveillance improvements; and property title resolutions. Key decisions included approving a bond for waterline repairs, appointing a new laborer, moving forward with solar and EV charging initiatives, supporting grant applications, and addressing property and permit issues.

Outline

1. **Approval of October Minutes**
   - The October meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted without questions.
   - Trustee Carpenter made the motion, seconded by Trustee Williams, and the motion carried.
2. **Financial Reports Approval**
   - Reports for Clerk, Street, Code, Water, and Sheriff were presented for approval.
   - Motion to approve was made by Trustee Williams and seconded by Trustee Cutler, and the motion carried.
3. **Bills Overview**
   - The general abstract was reported at $141,489.15, including an invoice for Rozell in the amount of $121,685.49 for the emergency water line replacement on Moon Street. This invoice will be paid when the bond is deposited into the fund.
   - The water abstract was reported at $1,026.46, with a pay before audit amounting to $894.18.

4. **Emergency Waterline Repair Resolution**

- A bond resolution was discussed for emergency waterline repairs on Moon Street, costing approximately $122,000.
- The project involved replacing an old two-inch line servicing nine houses, with four houses previously without water.
- The paving costs will be partially covered by $35,000 in chips money and the remainder through bond funds.

RESOLUTION #17 of 2025-2026

BOND RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF $143,200.00 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF SERIAL BONDS OR A STATUTORY INSTALLMENT BOND OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD TO PAY THE COSTS FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE WATER LINE ON MOON STREET AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD FOR THE AFORESAID PURPOSES AND IN CONNECTION THEREWITH

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: November 3, 2025

WHEREAS, after due deliberation thereon, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Village of Fort Edward (the "Village") desires to undertake a project consisting of the replacement of the water line located on Moon Street and, related improvements and other incidental costs associated with the replacement to restore Moon Street to its preexisting condition (the "Project") and

WHEREAS, the total estimated cost of the Project is ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE and 49/100 DOLLARS ($178,185.49) which is the responsibility of the Village; and

WHEREAS, in order to finance the costs associated with the Project, the Village desires to issue notes or serial bonds or a statutory installment bond, in lieu of serial bonds, in the aggregate principal amount of ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($143,200.00); and

WHEREAS, no other bond anticipation notes have been previously authorized or issued in anticipation of the issuance of serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the bond anticipation notes authorized by this resolution will not serve to renew any other existing bond anticipation notes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the Village as follows:

Section 1. The specific object and/or purpose of the Project for which the obligations authorized by this Resolution are to be issued is completing the replacement of the water line located on Moon Street and, related improvements and other incidental costs associated with the replacement to restore Moon Street to its preexisting condition, all of which are hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE and 49/100 DOLLARS ($178,185.49).

Section 2. The initial financing of the Project shall be undertaken by the Village through the issuance of a bond anticipation note or notes in accordance with and pursuant to the Local Finance Law of the State of New York in an amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($143,200.00). The Village hereby authorizes any bonds, including a statutory installment bond, in lieu of serial bonds, to be issues for this Project in an amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS ($143,200.00). In addition, the Village further authorizes any obligations issued hereunder to be secured in connection with any Federal or State issued grant(s) or loan(s).

Section 3. The Village hereby authorizes the mayor of the Village (the "Mayor") to utilize funds held within the Fund and within the Budget for the purpose of payment of services rendered in connection with the Project and further authorizes the Mayor to repay any funds expended from the Fund with funds borrowed in connection with any bond anticipation note or bonds, including statutory installment bonds, issued pursuant to and authorized by and through this bond resolution.

Section 4. There are hereby authorized to be issued bond anticipation notes ("Notes"), including the renewal of such Notes, for the aforesaid specific objects or purposes in amounts up to but not exceeding the maximum amount of the Bonds herein authorized. Any such Notes issued shall be approved as to form and executed by the Mayor, and issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds herein authorized.

Section 5. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific objects or purposes is forty (40) years pursuant to Sections 11.00(a)(1) of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. The full faith and credit of the Village is hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on any Bonds or Notes issued in connection with this bond resolution, as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of, and any interest, if applicable, on the Bonds or Notes becoming due and payable in such years.

Section 7. The maximum maturity of the Bonds shall not exceed the periods of probable usefulness set forth above and shall mature on or before the date of the expiration of the aforesaid periods of probable usefulness as measured from the date of the Bonds or from the date of the first bond anticipation note issued in anticipation of the sale of such bonds, whichever date is earlier. If deemed necessary by the Mayor, the Bonds or Notes to be issued hereunder may be issued in two or more separate series. The maturity of the Bonds issued in connection with this bond resolution will NOT exceed five (5) years.

Section 8. Any Notes or Bonds issued hereunder shall be payable from the proceeds derived from the issuance and or sale of the Bonds authorized herein or otherwise redeemed in the manner provided by Section 23.00 or Section 62.10 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 9. There are no bond anticipation notes or Bonds outstanding which have been previously issued in anticipation of the sale of the Bonds authorized herein.

Section 10. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to issue and sell the Bonds and/or Notes, including all powers and duties pertaining or incidental thereto, is hereby delegated to the Mayor of the Village, except as herein provided. The Bonds and/or Notes shall be of such terms, form and content, and shall be sold in such manner, whether by public or private sale, as may be determined by the Mayor, pursuant to Local Finance Law, this resolution and any further resolution which the Board may hereafter adopt. The Mayor is authorized to execute and deliver any documents and to take such other action as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent of the provisions of this resolution, including any resolutions, contracts or authorizations necessary to secure any Federal or State issued grant(s) or loan(s).

Section 11. The exact date of issue of the Bonds and/or Notes and the exact date upon which the same shall become due and payable shall be fixed and determined by the Mayor, provided however, that the maturity of said Notes or renewals thereof shall not exceed one year from the Note's or renewal's date of issue except as permitted by the Local Finance Law.

Section 12. The Mayor shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, such Bonds and/or Notes and sell the same in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Local Finance Law, and at such sale shall determine the interest rate to be borne by such Bonds and/or Notes, whether fixed or variable.

Section 13. The proceeds of the sale of the Bonds and/or Notes shall be deposited and/or invested as required by Section 165.00 of the Local Finance Law, and the power to invest the proceeds of sale is hereby delegated to the Mayor and the power to invest in any instruments described in the said Section 165.00 is expressly granted.

Section 14. To the extent that it is permitted to do so under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), the Issuer hereby designates the Bonds and/or Notes as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" under Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. The Issuer hereby covenants that it will (i) take all actions on its part necessary to cause interest on the Bonds and/or Notes be excluded from gross income for purposes of Federal income taxes and (ii) refrain from taking any action which would cause interest on the Bonds and/or Notes to be included in gross income for purposes of Federal income taxes.

Section 15. Pursuant to Section 36.00(a)(1) of the Local Finance Law, this resolution is not subject to permissive referendum.

Section 16. The validity of such Bonds and/or Notes (collectively "Obligations") may be contested only if:

(1) Such Obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the Village is not authorized to expend money, or

(2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced with twenty (20) days after the date of such publication, or

(3) Such Obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 17. This resolution, or a summary hereof, shall be published in full in the *Post Star*, which has been designated as the official newspaper of the Village for such purpose, together with a notice of the Clerk of the Village in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 18. The adoption of this Resolution is considered an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Village hereby declares that this action is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5 (42), and hereby declares that the action does not have a significant impact on the environment and the action is hereby precluded from further environmental review.

Section 19. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote by roll call, which resulted as follows:

Voting:	Ayes:	Nays:	Abstain:Absent:
Matthew Traver, Mayor	____	____	
David Cutler, Trustee	X	____	
Peter Williams, Trustee	X	____	
John Boucher, Jr., Trustee		X	____
Edward Carpenter, Trustee		X	____

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

[Seal]

____
Janelle Rose, Village Clerk
Village of Fort Edward

5. **Appointment of DPW Laborer**

- Mark Carpenter was introduced as a candidate for a full-time laborer position in the Department of Public Works at a starting rate of $20.50 per hour.
- The resolution for his appointment was read and approved, with step increases planned over three years.

RESOLUTION # 17 of 2025-2026
APPOINTMENT OF DPW LABORER

Motion by: Trustee **Williams**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: November 3, 2025

WHEREAS the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby appoint Mak Carpenter as a full-time, laborer for the DPW at a rate of $20.50/hr. and;

WHEREAS the position of Laborer will receive step increases annually on hire date for three years to bring him to the contracted scheduled rate of pay for Laborer for the Village of Fort Edward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; this resolution shall take effect immediately. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

6. **Peddling Permit for Food Truck**

- A permit for Cousins Maine Lobster food truck was approved for a special event on November 15th.
- The daily rate for the permit is set at $40, and the truck will operate from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

RESOLUTION # 18 of 2025-2026
Peddling and Soliciting Permit, Cousins Maine Lobster Food Truck

Motion by: Trustee **Cutler**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: November 3, 2025

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby approve the Peddling and Soliciting permit for Cousins Maine Lobster Truck; and

WHEREAS, the approved day of operation is Saturday, November 15th from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for a daily rate of $40.00; and

WHEREAS, Cousins will be parked on Route 4 in the Village of Fort Edward in front of SlickFin Brewing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately. All ayes. Motion carried.

7. **Water Project Update**

- The Moon Street water project was reported as completed, with a significant drop in water usage indicating previous leaks.
- A pre-construction meeting for the water tower and pump house project is scheduled for November 10th, with construction expected to start in spring.

8. **Community Solar Program Discussion**

- A representative from Solar on Earth, Scott Fitzgerald presented a community solar program that could provide a potential $2,300 annual savings for the municipality.
- The program allows municipalities to receive dollar credits on utility bills without needing to install solar panels on their properties.

9. **Solar Energy Program Discussion**

- The solar energy program allows municipalities to receive credits without needing to install solar panels locally.
- Participants discussed the potential savings for homeowners and businesses, emphasizing that municipalities can re-budget the credits received.
- The program is free to join, and developers need to meet quotas for clean energy by 2050, which benefits the community.
- Speaker 8 offered to assist the municipality in navigating the process to enroll in the program.

10. **Property Rezoning Request**

- A request was made by Mr. Thomas Trepanier to rezone property at 11 Lincoln Avenue from residential to industrial to align with surrounding properties.
- The board acknowledged the oversight in previous zoning decisions and agreed to consider the request.
- A public hearing will be necessary for the rezoning, which will be scheduled for the January meeting.

11. **Tree Management and Stump Grinding**

- Discussion on the need for a stump grinder to manage approximately 30-40 stumps in the village.
- Options for purchasing or renting a stump grinder were explored, with costs ranging from $7,000 to $12,000 for purchase and $400 per day for rental.
- The group agreed to gather more information on stump grinder options and budget considerations for the next fiscal year.

12. **Downtown Revitalization Efforts**

- A letter was submitted by John Guglielmo from 23 Griffin Avenue to the board of trustees. Mr. Guglielmo was present at the meeting and discussed his concerns.
- The master plan from 2006 is still relevant but needs updating to address current challenges.
- There is a desire to make Fort Edward a shopping destination to attract visitors and improve tax revenue.
- A five to ten-year plan is suggested to revitalize the downtown area and address population decline.

13. **Grant Opportunities for Master Plan Update**
    - Jim Thatcher is identified as the person to seek funding for updating the master plan.
    - The previous master plan involved extensive public input and took significant time and resources to develop.
    - The village board acknowledges the need for a refreshed approach to downtown revitalization.
14. **Challenges with Business Ownership**
    - Many businesses in the downtown area are rented, limiting the ability to secure grants for facade improvements.
    - Recent ownership changes in key properties may provide new opportunities for revitalization.
    - A developer is interested in purchasing two buildings, 138-140 Broadway, which are currently owned by the village with a $500,000 grant available for renovations. The developer will need to spend $706k to get the $500k grant money as reimbursement.
15. **Community Engagement and Volunteerism – Promote Fort Edward**
    - There is a need for more volunteers to support local events and initiatives, as current efforts are limited by manpower.
    - The success of events like "Tuesdays on the Hudson" and the marketplace relies on community participation.
    - The village is encouraged to promote existing programs to attract more visitors and residents.
16. **Housing Stock and Property Maintenance**
    - The condition of housing stock is a concern, with many properties in disrepair affecting community appeal.
    - The village board is exploring ways to compel property owners to maintain their properties.
    - Code enforcement measures have been strengthened to address nuisance properties and violations.
17. **Tourism and Historical Promotion**
    - The historical visitor center attracted over 3,000 visitors this summer, indicating potential for tourism growth.
    - A planning grant has been approved to enhance the historical site and promote it as a tourist destination.
    - Efforts to improve the village's appeal as a destination are ongoing, with a focus on leveraging historical assets.
18. **Homelessness in the Community**
    - The issue of homelessness is prevalent in the community, with individuals seen sleeping in public areas.
    - The sheriff's department is aware and attempting to manage the situation, but challenges remain.
19. **Consolidation of Village Services**
    - The discussion included the potential consolidation of village and town services, which is a sensitive topic.
    - A previous study indicated that consolidation would not result in savings for village residents due to existing infrastructure needs.
    - Concerns were raised about losing local identity and representation if the village were to dissolve.
20. **Blighted Properties and Redevelopment**
    - The village received a grant to demolish two dilapidated buildings to improve aesthetics.
    - The release of funds for the demolition is expected around November 17, pending environmental reviews.
    - There is a need for better engagement with property owners to ensure redevelopment plans are viable.
21. **Local Business Engagement**
    - Local business owners express frustration over the lack of available grants for redevelopment due to unprepared plans.
    - Successful downtown redevelopment requires committed property owners who can invest their own capital.
    - The planning board is working to vet applicants more thoroughly to ensure follow-through on redevelopment promises.
22. **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Grant**
    - A new grant opportunity for electric vehicle charging stations has been announced, with applications due by the end of February.
    - The grant requires no matching funds from municipalities, which could benefit local infrastructure development.
    - Interest in pursuing this grant will be gauged among the meeting participants.
23. **EV Charging Stations Discussion**
    - The initial plan for EV charging stations at the E Street parking lot was deemed too expensive, costing nearly a couple hundred thousand dollars.
    - There is a proposal to explore the installation of two to four charging stations, possibly near the marketplace, contingent on stormwater management compliance.
    - Speaker 1 will send relevant information regarding the feasibility of the charging stations to Mike Pete.

24. **Concerns Over ESMI Permits**
    - Ben Bramlage raised concerns about ESMI's past approvals and current operations, noting a lack of action from DEC on their applications.
    - The solid waste management facility permit for ESMI is currently expired, and they are operating under the terms of this expired permit.
    - Ben suggested that the village should formally notify DEC of concerns regarding local approvals for ESMI's operations to strengthen the village's position.
25. **Support for Fort Ann Rescue Squad**
    - The Fort Ann Rescue Squad is seeking a letter of support for their expansion efforts.
    - A motion was made by Trustee **Boucher**, seconded by Trustee **Carpenter** to send a letter of support to assist the squad in their outreach to municipalities.
26. **Marketplace Surveillance Improvements**
    - There are ongoing issues with surveillance at the recycling center behind village hall as well as the marketplace, particularly regarding the visibility of license plates.
    - Suggestions were made to improve lighting and camera quality, with plans to consider these improvements in the next budget cycle.
27. **Rourke Property Title Issues**
    - A letter was drafted to address title issues concerning the Rourke property between the knolls and Drifting Ridge.
    - A proposed quick claim deed from Rourke and Broco Development to the village aims to resolve any title discrepancies.
28. **Annex Building**
    - Mayor Traver asked Trustee Williams if there have been any meetings with the committee for the Annex building and efforts to get some ideas underway to restore the building before storing archives in it. Trustee Williams said he did speak with a representative from the town and they are working on availability dates for an upcoming meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Trustee **Carpenter**, seconded by Trustee **Boucher**. All ayes. Motion carried.