Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, October 5, 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 Williams, Trustee Boucher
Absent:
Present: Doreen Rabine, Jim Thatcher, Sharon Tasker- Dalton, Dave Armando, Doreen Rabine, Spencer Phillips

Summary

The board reviewed and approved the September minutes, departmental reports, and abstract bills. Key decisions included moving forward with the demolition bid for 62 Canal Street once final numbers are confirmed, scheduling a public hearing to reapply for OCR funding for 50 East Street, and pursuing the resolution related to the water plant Windows 11/SCADA upgrade. The board also discussed the Washington County hazard mitigation plan, anticipated Champlain Hudson Power Express/IDA revenues, and the status of the IDA East Street project, including possible street tree removals and replanting needs. Later in the meeting, the board and staff addressed active code enforcement matters, recent vandalism and security concerns at parks and public facilities, drainage and road work on Samantha Drive and other streets, vehicle and equipment needs, event planning, art display coordination, and ongoing dog waste and property maintenance enforcement issues.

Outline
The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes
The September minutes were reviewed and a motion to accept them was made by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**. All ayes. Motion carried

Acceptance of Reports
Clerk, Street, Water, Code, and Sheriff reports were presented, and there were no questions. A motion to accept the reports was made by Trustee **Cutler**, seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**. All ayes. Motion carried.

Audit of the Bills Abstract #5

General $120,259.35, PBA $10,954.90.
Water total $6,255.80, and PBA $3,059.49.
A motion to pay the bills was made by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Boucher**. All ayes. Motion carried.

Washington County hazard mitigation plan and next steps
The draft county hazard mitigation plan requires local adoption for FEMA acceptance and was described as effectively an unfunded county-level requirement. Board members agreed someone should review the plan and report back. The organizer will email the plan link to trustees. The plan was discussed as important to adopt as soon as practical so the county can maintain FEMA mitigation acceptance.

OCR grant status and demolition planning for 50 East Street and 62 Canal Street
Community Renewal representatives were receptive, and the village may be able to apply OCR funds to demolish 62 Canal Street and cover engineering and abatement costs. The contractor agreed to hold pricing for both properties until spring and will break out pricing for 62 Canal so demolition can proceed sooner. The plan is to de-obligate remaining funds from the original OCR application after 62 Canal is completed and then reapply for 50 East Street with properly budgeted costs. A public hearing will be scheduled at next month's meeting, tentatively at 6:30 PM, to advertise the OCR funding application for 50 East Street.

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Water plant PC/SCADA Windows 11 upgrade and quote
An IT quote for upgrading the water plant system to Windows 11 and new PC hardware was presented, with an estimated cost of approximately $31,000. The upgrade includes a one-time Wonderware license and a new PC. Installation labor may be included in the service contract to reduce costs. Board members noted the expense was anticipated in the budget, but actual line-item balances need to be reviewed before final approval. Finance and water staff will review capital reserve and budget line items to confirm available funds and report back.

Motion to award demolition bid for 62 Canal Street
The board made and approved a motion to award the bid for demolition of 62 Canal Street pending final numbers. The motion was made by Trustee **Cutler** and seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**. Jim will modify the contract proposal to remove 50 East Street and issue notice to proceed for 62 Canal Street only.

Champlain Hudson Power Express payment and IDA funding breakdown
The first payment from the Champlain Hudson Power Express project is expected to be paid to the IDA in November, with subsequent disbursements thereafter. The IDA provided a breakdown showing amounts for schools, the town, and other beneficiaries over the 30-year schedule. The village will circulate the link or document to trustees. Board members will review the anticipated revenue and assess how it affects capital planning for upcoming projects.

IDA East Street project progress and street tree replanting needs
The IDA East Street demolition/rehabilitation project is progressing, with contractors working on East Street. Significant street trees may be removed during the project, and the village should assess replanting needs from Rogers Street downward. The board requested outreach to local tree experts such as Mike Dickinson or Paul McCarty to recommend suitable tree species and a planting plan.

Options to market and sell properties at 138 and 140
The village has had difficulty finding buyers for properties at 138 and 140 and discussed engaging a commercial real estate broker to market them. The board discussed commission structures and asked brokers to propose creative marketing approaches and terms for selling or developing the parcels.

Code enforcement activity and upcoming court dates
The code enforcement reported a busy month with ongoing cases and several upcoming court dates scheduled over the next weeks. Specific cleanup activity noted on Lower Broadway was mentioned as recently started.

Two letters were sent to an occupant, and one notice was posted on the door for about a month with no response. Code Enforcement is responsible for further contact. Code will continue monitoring the property for occupancy changes and any additional enforcement needs.

The Liberty Street property is being gutted and cleaned after owners found trash hidden above ceiling panels and spread onto carpets. Neighbors had complained about strong odors outside, and the interior condition was noted to be significantly worse than expected. Code Enforcement and property owners should assess the property for any health hazards.

Canal Barn vandalism and camera investigation
Trustee Williams reported that an attempt at arson was made under the Canal Barn overhang where one picnic table was burned. The Sheriff's Department has been contacted and is investigating. Cameras were searched but returned no useful footage.

Security camera options and trail cameras for Mullen Park
Trail-style solar cameras were suggested as an affordable, solar-powered option to monitor playgrounds and remote corners. Clerk Rose will contact Surveillance vendor. The cameras may be tied to existing systems or operate independently for focused monitoring.

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Vandalism at pool and Lilly Park incidents
Trustee Carpenter reported that the pool area experienced vandalism and theft of the public address system, and a hot dog cooker was left on, creating safety hazards. Parks staff secured the site and will keep gates locked moving forward. Locks and controlled access will be implemented, and a town key system will be established for authorized users. Installing cameras at the pool and adjacent field was proposed to improve coverage of the beach and field areas.

Water department truck purchase and repairs
The water department truck BAN paperwork will be signed with Jeff on Wednesday and should be available to Billy by Friday. The existing red truck will be retired and the current Water department's truck needs frame/bracing and U-joint repairs. DPW is to contact the local welder who has previously done good work to assess and perform the repairs.

Samantha Drive drainage project and tree root damage
A new storm drain line, approximately 12 inches, was installed on Samantha Street to stop winter runoff from creating ice across driveways between addresses 214–218. Roots from nearby trees were cut to install the pipe, leaving unstable trees that may need removal if they become a hazard. DPW, Chris Matte, and Jeff are to inspect the trees and schedule removal if necessary.

Final paving and road repairs on Cooper, Prospect, Grove
Final paving on Cooper Prospect and Grove is expected next week. Repairs will also include the corner of Factory and Wing Street by the park. The stormwater undermining the hill on McIntyre Street and related wing erosion will be evaluated and possibly remedied.

Locktoberfest event planning
Trustee Williams announced the 2026 Locktoberfest, which is scheduled in two weeks with three bands confirmed and 25 vendors currently signed up. 10/17/2026

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Tasker-Dalton reported raised pavers in front of her residence are likely being caused by tree roots and are preventing her car door from opening. Mayor Traver will inspect possible options. Paintings at 140 were set up and the windows cleaned. Some paintings may need removal due to heat and mold concerns. Sharon asked if there were any other interested parties wanting to put paintings in the window to rotate them. Mayor Traver mentioned a couple of village residents who may be able to help including Paul McCarty, Patty Suprenant, and Sarah Boucher, and will be contacted.

Sharon also reported chronic dog waste not being picked up near 117 Broadway and in adjacent park areas. Code Enforcement is asked to notify landlords and enforce regulations. A letter to the landlord, Mathis, was proposed to address tenant responsibilities and remind tenants about camera surveillance. Signs and the existing dog waste station were noted, but enforcement and witness testimony will be required to issue citations. Code Enforcement is responsible for enforcement if violators are identified.

Building exterior cleaning, mural, and tree ownership dispute
The new owner of the Ye Old Fort Diner which is under construction approached the DPW while they were trying to clean the overgrown brush against the mural wall. Mr. Weber didn't want them to take down the large black walnut tree near the fire escape, which is valued by some stakeholders.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee **Carpenter**, seconded by Trustee **Boucher**.

All ayes. Motion carried.

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Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer

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