

Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, September 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Present: Dave Armando, Steve Davie, Amanda Durkee, Ben Bramlage, Sarah Bramlage, Jim Thatcher

Approval of August Minutes

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: September 2, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

Motion by: Trustee **Williams**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: September 2, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Audit of Bills – Abstract # 4

General Abstract - \$46,238.36	Water Abstract - \$73,172.70
Pay Before - \$9,639.91	Pay before - \$920.76

Motioned by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: September 2, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meeting focused on approving financial reports, discussing ongoing water projects, and addressing community concerns, particularly regarding the Moon Street water line and the upcoming Founders Day event. Key decisions included authorizing bids for the water project and declaring a state of emergency for the Moon Street project. The meeting also addressed updates regarding the DEC's review of applications for Wheelabrator and Clean Earth, as well as discussions on local laws and ongoing projects. Key decisions included the passing of a local law regarding temporary housing and plans for environmental reviews related to demolition projects.

Outline

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes and Reports

- The minutes from the August meeting were accepted unanimously.
- Reports from the Clerk, Street, Water, Code, and Sheriff were also approved without question.

2. Financial Overview

- The general fund for Abstract 4 is \$46,238.36, with additional costs for audits.
- A \$3,000 bill for community beautification was discussed, with a request for more frequent billing from Brian McCarty.

3. Water Project Bids Authorization

- Resolution 12 was passed to authorize the Mayor to release bids for the New York City Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project.
- The resolution will take effect immediately upon approval.

RESOLUTION # 12 of 2025-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO RELEASE REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR PUMP STATION AND WATER STORAGE TANK AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

Motion by: Trustee **Cutler**

Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**

Dated: September 2, 2025

New York State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 18458

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fort Edward previously authorized the project identified as NYS DWSRF 18458 (the "Project"); and

Whereas, the project cost increases have been approved by the Board of Trustees and await approval by relevant funding entities; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees wishes to authorize the Mayor of the Village to approve the release for request for bids as he may determine.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees hereby authorizes the Mayor, or in his absence the deputy Mayor, to issue the request for bids with such bid response time frames as he may authorize and approve; and be it further

Resolved, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

4. Negative Declaration for Blighted Properties

- Resolution 13 was adopted to issue a negative declaration for the environmental assessment of blighted properties.
- The Mayor will sign all necessary documents related to the environmental review process.

RESOLUTION # 13 of 2025-2026

RESOLUTION MAKING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION THAT THE DEPOT DISTRICT BLIGHT ELIMINATION PROJECT USING PROPOSED NYS CDBG VACANT PROPERTY CLEARANCE PROGRAM FUNDING WILL NOT HAVE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS UNDER THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA)

Motion by: Trustee **Williams**

Seconded by: Trustee **Carpenter**

Dated: September 2, 2025

WHEREAS, federal grant funding is available through the New York State CDBG Vacant Property Clearance Program to support the clearance, demolition, and removal of blighted buildings in commercial and mixed-use neighborhoods that pose a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Village has adopted a Resolution to facilitate the proper abatement of hazardous materials and removal of the blighted structures at 62 Canal Street and 50 East Street to improve public health and safety for all Village residents if and when appropriate funding is available; and

WHEREAS, a need exists to address and arrest the adverse conditions that have led to and perpetuate the identified deterioration, decay and blight at these two properties; and

WHEREAS, the Village is required by federal and state regulations to undertake an environmental review of all publicly funded infrastructure activities, including the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), prior to undertaking any physical construction, demolition, or other site altering activities; and

WHEREAS, a short environmental assessment form has been prepared and reviewed by the Board of Trustees of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has reviewed parts 1, 2 and 3 of the EAF, and considered the potential adverse impacts of the abatement of hazardous materials and removal of blighted structures and is prepared to render a determination of significance thereon.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees has completed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Forms (EAFs) for each specific location (62 Canal Street and 50 East Street) identified as “blighted properties” consistent with all Federal and State laws and regulations, and even though EAFs were prepared for both properties, both the combined and individual potential impacts relative to both properties were reviewed so as to not segment review, but also to recognize any potential differences in impact for the two properties; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby finds that the hazardous materials abatement and removal of blighted structures at both blighted properties will not have the potential for one or more adverse environmental impacts, and hereby renders and adopts a Negative Declaration under SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, as Certifying Officer for the environmental review process, to sign all documents pertinent to SEQR and any related environmental review laws and regulations with respect to these blighted properties project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES Trustee Williams, Trustee Cutler, Trustee Carpenter

NAYS 0

ABSENT Trustee Boucher

5. Moon Street Water Line Emergency

- A state of emergency was declared for the Moon Street project due to water line issues affecting residents.
- A temporary two-inch line was installed, and a new six-inch line will be laid by Roselle Industries.

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION

A State of Emergency is hereby declared in The Village of Fort Edward area of Moon Street in the Village of Fort Edward effective at 12:00pm on September 2, 2025.

This State of Emergency has been declared due to limitations on water supply within drinking water pipes located in Moon Street in the Village. This situation threatens public safety.

This State of Emergency will remain in effect for thirty (30) days or until rescinded by a subsequent order.

As the Chief Executive of the Village of Fort Edward, I, Matthew Traver, Mayor, exercise the authority given me under Section 24 of the New York State Executive law, to preserve public safety and hereby render all required and available assistance vital to the security, well-being, and health of the citizens of this Municipality.

I hereby direct all departments and agencies of the Village of Fort Edward to take whatever steps necessary to protect life and property, public infrastructure, and provide such emergency assistance deemed necessary.

Signed this 3rd day of September 2025 at _____ o'clock a.m./p.m. (circle one), in Fort Edward, New York.

Matthew Traver, Mayor _____
Name Signature

Witness:

Name Signature

Title Date

EMERGENCY ORDER

Local Emergency Order for: The Village of Fort Edward area of Moon Street in the Village of Fort Edward effective at 12:00pm on September 2, 2025.

I, Matthew Traver, Mayor, the Chief Executive of the Village of Fort Edward, in accordance with a declaration of a State of Emergency of the Village of Fort Edward area of Moon Street in the Village of Fort Edward, issued on September 3, 2025 and effective September 2, 2025 at 12:00 pm, and pursuant to Section 24 of the New York State Executive law, do hereby order to suspend normal purchasing policies and practices to enable emergency purchases to mitigate and resolve issues related to State of Emergency issued on September 3, 2025 effective September 2, 2025.

This order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect for five (5) days unless rescinded earlier by order of the Chief Executive. This order may also be renewed in (5) five-day increments.

Failure to obey this order is a criminal offense, punishable by law under New York State Executive Law§ 24(5).

Signed this 3rd day of September 2025 at _____ o'clock a.m./p.m. (circle one), in Fort Edward, New York.

Matthew Traver, Mayor _____
Name Signature

Witness:

Name Signature

Title Date

6. Employee Promotion Discussion

- A resolution was passed to promote Matt Bedeaux from labor to heavy equipment operator effective immediately.
- The promotion aligns with his current responsibilities and qualifications.

**RESOLUTION # 14 of 2025-2026
PROMOTE DPW LABORER TO HEO**

Motion by: Trustee **Cutler**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: September 2, 2025

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees has been notified that laborer, Matthew Bedeaux has been performing all duties associated with HEO (Heavy Equipment Operator) and;

WHEREAS, the Village DPW Superintendent agrees that Matthew Bedeaux should be promoted to the position of HEO at the 6/1/2025 contracted rate of \$24.65 per hour and;

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees approves the promotion of Matthew Bedeaux from laborer to HEO at the rate of \$24.65 per hour and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect September 2, 2025.

All ayes. Motion carried.

7. Updates on Water Projects

- The water tower and pump station projects are progressing, with bids expected soon.
- The EFC is awaiting necessary financial documentation to proceed.

8. Founders Day Event Planning

- Founders Day is scheduled for September 13, featuring a parade, car shows, and fireworks.
- Preparations are underway, with various community groups involved in organizing the event.

9. Community Concerns and Feedback

- Residents expressed concerns about the chemical plant's operations and environmental impact.
- The Board is responding to community inquiries and working on environmental assessments related to the plant.

10. Wheelabrator and Clean Earth Updates - Amanda Durkee

- The DEC is still reviewing the applications for Wheelabrator and Clean Earth with no significant progress reported.
- There were issues with personally identifiable information (PII) being posted on public participation plans, which have since been addressed and redacted.

11. DEC's Cumulative Impact Laws – Ben Bramlage

- The DEC is being cautious with the Wheelabrator permit due to new cumulative impact laws, making the process slower.
- There is uncertainty about how DEC will proceed with the applications under these new regulations.

12. Local Law on Temporary Housing – Amanda Durkee

- Amanda asked how the new Local Law for the motels will impact the community.
- A local law was passed to regulate temporary housing, which must not exceed one year for residents.
- The county expressed concerns about the law, but it is enforceable after one year from the filing date.

13. Ongoing Maintenance Issues

- Water damage and mold were discovered in the annex building, requiring an \$800 repair to the garage roof.
- A contractor will be needed to address drainage issues related to the water damage.

14. Upcoming Community Events

- Locktoberfest 2025 is scheduled for October 18th, featuring bands, a beer tent, and vendors.
- Plans for a grant application for walking trails and signage are in progress, with submission expected this week.

15. Environmental Review Process for Demolition Projects

- The NEPA process for demolition projects is underway, requiring a notice of intent and a comment period before proceeding.
- Bidding for the demolition could potentially start in November, depending on the completion of the NEPA process.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer