

Village Board of Trustees  
 Regular Meeting  
 August 7, 2023

MAYOR Matthew Traver CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM AND LED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Roll Call	Trustee Boucher, Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Cutler, Trustee Williams
Absent	Bryan Etu, Bill Caprood
Code	Dave Armando
Attorney	Matthew Fuller
Water	
Street	
Clerk	Janelle Rose
Public	Lynne Ives, John Weber, John Huggins, Dan Boucher, Melanie Dickinson, Mike Dickinson, Nasrene Haj, Kyle Cozzens, Steve Davie, Jeanie Mullen, Jim Thatcher, Aaron Frankenfeld, Dan Rourke

THESE ARE NOT OFFICIALLY ADOPTED MINUTES AND ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD AND STAFF REVISIONS. ANY REVISIONS WILL APPEAR ON THE FOLLOWING MONTHS MINUTES AND WILL STATE SUCH APPROVAL OF SAID MINUTES.

**MINUTES – July 5, 2023**

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MONTHLY MINUTES WAS MADE BY:  
 Trustee **Williams**, SECONDED BY Trustee **Carpenter**.

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

**REPORTS – July 2023**

A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING MONTHLY REPORTS WAS MADE BY:  
 Trustee **Carpenter**, SECONDED BY Trustee **Boucher**.

**Clerk/Treasurer, Village Justice, Street, Water Department, Code Enforcement.**

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

**AUDIT OF BILLS**

Accept the Audit of Monthly Bills  
 MOTION BY Trustee **Cutler**, SECONDED BY Trustee **Carpenter**.

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

**General PBA** ~~~~~ **\$80,064.97** (\$66,663.00 of this total is for the new DPW truck – CHIPS reimbursement)  
**General Abstract #3** ~~~~~ **\$97,515.63** (\$57,875.19 of this is the insurance renewal for 2023-2024)  
**Water PBA** ~~~~~ **\$17,296.13** (A check for \$15,231.60 was sent to B&H Wholesale for fence project at water plant.  
**Water Fund Abstract #3** ~~~~~ **\$3,883.51**

## OTHER BUSINESS

- **Bike Path** – Aaron Frankenfeld joined the meeting to do a power point presentation on the two different proposals to have the bike path tied into the Empire State Trail. This proposal was at no cost to the village. Dan Rourke, product manager for Barton & Loguidice explained that there are two options. Option 1 is to use Canal Street which has a dead end at the south end. There is an existing arched stone bridge that is in rough shape and needs work to be utilized in the future. Option 2 is the towpath which is also not utilized and overgrown with vegetation. The project costs are between \$850-\$950 thousand dollars, depending on which option is chosen. The bridge on the towpath can stand but to be able to carry emergency vehicles it would have to be brought up to standard. There would be signage up along the path directing the Empire State Trail users to be able to navigate either way. There will be a report that has full descriptions of the programs. This grant would be a 20% local match. Trustee Williams explained that currently there are no bike lanes on lower Broadway. Aaron explained that if we went with option 1, there is enough space to grade the height level. Kyle Cozzens, owner of Everygreen Bicycle Works explained that he and his brother used the trail to NYC and feels as though the Canal Street option is unique, but he has concerns about crossing. It is a difficult line of sight from the north. A rider is also competing with cars at the stop sign. There are no lights for the rider. Trustee Williams explained that a flashing yield sign may work but not a red light. John Weber, owner of Ye Old Fort Diner expressed his concerns regarding the amount of money it will cost to go with either option. He suggested the path go along the old Grist Mill and would cost peanuts. Frank Burkhardt asked if there would be a new bridge and if there would be anything to restore on the old bridge. Trustee Boucher expressed that regardless of which option we choose, the arched stone bridge needs maintenance. It is going to need something to keep it standing as it is historical. If we don't, it will be gone one day. The mayor agreed that we need to do some kind of maintenance on the arch bridge because people still walk on it and now it is a liability. Trustee Williams said that there has been a structural study of the bridge already. He has the long and short recommendations with dollar figures. Aaron stated that they will be putting the information on their website as well as post it to the transport council and will allow comments.
  
- **John Huggins – Glens Falls Hospital** – John Huggins joined the meeting to reach out to the board and the community to ask for volunteers to help look at the policies and when looking them over, address safety. He needs volunteers. The mayor suggested Trustee Williams and Trustee Boucher and John would also ask for public input for safety. The school would also be beneficial to get input from. John worked with the superintendent of schools and DOT to get the flashing yield signs on Broadway across from the front entrance of the school, so he is familiar with working with him.
  
- **Plow Quotes for new DPW truck** – The new truck requires a new plow, so Tom Wolfe sent out RFPs to Trius, Woodward and DeJana. Woodward was the winning bid at a price of \$7295.00. The new truck is ready for delivery so Autosaver will drive it to Woodward for installation of the plow. A motion to approve the purchase of the plow was made by Trustee Boucher, seconded by Trustee Cutler.  
All ayes. Motion carried.
  
- **Inventory of trees in the village** – The mayor had a discussion with Paul Archer (arborist) from Sears Tree Experts regarding the benefits of getting an inventory of our trees. This will provide the board with a better understanding of how to budget in future years for any trees needing to be removed, trimmed, or replaced. The mayor explained that with the age of our trees, we could spend 100 grand on this if we wanted to. Depending on the cost, we need to do this for budgetary reasons. Once we know of any bad trees, the clock starts ticking. Janelle will reach out to Paul to get a quote

on getting an inventory list started. Mike Dickinson asked the board “how can I help? I have over 35 years’ experience with trees.” Trustee Williams said Mike has offered the village to use him when requesting an on-site visit by the arborist. Mike also said that industry standards are usually in diameter when producing a price list for tree removal. The price list we have from Sears is by circumference. Trustee Boucher asked if the trees on Bridge Street were going to be replaced. Trustee Cutler has been calling a contact at Nat Grid tree replacement program however no one is calling him back. The mayor asked Janelle if we had a representative for our village and if so, could she give them a call or get the information to Trustee Cutler. Nasrene Haj who is a resident on East Street asked about the 5 trees that were removed on East Street that had a red X on them because there is one in front of her house at 116 East Street that has wires going through it. The mayor explained that she needs to contact Nat Grid if there are lines running through the tree. If they are not power lines, we will need to figure out what kind of lines they are before removing or trimming away from the lines.

- **Band Stand** – The mayor spoke to Joe Roblee who would be the architect and design engineer who is also a musician. Joe came up with a design with post and beam construction. The design will be passed on to V&H Construction, Donny Valentine. It will have a concrete base and will be built on the northeast corner of the yacht basin. The estimated cost will come from Don Valentine. We have already received a donation in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Lawrence Sullivan, a long time Fort Edward resident who now owns his own business, Vintage Village Craftsman on Route 9 in South Glens Falls. The mayor also reached out to Pat Suprenant with Stewarts to see if they would be willing to donate as well. Joe Roblee will engineer the electrical and sound.
- **Settlement** – The village has received information from the insurance company that there has been a settlement for the tasing case for Murat-Hinton in the sum of \$177,500.00.
- **Water Project**– Jim Thatcher has filed for a 1-million-dollar grant from CDBG for Prospect, Cooper and the village should hear about that around Christmastime.
- **CHPE** – A meeting will be held on Wednesday at the village hall to discuss further plans.
- **West Summit Street** – Attorney Fuller received a response back from Mr. Mullen’s attorney regarding the counteroffer on Friday. He will review and pass along.
- **50 East Street** – No new information regarding a formal offer on this village owned property.
- **Annex Building** – Mayor Traver asked if the referendum for the school vote stated 1 acre. It did, however, Paul was hoping the transfer would at least go to the driveway entrance to provide more room. Attorney Fuller will work on the details of the subdivision with Trustee Williams. Mayor Traver mentioned using the garage for storage as well. It will be nice to have an art center again. There are questions as to whether the garage needs a new roof. Trustee Carpenter, Councilman Terry Middleton, and Supervisor Tim Fisher the committee for the Annex acquisition will follow up.
- **138-140 Broadway** – Attorney Fuller and Jim Thatcher will get together and put together a draft for the September meeting.
- **Washington County Sheriff coverage** – The mayor informed the board and the public that by the end of August the sheriff’s department will be fully staffed. Dave Armando asked the board if the village parking lot on East Street could be part of the rehab, and could we get it fenced in? The mayor and board are looking at possibly squaring off that property which will give 13-15 East Street a little more area out back for the outdoor seating.
- **Historic Fort Edward Professional Services** – The board approved a proposal from KSPE for professional services for the Historic Fort neighborhood. A motion was made by Trustee Williams,

seconded by Trustee Boucher.

All ayes. Motion carried.

- **Larry Clute – Drifiting Ridge** – Larry came to a board meeting previously asking if the board of trustees and mayor had an issue with the finishing of the development in Drifiting Ridge in making it look more like Shelly Park. The board said that conceptually, it's a good idea and the mayor had stated that he took a ride to Shelly Park to look at it and it looks really nice there. Dave Armando stated that it wouldn't be over the density of 25% lot coverage and that the lot sizes would not be changing. They would stay at the approved lot sizes from when the project went before the Planning Board in previous years. The board agreed for Larry to move forward with the next steps of the process with code enforcement. The mayor stated it will be a while before it happens as the sewer needs replacing first.
- **Planning/Zoning Board** – The village board of Trustees received a letter from a resident in the village with much interest in being on our joint Planning/Zoning Board. The board reviewed the letter, and appointed Amy St. John as an alternate to the board. A motion was made by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Cutler. (*Resolution #3 of 2023-2024*)

All ayes. Motion carried.

### Public Comment

#### **John Weber**

##### **11 East Street – Ye Old Fort Diner**

Mr. Weber first stated that he waited 8 days for an “elected official” to get back to him after stopping into the clerk’s office. Mr. Weber witnessed the removal of three trees in the village parking lot on East Street. Mr. Weber thought they left a mess in the parking lot and did not clean up properly. Mr. Weber also asked where the supervision was from the DPW. The mayor explained that the tree service did exactly what the quoted and the only thing listed in that job was to remove dangerous trees. Mr. Weber said if we want to talk about dangerous trees, that walnut tree will do some major damage to a car with the walnuts falling almost 100ft with some walnuts being bigger than a golf ball. The mayor also explained that the removal of the three trees in question was a financial decision as we are already over budget on tree removal. The mayor stated that if we wanted to, we could spend \$100 grand on tree removal here in the village with so many of them being very old.

#### **John Huggins**

##### **Glens Falls Hospital**

John mentioned that trees are also part of the complete streets policies. Trees provide shade, landscaping and are beautiful on our streets and great for communities. John also asked what our schedule is regarding painting the crosswalks. How often? Do you have a schedule?

#### **Lynne Ives**

##### **21 East Street**

Lynne mentioned that she reported the trees to the office as well as to Brodie. The trees removed were the ones that were in danger of falling over in the next storm. Lynn also told the board that there are lights out on East Street and we need to take care of them.

**Kyle Cozzens**  
**Evergreen Bicycle Works – 73 East Street**

Kyle has a list of items he would like to follow up on from the July board meeting. He went down to Underwood Park to assess the trees. He had heard from the board that they were looking at removing some trees in the park. He thought there were going to be some trees removed in the park and along the shoreline Trustee Williams explained that the only trees they were removing were the ones along the building that neighbors the park. One of the reasons for this is because the owner of the property cannot clean the building with the trees against it. Kyle also wanted to thank the village on behalf of Promote Fort Edward for assisting them in keeping the lawn mowed, garbage removed, etc. for Tuesdays on the Hudson. Kyle noticed that a couple of the water hookups at the basin are spraying water. These are usually maintenance on a regular basis every year. Eventually, they will need to be replaced. Kyle noticed the kiosk was cleaned and it looks great, however the plexiglass needs replacing. The village will get some quotes on getting those replaced. Kyle also discussed what kind of garbage he has been picking up in the basin. Beer cans and liquor shooters are the biggest contributors to the garbage. He also mentioned the trash on the side of the road on Broadway. Kyle said he is always picking up cigarette butts. The storefront owners and homeowners, if any, are responsible for keeping the sidewalk clean. If they sweep their sidewalks to the curb (roadside) the sweeper will pick it up. Kyle mentioned a traffic concern on East Street down by the train station. People are moving fast over the tracks and people are not stopping at the stop sign on Wing Street. There are many kids and cyclists using that route and it is dangerous. The crosswalk needs to be painted as well. The mayor said that the DPW will move the solar powered speed sign from Bridge Street to East Street for a while. For Tuesdays on the Hudson, people have been using the crosswalk in front of Mammias Café. However, people are not stopping to let pedestrians cross, and people are driving too fast. Kyle asked for a crosswalk at the end of Canal Street, however there is one there which crosses pedestrians to the Community Garden.

**Nasrene Haj**  
**116 East Street**

Nasrene touched base on the kayak launch at the yacht basin. There was a site visit with two trustees, Nasrene and one of the companies who quoted the project, Candock ADK. There is some excavation that needs to be done to install and there was a plan in place at the end of the visit. Since then, Nasrene received an email from Candock ADK from Heather and Morgan Hamilton stating that “that bank would need to be remediated and we would need to consult with Canal Corp/ Army Corp etc. on what they would recommend before or with the cement pad that would need to be installed. Attaching to the wall itself could work with the dock and gangway heading east parallel to shore and heading towards Underwood Park, however the wall has a steel edge on it, and we would have to consult with the Canal Corp, and we would have to anchor using posts and it would run the risk of getting damaged by ice flows being unprotected by the wall. A lot will depend on what Canal Corp, Army Corp etc. will let us do.”

**Mike Dickinson**  
**East Road**

Mike mentioned there is a pothole that needs to be filled by the stop sign at the market. The corner of the pavilion, next to the fire house dumpster. Also, there was a bicycle repair station that was donated, and he will need a 3 x 3 concrete pad poured for it. The mayor suggested he stop and see Bryan Etu to coordinate that.

**Steve Davie**  
**Burgoyne Avenue – Town**

Steve stood up, gave the board a handout and stated that we need to make Fort Edward a destination place. Fort Edward is the home of the US Army Rangers. We need to promote the visitors center more. As far as the trees are concerned, there is a company, Louis Tree Company, that may be an option to call in the future. We do not want the power company working on the tree trimming. The village should have an electronic sign out front rotating information for our residents and anyone passing through. Put it in the budget of items needed. The website needs updating. The village did an excellent job closing the police department and the policing by the sheriff's office is going pretty well. Trustee Carpenter said he has spent 20+ years promoting the visitors center and works very hard with all volunteer time. Steve said there is room for improvement. Trustee Carpenter said it's a one-man band and it needs money and manpower, and it is also on the national historic registry with parks and recs. Steve asked how we can raise awareness and make it better known.

A motion to executive session was made by **Trustee Carpenter**, seconded by **Trustee Cutler**.  
All ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle M. Rose, Clerk-Treasurer  
August 7, 2023