

Village Board of Trustees
 Regular Meeting
 September 5, 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 Williams
Absent	Trustee Cutler
Code	Dave Armando
Attorney	Matthew Fuller
Water	
Street	Jeff Caprood
Clerk	Janelle Rose
Public	Joe Malvuccio, John Malvuccio, Jeanie Mullen, Jim Thatcher, Toni Morehouse, Jeff Morehouse, Frank Burkhardt, Mike Dickinson, Nasrene Haj

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 – August 7, 2023

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

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

REPORTS – August 2023

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

Clerk/Treasurer, Village Justice, Street, Water Department, Code Enforcement, Sheriff's Report
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

AUDIT OF BILLS

Accept the Audit of Monthly Bills
 MOTION BY Trustee **Williams**, SECONDED BY Trustee **Boucher**.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

General PBA ~~~~~ \$8,525.33
General Abstract #4 ~~~~~ \$25,447.06

Water PBA ~~~~~ \$2,299.15
Water Fund Abstract #4 ~~~~ \$88,091.63 – \$72,666.99 (school taxes in the Town of Moreau)

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 6 of 2023-2024

Appointment of (1) Part-Time crossing guard and (1) Alternate crossing guard

Motion by Trustee Williams
Seconded by Trustee Carpenter
Date September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, Michael Girard having been the alternate crossing guard since 2019 and part-time crossing guard since April 3, 2023 has expressed his interest for the position of Part-Time Crossing Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees are seeking an alternate crossing guard for the 2023-2024 school season; and

WHEREAS, Peter Amorosi having been the clerk for the village of Fort Edward from 2018 - 2022 has expressed interest in the position of alternate crossing guard; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby approve Michael Girard as Part-Time Crossing Guard *Post-Retirement* at a rate of \$14.20/hour and Peter Amorosi as alternate crossing guard at a rate of \$14.20/hour. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 7 of 2023-2024

Appointment of alternate member to Planning/Zoning Board

Motion by Trustee Carpenter
Seconded by Trustee Cutler
Date September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, the village board of Trustees are seeking another alternate member to the combined Planning and Zoning Board; and

WHEREAS, Peter Amorosi having been the clerk for the village from 2018-2022 has expressed his interest to sit on this board as an alternate member; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby approve Peter Amorosi as an alternate Planning/Zoning Board member for the Village of Fort Edward at a rate of \$25.00 per meeting. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 8 of 2023-2024
Resignation of Part Time Crossing Guard**

Motion by Trustee Carpenter
Seconded by Trustee Boucher
Date September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, John Malvuccio was hired as a part- time crossing guard on December 1, 2003 and has served the village and the students of Fort Edward School for two decades and;

WHEREAS, John Malvuccio has submitted a letter of resignation effective September 5th 2023, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board of Trustees does hereby accept the letter of resignation and expresses their sincere gratitude to John Malvuccio for his 20 plus years of dedication.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**MAYORAL PROCLAMATION
VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD, COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF NEW YORK**

September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, John Malvuccio has been a lifelong resident of the Village of Fort Edward, Washington County, New York; and

WHEREAS, since December 1, 2003, John has served the Village, its residents, and most importantly the students of the Fort Edward Union Free School District, as a crossing guard guiding children across Broadway/Rt 4 as well as Case Street in the Village as the students walk to and from school each day; and

WHEREAS, crossing guards are an integral part of the safety of our children, ensuring safe passage to such children on their journey in education; and

WHEREAS, John performed his services for the Village without flaw or hesitation, always acting in the best interests of our children; and

WHEREAS, the Village wishes to thank John for his two decades of service and wish him well in his retirement from service to the Village.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW TRAVER, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD do hereby proclaim that on this 5th day of September, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, the residents of the Village of Fort Edward pause and reflect on and thank John for his service to our community; and

That the Village of Fort Edward expresses its sincere gratitude to John Malvuccio for his 20 plus years dedication to the residents of the Village of Fort Edward.

September 5, 2023

Hon. Matthew Traver
Mayor, Village of Fort Edward

**Resolution 9 of 2023-2024
TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH C.T. MALE ASSOCIATES D.P.C FOR RESTORE NY ROUND 7
GRANT ADMINISTRATION SERVICES**

Motion by Trustee Williams
Seconded by Trustee Carpenter
Date September 5, 2023

WHEREAS, the Village of Fort Edward is has been awarded \$500,000 in Grant funding under Round 7 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative administered by Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that the Village is interested in professional assistance with respect to grant administration and coordination services for the Restore NY Round 7 Grant Award in conjunction with local staff and administrative capacity, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered a proposal submitted by C.T. Male Associates D.P.C. for grant administration services and advisory and coordination assistance as needed to facilitate implementation of the Restore NY Round 7 Grant Award, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered said proposal to consist of reasonable costs and associated work scope tasks determined to be helpful to the Village to ensure proper implementation of the Restore NY Round 7 Grant Award in accordance with local and State policies and regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Village Attorney has reviewed said proposal and draft Contract Agreement and determined those documents conform to current Village policies and contract provisions, now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Village intends to administer the Restore NY Grant in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDC; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting dated September 5, 2023 authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Contract with C.T. Male Associates D.P.C. for certain Grant Administration Services with respect to the Village's Restore NY Round 7 Grant Award.

All ayes. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Water Project** – Due to the water project being on hold, the village, with the help of Jim Thatcher, has applied for a CDBG grant to continue the project with replacement of water lines on Cooper, Prospect and Grove Streets in the village. Currently, the village owes the short-term financing to EFC in the amount of \$138,502.20 in engineering costs with LaBella. The village also owes LaBella an additional \$81,676.70 that was not distributed through financing. Attorney Fuller will make a call to EFC to discuss where we will go from here. Mayor Traver did mention that when the village does move forward with the project, we should not have to go through the engineering process again.

Jim Thatcher mentioned that the engineering report was submitted with the CDBG grant application which fills in the gap. Attorney Fuller advised the board that if they walk away from this project, it cannot be listed again. The village must be careful as to how to proceed with this project for the future. If the village withdraws, it cannot go back. Mayor Traver agrees that it is not wise right now to jump into a \$355 k/year payment. Trustee Boucher commented that we just got some relief by making our last payment on the water plant in July.

- **Mullen Park** – There was a proposal submitted by Hour Electric for new lighting at the park. Steve from Hour had mentioned it may be a good idea to replace them with LED. The proposal gave three different options. There were some questions regarding the proposal. Will get confirmation back from Hour Electric before deciding. Courts at Mullen Park: the board asked if there was any update to this project from Services Unlimited. They are playing catch up with all the rain this summer. Janelle will follow up to get some dates on the paving project as well as the courts at the park, hopefully getting some answers for the next meeting.
- **Streetlights within the village** - Jeanie Mullen asked about some lights humming as she walks by. The mayor asked Jeff to get another guy and assess the lights to see which ones need new bulbs and which ones have sensor issues we can address. The mayor also asked if the globes could be cleaned.
- **Drifting Ridge** – The village board received some documentation from the Town assessor regarding the vacant lots in Drifting Ridge. Larry Clute is developing the rest of the lots and changing it to a “park” like Shelly Park. This changes the assessment, increasing it each time a home is put on a lot.
- **Updates from Trustee Carpenter** – Trustee Carpenter mentioned that the reservoir fence is complete. Zarro Fence will be moving on to the fence on Reservoir Road. The brush around the water tower on Burgoyne Ave was cleaned up as well. 31 rangers came to the Visitors Center and purchased dinner at the Idle Hour Club. This is becoming a national event.
- **Annex Building** – Trustee Williams asked about the survey on the annex property. Attorney Fuller sent out bids for proposals and one came back at \$6,400. There is a deed from the early 1900’s that includes the house and the garage on the 1-acre piece.
- **WWIDA**– Mayor Traver had a meeting with the IDA regarding the property to be developed. Mayor Traver said the idea of a water tower over there floated around the meeting stating that it would be a lesser draw on our system. Putting a storage tank on site would be beneficial. The idea of the water tower in the Knolls was also mentioned. The water service is partially in the village. A non-village user agreement can be drafted. The idea of using the tower was not dismissed when discussed at the meeting. The tower is twice as big as they need but if it works, they will consider it. “It would be nice for the tower to get some use as it has been sitting a long time unused”, Mayor Traver added.
- **Sheriff’s Report** – The mayor reviewed the report sent in by Sheriff Murphy and commented that it has been very busy. He has heard from many that they are seeing the sheriff’s around, and it is good to see. There are many DWI’s and drug arrests. The mayor mentioned that the sheriff’s department has 4 officers out of field training now so we will be seeing them around.
- **Kayak launch** – There is a joint application for the Army Corp and DEC which the village must fill out and submit prior to the project. Erin Teta from NYS Canals asked for the application to be submitted as soon as possible. Janelle and the mayor will review together.
- **Trees** – Mike Dickinson asked if the board wants to proceed with an inventory of trees as he would

like to start. Mike also asked what the reasoning was for doing an inventory. The mayor stated that we need to do it for budgetary purposes. Mike asked if we had a village ordinance for trees and “if not, you should”, he stated. The inventory will start after Locktoberfest, which is 10/14/2023. Trustee Williams agrees that the village should get something in place for the future and set up a policy located in the ordinance. The policy should also state not to let the power company hire for tree trimming in the future. They only focus on keeping the tree away from the wires and have no regard for the health of the trees. Mike also said the village board should request documentation if a resident is going to be planting a tree. Frank Burkhardt asked the village board what an acceptable tree is to plant as a homeowner. Mayor Traver said they can sit down and discuss what trees are dangerous after the inventory is complete and work on budgeting so many trees each fiscal year. Trustee Williams said that there are a lot of trees that impact our sidewalks and water shut offs. Mayor will work with Attorney Fuller to put together an ordinance for trees.

- **Amphitheater** – Mayor Traver said they are narrowing down the project with Joe Roblee. Loren Sullivan, a long time Fort Edward resident and graduate would like to donate \$10,000.00 to the project. He will donate to the Canal Street Marketplace. Trustee Williams stated they will store the funds in the grant account. Still waiting for an estimate from V&H, and the mayor suggested getting some product like the concrete donated. Once they know what they need for concrete, they can get a quote on the project. Mayor Traver is going to email a couple of dates that work to have a meeting to go over the design, pitch of roof, etc. The amphitheater will face the water. Should we have more funds come in for the project, they will go to the marketplace grant fund. The market will then donate the structure to the village. There is no prevailing wage for the project either.
- **Code Enforcement** – Dave sent out another round of letters to business owners on Broadway as well as any homes on Broadway to clean the front of their buildings. Dave mentioned that he has received many complaints regarding the motel at 215 Broadway. Attorney Fuller will discuss it with Dave later.
- **138-140 Broadway** – Mayor Traver asked Jeff Caprood from the DPW if we could get the front of 138-140 Broadway cleaned. Jeff mentioned using the water from the sweeper to clean the fronts.
- **Case Street** – Trustee Boucher mentioned that Case Street now has pylons in the middle of the road however he suggested “do not enter” signs being installed coming west down Case which is against the one way. This may deter traffic from going the wrong way down Case Street. Trustee Williams also stated that law enforcement will take care of violations.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle M. Rose, Clerk-Treasurer
September 5, 2023