

MAYOR 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
Highway	Bryan Etu
Police	
Code	
Attorney	Matthew Fuller
Water	Bill Caprood
Clerk	Janelle Rose
Public	Jeanie Mullen, Mike Dickinson, Melanie Dickinson

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 – September 6, 2022**

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

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

**REPORTS - September 2022**

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

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

*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.*

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Abstract #5</b>	<b>PBA #5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
General Fund	\$ 19,736.42	\$10,247.96	
Water Fund	\$1,780.19	\$3,540.44	

**Resolution #9 of 2022-2023**

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE (THE UNIFORM CODE) AND THE STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION CONSTRUCTION CODE (THE ENERGY CODE) IN THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD, TO BE INCLUDED IN CHAPTER 49 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD, AND REPEAL OF CHAPTER 49 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD**

Motion By            Trustee Cutler  
Seconded By        Trustee Williams  
Dated                 October 3, 2022

**WHEREAS** the State of New York updated the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and Energy Code as provided for under the Executive Law and Energy Law of the State of New York, which updates require municipalities enforcing the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and Energy Code to make certain updates to their local laws providing for such enforcement; and

**WHEREAS** a local law has been drafted by counsel to the Village in cooperation with the Village's code enforcement officer, and the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Village wishes to proceed with a public hearing on said local law for the adoption thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, said adoption would also require repeal of the Village's current Chapter 49 of the Village Code dealing with the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, and the Board wishes to hold a public hearing on the adoption of said repeal local law as well.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the consideration and proposed adoption of these local laws is an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Village Board hereby declares that this action is a Type II action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(33) and the action is hereby precluded from further environmental review: and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a public hearing shall be scheduled for the consideration of both local laws to be held concurrently by the Village Board on November 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Fort Edward Village Hall; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is direct to post and publish a notice of said public hearing in the *Post Star* at least five (5) days before the public hearing.

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

A public hearing will be set for Monday, November 7, 2022, at 6:45 pm

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**Resolution 10 of 2022-2023**

**ANNUAL AUDIT OF CLERK/TREASURER & JUSTICE COURT FINANCIAL RECORDS FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**

Motion by            Trustee Cutler  
Seconded by        Trustee Carpenter  
Dated                 October 3, 2022

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board is required to annually audit the records of the Clerk/Treasurer and the Village Justice, and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the special meeting is to audit both the Clerk/Treasurer and the Village Justice financial records, and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Fort Edward Village Board has hereby reviewed both the Clerk/Treasurer and Village Justice financial records from June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

**Roll Call Vote**

Voting:		Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Peter Williams	Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Edward Carpenter	Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
David Cutler	Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
John Boucher	Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

*ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.*

**CERTIFICATION**

I do certify that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution, as adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Fort Edward, duly held on the 4th day of October, 2021; and further that such resolution has been recorded in the Clerk's office located at the Village of Fort Edward Municipal Building, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828.

In Witness thereof I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of October, 2022

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Janelle Rose, Clerk  
Village of Fort Edward



ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED

## OTHER BUSINESS

- **Trees on Bridge Street** – Mayor Traver explained the dangers of all the trees on the north side of Bridge Street due to the trimming from National Grid away from the power lines. Pictures were taken and sent to the village attorney as well as National Grid to start a ticket for the Forestry Department to come out and investigate. Attorney will follow up with a letter to National Grid to get a time frame as to when they will respond and address this issue. Trustee Williams asked about the recourse of their contractors coming in and doing the work. Mike Dickinson explained that the tree pruners they hire are mandated to cut 10-15 ft from the power lines. If they have no guidelines to go by, they just cut whatever they want and is a danger to the public.
- **First Amendment Audit Webinar** - Mayor Traver asked the clerk to explain the webinar to the board. Basically, NYCOM stated that there are three options to securing a public building from audio/videotaping. 1. Adopt a Local Law 2. Add it as an ordinance to the code or 3. Create a policy and adopt in a resolution. The village attorney had stated that he watched a couple of those webinars, and they are not as blanket as they state. There were suggestions from the board as well as the mayor to make the office more secure. Possibly start with screen protectors while working on sensitive things.
- **Snow and Ice Agreement** – The board approved to allow Highway Superintendent to sign the annual agreement for the Snow and Ice reimbursement for 2022-2023 winter season.
- **Paving Quotes** - Quotes are coming in to pave Baldwin Avenue from Center Street to almost the bridge on Argyle Street as well as Barton Avenue, which is off Baldwin Avenue. The east side of Baldwin is a bad stretch of pavement.
- **EFC Grant** – Mayor Traver updated the board on the change to the cost of the project. There was a 57% increase changing from \$4.6 mil to \$7.2 mil. There is concern from the board that with the flux of federal funding and no contractors, the bottom feeders show up and then the project is a nightmare. The board discussed that with this project, the West Summit portion is 17% of it and all for seeing what other funding the village can get. Ideally, the board would like to only borrow \$2 mil and not \$4 mil. The board is eager for this project to start as the last water break on Prospect, it was noticed that there was 3" of space in the water line with about 2 ½" of water flow. Attorney Fuller asked the board how the bookkeeping was going to be handled for the EFC project. In house or possibly an advisor? Bookkeeping is very time consuming and challenging.
- **POP Funding** – NYS has included funding for potholes. The DPW will be getting all potholes fixed before winter. Trustee Cutler is going to ride around with Bryan Etu, Superintendent of the Highway Department. They will make a list prioritizing paving of village streets and filling potholes. Mayor Traver explained that most of the holes need to be cut out, milled with tac, and then filled so it lasts. Trustee Cutler mentioned how bad William Street is, possibly from the drainage up on that street. From the middle of Williams to Col. Glen does drain but takes a while after a hard rain.
- **Backwash Ponds** – Bill Caprood mentioned to the board that our backwash ponds are made with blacktop and not concrete. They are not even backwash ponds anymore. Bill will discuss with DEC when the come to do an inspection.
- **Water Meters** – Bill Caprood asked the board when we will be replacing meters and if it will be with the funding along with the EFC grant. The mayor stated that we have too many broken and obsolete and we are losing revenue. The current meters are from roughly 1987. The mayor suggested scheduling a meeting with Jim Thatcher for getting more funding.
- **138-140 Broadway** – Two representatives from Empire State Development met with the mayor and took a tour around downtown in the village. They were very excited about the project and the potential that downtown has. The village is resubmitting for the next round of funds once the buildings have been secured. The village will be out looking for investors to come in and have the potential of up to \$2 mill in funding to restore the buildings. The village is looking to get the money back that was put into the buildings. The board discussed making sure the store fronts were occupied as well as above tenants. Mayor Traver mentioned that Promote Fort Edward applied for a grant as well. The board gave approval to authorize the mayor to expend funds to secure 138-140 Broadway.
- **50 East Street** – There is a gentleman fixing up the old freight house who is interested in purchasing 50 East Street which is owned by the village. His name is Michael Neffke and he wrote the board a letter with an offer of \$10,000.00. Mike is an artist/welder out of Niagara Falls NY who makes industrial furniture. He would like to make an apartment above and his business downstairs. The village paid \$13,000.00 in back taxes. The mayor brought up the idea of packaging the old Williams's house with 50 East Street. Should the board decide to move forward with selling, there will be a list of expectations in place.
- **84 McCrea Street** - Janelle called Kurt from MJ Engineering who was the firm for our Safe Routes to School project five years back. The driveway at this address is so steep that they cannot drive their car in it. Some driveways did get steeper after the project due to leveling out the sidewalks, making them safe and to code. Kurt was going to look and get back to her. Kurt that the most the sidewalk could be lowered is 1" which may not make a difference.
- **13 West Summit Street** - Pat Mullen from Mullen Construction came to the board meeting in September asking if the board had a decision on whether they wanted to sell him this property. This property has a water line running through it. It is not an active line and currently the valve is shut off. The board agreed that the survey and appraisal would be Pat's responsibility and an easement to the village is needed for the water line. The board agreed to move forward with selling it. Attorney Fuller will draft the paperwork.
- **Police Department public meeting 9/28/22** – The mayor noticed a couple of residents were at our meeting from the meeting in September regarding the future of our police department. The mayor asked Frank Burkhardt what his thoughts were on the meeting. Frank stated that we need coverage and told the board that it was a very good meeting, and he thinks

going with the county is a good idea. He would like to see the county take Steve Huntington as well for full time. Frank and the board discussed how the attitudes and respect is not the same as it used to be with the police force. The sheriff's department will benefit should it go in that direction. The village attorney stated that a contract will be drawn up with the county attorney. Sheriff Murphy's presentation mentioned the cost to be \$350k, putting it at the high end. This number could be even less. Attorney Fuller's idea with the funds being saved from the department is to beef up Code Enforcement, quality of life. Give Dave Armando a bigger budget. A lot of the calls can be sifted and taken care of as most of them are code related. Fuller mentioned what a great job Dave Armando does for the village. Fuller is here 3 out of the 4 Thursdays in court for violations from Dave. The residents stated that it would be nice having familiar faces to see while patrolling. It is not the case anymore in Fort Edward. The mayor stated that the four deputies who would be assigned primarily to the village would become familiar faces. Trustee Boucher's main concern is visibility and not just sitting idle and patrolling up and down the streets daily. The entire village board would like to see the department stay however years down the road after putting numbers together, it'll be close to \$1 million in the next four years. Attorney Fuller stated that no matter what the contract is, it still will not be the same. Trustee Carpenter mentioned that the committee for the PD (which is made up of two trustees) have been committed to make the department work and has been a monumental task. The committee met frequently with the department while be down officers.

- **Locktoberfest 2022** – Trustee Williams announced that our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Locktoberfest is happening Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 5 pm. There will be 25 vendors attending, a 5k run, cornhole tournament, music, food, horse and wagon rides and a beer tasting tent.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- **Melanie Dickinson – Hughes Energy** – Has anyone heard anything more on Hughes Energy for the location that is owned by the WWIDA? Either the village or the town? What is the status on the EV Chargers at the village owned parking lot on East Street?

Mayor Traver as well as the rest of the board stated they have not heard anything more about Hughes Energy.

Mayor Traver discussed the development of the property that is owned by WWIDA. The IDA is not sure they want to tie up the space if a prospective company wanted to come in that location. There may be funding available to help with the sewer line down the canal right of way and do a horizontal bore. If they do it on East Street, they would have to go to Baldwin, cross over Canal. The draw of water would kick off rusty water. The Canal Corp said it's a dam for them and they do not want a roadway along the canal or compromise the bank along the canal. To develop it, they need to have the sewer line.

**EV Chargers** – Mayor Traver explained that KSPE is doing a survey on the parking lot to find out how many spaces we can have in that parking lot. Mike Dickinson stated that he thought there is room for 28 parking spaces including behind the old One More Grill. Mayor Traver said that 8 charging stations may be too many with the required handicap spaces needed in that parking lot. Two handicap spaces equal 4 parking spots as each spot needs to have the one next to it reserved with the blue lines for automatic handicap vans. Mayor Traver also stated that they are trying to still figure out the funding aspect of this project through the DEC grant. Trustee Williams agreed that we should move forward with the project, get the engineering survey then figure out the funding. The money will be there for a while for that.

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM by Trustee **Carpenter**. SECONDED BY Trustee **Boucher**. *ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle M. Rose, Clerk-Treasurer  
October 3, 2022