

Village Board of Trustees  
 Regular Meeting  
 February 5, 2024

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

Roll Call	Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Cutler, Trustee Williams
Absent	Trustee Boucher
Code	Dave Armando
Attorney	Matt Fuller
Water	
Street	
Clerk	Janelle Rose
Public	Kyle Cozzens, Frank Burkhardt, Donna Lacque, Mike & Melanie Dickinson, Danielle Heym John Weber, Jeanie Mullen, Ron Cadieux, Heidi Wolfe, Jim Thatcher

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 – January 2, 2024**

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

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

**REPORTS – January 2, 2024**

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

**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 **Williams**.

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

General PBA # 9 ~~~~~\$10,361.85  
 General Abstract #9 ~~~~~ \$126403.79 (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Payment \$96,784.00 to Wash. Co. Police Coverage)  
 Water PBA # 9 ~~~~~\$3,539.77  
 Water Fund Abstract #9 ~~~~~ \$7,241.20

## NEW BUSINESS

- There was a letter from the Rogers Island Visitors Center requesting that the Village of Fort Edward residents consider being a member. They are trying to increase their membership throughout the Village.
- The Senior Center of Kingsbury & Fort Edward is ready to order their new bus. MOTION BY Trustee **Cutler** to donate \$4,828.64 to the Senior Center. SECONDED BY Trustee **Williams**. *All Ayes. Motion Carried.*
- There was a discussion on the dumping that is occurring at the end of Griffin Avenue. The Village will send the Street Department to help clean up some of the debris. Trustee Cutler will investigate the matter when he returns.
- There was a discussion on the condition of the sidewalk on the property of Marion Street. A letter will be sent to Robert Schiavoni outlining the parameters of the sidewalk program.
- There was a discussion on improving the appearance of Underwood Park. The Street Department will remove the cedar trees first. After that, a layout will be designed for a flower bed and for planting flowers along the sidewalk.

## OTHER BUSINESS

- The water tower on Burgoyne Avenue is leaking. We have been in contact with our engineer and the Department of Health and it is fine. We are running our water levels six feet below normal because of the water leak. Sean Doty will explore the possibility of getting a drone to inspect the damage inside the tower. We will contact Underwater Solutions since the water tower has not been inspected since 2019. A dive team will be utilized to see the extent of the damage inside the tower. Hopefully, we can use some of the previous grant money to offset some of the costs.
- Jim Thatcher gave an update on the proposed water project. This project would include the water tower, the areas of Prospect Street, Grove Street and Cooper Street. This area is in rough shape and this project would be a great improvement. The Village has a long history of using the CDBG to upgrade the infrastructure within the Village. The bids will go out the second week in March and it is a 3 week bid period. Hopefully, we will know by May. Donna Lacque questioned why the neighborhood was not aware of what was happening. Mayor Traver mentioned that there are updates posted on the Village website.
- The flashing school signs are now the property of the Village of Fort Edward. We can upgrade the light to LED lights which would make them more visible. The Department of Transportation in Kingsbury will be contacted to see if they can make a new sheet metal cover for the control box. A calendar will be set up to coordinate with the school so the lights will not be flashing when school is not in session.
- Trustee Cutler presented an update of the kayak launch. The meeting with the DEC went well and we

are waiting to get the plans done so that the application can be submitted to the Canal Corporation. An archaeological study and a water study must be completed before the application can be approved. A removable dock made the process so much easier. Hopefully everything will be in place by next year's kayak season.

- John Weber was appointed chairman renovation of the southern tip of Rogers Island. He will oversee the cleanup of this portion which would include tearing down trees and creating additional parking spots. He will represent the Village and keep the Mayor and the Board of Trustees updated on the progress. This is strictly volunteer with no expense to the Village. A simple goal to achieve something nice for the Village.
- Mike Dickinson gave an update on the tree inventory throughout the Village. There are multiple Cottonwood trees throughout King Edward Knolls that need to be addressed. It must be determined if the trees or the responsibility of the Village or the homeowner. The trees on Broadway are the property of the Village of Fort Edward.
- Mayor Traver gave a report on the proposed amphitheater for the yacht basin. Joe Roblee drew up plans for an A frame timber structure. Sean Doty is finishing up the plans for the parking lot. The proposed cost is approximately \$200,000 which seems rather high. Stewart's has agreed to make a donation which will help offset some of the costs. The work obviously needs to be up to code, the foundation needs to be extremely strong and power will have to be supplied.
- Danielle Heym of Mamma's Café inquired about a proposed entrance to her restaurant from East Street near 22 East Street. Since she is leasing the property, any changes would have to be approved by Dan Dudley, the owner, before the Village could explore any options.
- Kyle Cozzens gave a report on the Trail Tours Application. The proposed camping is moving forward with the possibility of using the yacht basin. From traveling to various places, he has seen areas that have kiosks, and lock boxes with permits inside. We would have to see if the permits would be purchased from the Village or the Canal Corporation depending on where the sites are. It was discussed that a letter of support detailing missed opportunities for economic growth should be drafted and sent to Senator Chuck Scherer and Representative Elise Stefanik. Any option that would draw tourists to Fort Edward is worth trying. The bike trail around the pond across from the park and down Towpath Lane needs repair. It was built by ESMI but it just has not been maintained. Picnic Tables will be added to the yacht basin when spring arrives. He questioned whether blank yard signs could be purchased and have the kids decorate them along Canal Street, State Street, and East Street. The Village would not be opposed to it, but you may have to check with property owners.
- Champlain Hudson Power Express- Canalside Energy Park – Matt Fuller will send them a letter to reimburse the Village for legal and engineering costs for work there. Sean Doty said the IDA issued a RFP for water distribution on site. 95% of the water is in the Town with the remaining 5% in the Village. The IDA is moving forward as if they have approval from the Town and the Village, but they do not. Sean Doty has requested a meeting with IDA at a time unscheduled.
- Mayor Traver gave an update on Drifting Ridge. There have been seven lots sold. The Village is not holding them up. There is a problem with the Washington County Sewer District. There is a large amount of sediment in the area which is causing a problem. The developer is putting up \$50,000 to help find a solution to this problem. There needs to be a plan of action to get the stormwater flowing where it should be. It is the responsibility of the Village to correct the stormwater problem.
- EFC – Jim Thatcher needs to work with Labella to get water tower information into the bid. Matt Fuller

is working with EFC on the financial end of the grant. EFC has MWBE requirements that might fall under the OCR umbrella. Jim Thatcher said if the EFC project has to go with the OCR project then 30% has to be MWBE. The bids for the OCR project are due on March 22, 2024.

A motion to adjourn was made by **Trustee Carpenter**, seconded by **Trustee Cutler**.

*All Ayes. Motion Carried.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle M. Rose, Clerk-Treasurer  
February 5, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janelle Rose".