

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

Roll Call	Trustee Boucher, Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Williams Trustee Cutler
Absent	
Police	
Code	Dave Armando
Attorney	Matthew Fuller
Water	
Clerk	Janelle Rose
Public	Larry Clute, Steve Davie, Theresa Gillis, Mary Pope, Frank Burkhardt, Lynne Ives, Vicki Plude, Jeanie Mullen, Amanda Rabine, Larry Ives Jr.

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 – February 6, 2023

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

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

REPORTS - February 2023

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

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 **Carpenter**, SECONDED BY Trustee **Cutler**.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Abstract #11</u>	<u>PBA #11</u>
General Fund	\$173,724.01	\$12,290.22
Water Fund	\$16,774.21	\$5,445.81

NEW BUSINESS

- **Resolution # 22 of 2022-2023 - Surplus and transfer police patrol cars**
A motion was made by **Trustee Cutler**, seconded by **Trustee Boucher**.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees agrees to transfer one of the police patrol vehicles to the Code Enforcement officer for the Village of Fort Edward; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees agrees to surplus the other vehicle to sell; and

WHEREAS the Village of Fort Edward reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED this resolution shall take effect immediately.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

- **Resolution #23 of 2022-2023 – Hazard Mitigation Plan**
A motion was made by **Trustee Williams**, seconded by **Trustee Carpenter**.

WHEREAS, the Village of Fort Edward, with the assistance from Washington County and Tetra-Tech, has gathered information and prepared the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and


WHEREAS the Village of Fort Edward is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the Plan and the actions in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Fort Edward have reviewed the Plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five years;


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Board that the Village of Fort Edward adopts the Washington County Hazard Mitigation Plan as this jurisdiction's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

ADOPTED this 6 day of March 2023 at the meeting of the Village Board.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.



(Supervisor / Mayor)

 _____
(Clerk)

- **Resolution #24 of 2022-2023 – Appointment of Full Time Deputy Clerk**
A motion was made by **Trustee Cutler**, seconded by **Trustee Carpenter**.

WHEREAS the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby appoint Diane Eddy to the position of Deputy Village Clerk effective February 27, 2023, at the rate of \$17.00 per hour and;

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby agree to increase the rate of pay for Michelle Hurlburt, court clerk to \$18.00 per hour effective February 27, 2023 and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolution shall take effect immediately.
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

➤ **Resolution #25 of 2022-2023 – Restore NY Short-Term Financing**

A motion was made by **Trustee Williams**, seconded by **Trustee Carpenter**.
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

WHEREAS, the Village of Fort Edward is eligible to apply for grant funding under Round 7 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative administered by Empire State Development Corporation, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered proposals that could qualify for funding under that program and has selected a high priority revitalization project that is ready for redevelopment to be included in a Round 7 Application that was submitted to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) on January 27, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Village's Restore NY Application requests funding to facilitate the preservation and redevelopment of 138 and 140 Broadway, which are vacant and have been foreclosed by Washington County for back taxes after more than 15 years of neglected maintenance and repairs. The proposed Restore NY Project includes vital building stabilization and structural repairs necessary to preserve the buildings and attract a private Developer to complete additional rehabilitation activities and bring new retail and residential tenants to the Village, and

WHEREAS, if the Village is awarded Restore NY funding, the Village will need to finance all Project activities and seek reimbursement from the Restore NY Grant Award after completion of the Project and submission of all eligible expenditures to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), and now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, if awarded, the Village will 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 will authorize the Mayor and Village staff to take steps necessary to provide short-term financing to cover all applicable Project Costs incurred by the Village, Contractors, and other representatives working on behalf of the Village prior to seeking reimbursement from ESDC, using Bond Anticipation Note(s) and/or other available local funding sources as appropriate for this type of Project.

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

That the attached RESOLUTION is a true and correct copy of the RESOLUTION, as regularly adopted

at a legally convened meeting of the **Board of Trustees of the Village of Fort Edward**, duly held on the 6th day of March 2023; and further that such RESOLUTION has been fully recorded in the Village Clerk's Office located at the Village Offices, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ , 2023.

Roll Call

Trustee Williams
Trustee Carpenter
Trustee Boucher
Trustee Cutler

Signature of Recording Officer

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

(Impress Seal)

Title of Recording Officer

138-140 Broadway- Restore NY Grant - Mayor Traver asked if Jim Thatcher would like to explain resolution #25 to the board and public. Jim explained that the conference call with ESD went well, and they are looking for a commitment to fund this project. A letter from the mayor explaining we will use funds in fund balance as well as BAN some money until the grant is reimbursed. The mayor explained how the village fixed the buildings to make them safe when the owner walked away from them. To get a developer here, they need to be fixed to get any interest. 117 and 123 Broadway are coming along nicely as there is a new owner who came to the ZBA to get a site plan approval to rehab the downstairs of 117 Broadway as well as fix the facade of the building and all the apartments above. It will also have a rooftop garden and balconies out back overlooking the Hudson.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Fire District** - The mayor received a letter from the fire district asking to pass a local law allowing for a partial tax exemption for volunteer firefighters that reside in the town and village of Fort Edward. On December 9, 2022. Governor Hochul signed Assembly bill No. 10155-A senate Bill No. 9131 into law as Chapter 670 of the Laws of 2022. It provides all local governments with the "option" to provide a property tax exemption to volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers in their jurisdiction. It is effective immediately.
- **50 East Street** - The board of trustees received a letter with an offer from Michael Nefke to purchase the house. It is in need of repair, and he would like to rehab it to a commercial business he has on the lower level (industrial furniture) and restore the upper level for an apartment in which he would live in. He is currently working on the freight building by the train station. Should the village move forward with selling it to either Michael or someone else, the board would want to have stipulations as to its use included in the contract. The village attorney can draft an agreement. Trustee Williams stated that he's been in the building in the last three years and said that the inside is not much better than the outside. Trustee Williams thinks they should allow him to fix it. The mayor said it's been vacant for so long now that once it's restored, it will go on the tax rolls as well and benefit the

community. Attorney Fuller states when drafting an agreement, it will have some control by the village. He will also respond to Michael's offer and discuss his plan and terms, proof of funds, etc. Fuller will send the board a draft.

- **CT Male** – A proposal was received by Jim Thatcher for the water project on Burgoyne Avenue. The discussion of the water tower and it needing to be painted both inside and out, a cost of approximately \$789,000.00. The mayor stated that eventually, DOH will tell us that we cannot use it. A household income survey will be done for this project sending letters and a questionnaire to the homes on Cooper St, Prospect St, Case St, Burgoyne Ave. With this year being our final water plant payment, it allows us to financially continue a BOND payment. These lines are over 100 years old. Once this project is completed, the next phase will be in the historic old Fort section, State St, Montgomery St, Moon St, Edward St.
- **Annex acquisition** – Trustee Williams explained the first meeting with historian, Paul McCarty. Paul is doing a historical background on it. The school's thoughts on what they want to give up, basically the building and anything green. The building will be used to store historic archives by both the town and village as well as offer it for a community meeting place. Paul explained that there are three important historical sites on the McCrea side of that building, one being where Jane McCrea was murdered.
- **The Twisted Taco Truck** – A peddling and soliciting permit was presented to the board for parking and selling in the village. The application was approved.
- **Alternative Sentencing** – A facility use permit was presented to the board for a Trail's Day for June 3rd, 2023, and was approved.
- **Drifting Ridge, Larry Clute** – Larry was in attendance at the meeting to run an idea by the village board to make Drifting Ridge like Shelly Park. Shelly Park has a great concept and is like a park which is what he would like to do with Drifting Ridge. He stated that phase 3 of the Drifting Ridge project is already laid out and the new home sales in this phase will prompt the funding for the repairs to DR to make it look more like Shelly Park. Trustee Williams explained the depreciation of that area is tremendous as there was no inspection done on this project in its entirety. The homes have doors that do not shut, windows do not close, etc.
- **Mullen Park** – Duke Ives attended the meeting to express his concerns about the resurfacing of the courts in the park. Duke said that tennis has taken the back seat and pickleball is in. Pickleball is so big there are no avenues. He plays in other communities. Come spring, people are going to be looking for places to play and there will be no room. The bottom court in the park is going the right way, north to south where you will get no sun in your eyes while playing. Duke said that the surface is key, and you cannot bounce a tennis ball and pickleball on the same surface. The mayor explained that Trustee Boucher has been working on quotes from different companies. As the quotes come in, they will be reviewed by the board and decide who they will hire for the job.
- **Glamping in Fort Edward** – Mike Dickinson has taken the lead on this project. The NYS Canal Corp is all for this at our Yacht Basin location. The mayor would like an official proposal in writing from the company as to what he wants to do (scope of the project). Trustee Boucher mentioned that people who have caught wind of this project are asking how this can even happen if there is no camping in the village. Mike explained that this is a pilot program for now. Trustee Carpenter mentioned that the southern tip of the island is a great place to set up. There is enough acreage and parking. Trustee Williams stated that the owner of the company would maintain the property i.e, mow the lawn as well as keep the bathhouse clean. This is very positive for the village, especially with the bike trail. As part of the grant process for NYS Canal Corp for Locktoberfest, there is no accommodation in our village. Attorney Fuller wanted to mention that if any part of the yacht basin is considered a park, leasing this property cannot happen. Jeanie Mullen asked about parking for the stay in the glamping. They would have access to the public car park on East Street and Terminal Lane. Mayor Traver explained to everyone that this company is not renting to people partying and there would be

restrictions put into an agreement as well as the company would have hosts on duty. Vicki Plude said she is all for a new business, but it is a huge liability issue.

- **FEHS School drop off** – Amanda Rabine joined the meeting to explain to the board that the drop off on Case Street is a nightmare. The plan from a few years ago was fantastic, however people are not following the traffic laws up there. Trustee Boucher said it is awful and someone even did a U-turn on Case Street and stated that the police need to start writing tickets. Trustee Williams agrees that if they are up there for approximately three days, it will stop and people will get the hint. The mayor thinks that when they took the turn around out for the new entrance to the elementary school, it made it worse along with none of the kids walking anymore. The mayor threw around a few ideas, like closing off the left lane so everyone must go down Case St. Erin Russo explained that the Pre-K through grade 3 gets picked up out back. Trustee Williams feels as though the school has some responsibility for this problem as well by taking out the turn around. Amanda also mentioned that with the school not bussing kids anymore, it has contributed to the chaos. Amanda also mentioned that the drop off zone on Burgoyne Ave was not cleaned and clear of snow so the cars could not pull to the side of the road to let the kids out. They had to stay away from the snow causing cars to be backed up at the turn. Vicki Plude said that with the weather getting nicer, hopefully more kids will walk. The mayor said that he will talk to Chief Lindsey and explain that police presence needs to be there every morning, out of their vehicles and helping to direct traffic. The board and the school need to meet and make a plan to correct this situation before the start of the School year 2023-2024. The mayor will discuss this with Sheriff Murphy as well. He thinks restriping the crosswalk at Burgoyne will help. It is too wide currently.
- **138-140 Broadway** – Steve Davie asked the board how someone can get into one of the buildings to get their belongings out. Jim Thatcher mentioned he did a walk through recently and there is a ton of personal belongings in just about every apartment. The mayor mentioned that we should get the keys to the entire two buildings and is not really sure how to reach out to the people who used to live there.
- **Bike Trail** – Trustee Williams mentioned that he received an email from Erin for the bike trail. They are recipients for the grant and study for the canal across Notre Dame St, Canal Street, the arched bridge to Argyle Street. Keeps people off Route 4. John Huggins with Glens Falls Hospital would like to continue helping the village with safety grants.
- **CHPE** – Attorney Fuller said that he received a proposal from Sean Doty. The board needs to pass a resolution. The mayor suggested hiring Sean to oversee the plans. Funds to be put into escrow, the board would need to pass a resolution to set up an account. The thought of hiring Sean Doty at KSPE was mentioned to allow them to review all documents. The resolution was motioned by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Cutler.
- **Code Enforcement** – Dave Armando has a few ongoing court cases, but all in all, things are moving along.
- **DPW Budget** – Trustee Cutler will be meeting with the DPW to go over the budget and contract negotiations.

A motion to executive session was made by Trustee Boucher, seconded by Trustee Williams at 9:00 pm. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle M. Rose, Clerk-Treasurer
March 6, 2023