

Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting
Monday, June 2, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Traver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Trustee Williams, Trustee Carpenter, Trustee Boucher
Absent: Trustee Cutler

Present: Rob Martin, Matthew Rimkunas, Sharon Tasker-Dalton, Doreen Rabine, Frank Burkhardt, Dave Armando, Dave Earsing.

Approval of June minutes

Motion by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**
Dated: July 7, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approval of Reports - Clerk, Court, Code, Street, Water, Sheriff

Motion by: Trustee **Williams**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: July 7, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Audit of the Bills – Abstract #2 – 2025-2026
General Abstract - \$142,697.77 (\$84,676.40 paid to Paragon for annual insurance premium)
Pay Before - \$9,314.78
Water Abstract - \$9,271.57
Pay before - \$1,571.43

Motioned by: Trustee **Carpenter**
Seconded by: Trustee **Cutler**
Dated: June 2, 2025
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Summary

The meeting focused on accepting previous minutes, discussing financial reports, and addressing new business including a resignation and zoning law amendments. Key decisions included setting a public hearing for speed limit changes and planning for website domain registration compliance. Additionally, discussions covered domain ownership, upcoming construction projects, public safety concerns regarding crosswalks, local law enforcement coverage, community issues related to dog waste, and updates on community events and fundraising efforts.

Outline

1. Resignation from Planning and Zoning Board Member

- The resignation of Board Member Tadgh Nealon was accepted by the Village Board of Trustees.
- The Board expressed gratitude for Nealon's service and emphasized the need for full board attendance at meetings.

RESOLUTION # 8 of 2025-2026**RESOLUTION OF RESIGNATION FROM A FULL TIME PLANNING BOARD MEMBER.**

Motion by: Trustee Williams
Seconded by: Trustee Boucher
Dated: July 7, 2025

WHEREAS, the village board of Trustees have reviewed the attendance of the combined PB/ZBA board at previous meetings; and

WHEREAS, the chairperson of the ZBA, Nasrene Haj has expressed her concerns about the lack of a full board at the monthly meetings; and

WHEREAS, the village board of Trustees agrees and feels that the meetings should consist of all five (5) members in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk received an email from board member Tadgh Nealon stating his resignation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby accept the resignation of Tadgh Nealon from sitting on the Village of Fort Edward PB/ZBA and thanks him for his time served. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

All Ayes. Motion Carried.

2. Zoning Law Amendment

- A negative declaration was adopted regarding the environmental impacts of the proposed zoning law amendment.
- The amendment aims to redefine motels to prevent permanent occupancy, aligning with the village's master plan.
- The amendment was accepted and will take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION # 9 of 2025-2026**RESOLUTION OF A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 350 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF FORT EDWARD**

Motion by: Trustee Boucher
Seconded by: Trustee Cutler
Dated: July 7, 2025

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10 of Municipal Home Rule Law and Article 7 of the Village Law of the State of New York, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Village of Fort Edward (the "Village") has the authority to adopt local laws amending the Zoning Law of the Village of Fort Edward found at Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the rental of motel units for lengthy or indefinite periods of time negatively impacts the health, safety and welfare of the residents and visitors of the Village, and is contrary to the Village's master plan, as it decreases housing opportunities for transient and visitors to the Village in favor of permanent housing in the Village's commercial district and corridor; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward has been drafted and reviewed by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board held a public hearing and referred the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward to the County Planning department as required by the General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board is in receipt of the determination of the Washington County Planning department relative to the change, and as noted in the minutes of this meeting, has thoroughly discussed the objections of the County planning department and finds them to be completely contrary to the interests of the residents and taxpayers of the Village in favor of

the County's complete lack of support for placing individuals in need of permanent housing in motel units in the Village, which then causes those motel units to be unavailable for renting which is completely contrary to the intent of a motel commercial business; and

WHEREAS, the Board reviewed the proposed local law in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and taken a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed local law; and

WHEREAS, the Board is desirous of proceeding with adoption of the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village to amend the definition of a motel.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT:

RESOLVED, that upon review of parts 1 and 2 of the environmental assessment form provided with the proposed local law, and having reviewed same and taken a hard look at the potential environmental impacts of the proposed local law, hereby finds that the proposed local law does not have the potential to cause one or more adverse environmental impacts and hereby adopts the findings set forth in part 3 of the environmental assessment form, adopting a negative declaration thereon; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward titled "Zoning" amending the definition of a motel to be in the best interests of the residents of and visitors to the Village. The amendment will preserve motel units in the Village for their intended use which is housing for transient individuals, and which is in furtherance of the Village's master plan, economic development, and the health, safety and welfare of the residents of and visitors to the Village, and not allow such motel units to be occupied on a permanent basis which is contrary to the interests of the Village residents and visitors and contrary to the Village's master plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the proposed local law amending Chapter 350 of the Code of the Village of Fort Edward titled "Zoning" amending the definition of a motel is hereby adopted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE (supermajority required):

Trustee Williams - Aye
Trustee Boucher - Aye
Trustee Cutler - Aye
Trustee Carpenter - Aye

3. Water Well Monitoring Agreement

- Rambo Engineering proposed annual monitoring of wells, indicating potential drilling for a new well.
- The Board agreed to draft a letter requesting more information and establishing an agreement with the engineering firm.

4. Speed Limit Concerns Near Mullen Park

- Concerns were raised about speeding vehicles near Mullen Park, especially during summer when children are present.
- The Board discussed the possibility of lowering the speed limit and installing signage to alert drivers.
- A public hearing was proposed to address the speed limit change, with a motion to set it for August 5th at 6:30 p.m.

5. Website Domain Registration Compliance

- The Board discussed the requirement for government entities to register their websites with a .gov domain.
- Options for hosting the village's website and email were explored, including potential county-level hosting solutions.

6. Domain Ownership Discussion

- There is uncertainty about the ownership of the domain name, which is currently paid for annually.
- It was suggested that the organization should own its domain to avoid complications in the future.

7. Firewall and Server

- The town's firewall cannot be used due to different server setups, necessitating a contract with a national provider costing \$2,600. This will finalize the server migration project.
- This expense will be taken from early project costs.

8. Paving Project Updates

- The paving projects are scheduled to begin in August, with full depth restoration from August 4 to August 22, and paving on August 25. This is specifically for Cooper, Prospect and Grove Streets.
- It is important to keep certain funding sources open for future work on specific streets to avoid a 10-year wait for repairs.

9. Water Break Repairs

- The crew needs to address the portion of the road at the hill on Case Street from a water break earlier in the year.

10. Safety Measures for Pilot Program for Camping at the Yacht Basin

- New safety requirements include installing life rings and no swimming signs at the yacht basin.
- The need for approved signage and permits is being addressed to ensure compliance with safety regulations.

11. Parking Regulations Discussion

- There is a proposal to limit parking duration at the village's public parking location at the yacht basin to two hours to prevent misuse by residents of nearby apartments.
- The enforcement of parking limits and potential adjustments based on events or peak usage times were discussed.

12. Public Safety Concerns

- A resident raised concerns about vehicles not stopping at crosswalks, suggesting the implementation of additional signage or enforcement measures.
- The idea of conducting sting operations to enforce crosswalk laws was proposed to improve safety for pedestrians.

13. Law Enforcement Coverage

- The office has access to necessary resources, including a room and computer, for law enforcement operations.
- There is a contract for 20 hours of coverage per week, but response times may vary due to other calls.
- Coverage for parking violations has decreased, prompting discussions about involving code enforcement for minor infractions.
- Officer Brown has been actively monitoring speeding in local areas, indicating a proactive approach to community safety.

14. Dog Waste Management

- Concerns were raised about dog owners not cleaning up after their pets in public areas.
- The process for reporting issues involves contacting animal control, which has been responsive in the past.
- Community members are encouraged to document violations and report them to authorities for action.

15. Community Events and Fundraising – Founders Day Festival

- Updates were provided on community fundraising efforts, including raffle tickets for various prizes.
- Merchandise such as sweatshirts and shirts are being sold to promote community spirit and raise funds.
- There is ongoing promotion of events through social media to increase community engagement and participation.

A motion to go to an executive session at 8:00 p.m. was made by Trustee **Cutler**, seconded by Trustee **Williams**. All ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the session was made by Trustee **Carpenter**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose
Village Clerk-Treasurer