

**Village of Fort Edward
Board of Trustees – Regular Board Meeting
Monday, September 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

Present: Dave Earsing, Kyle Cozzens, Gary Hill, Jim Thatcher, Jim Marlow

~~~~~  
**Approval of Minutes from August meeting**

**Motion by:** Trustee **Carpenter**

**Seconded by:** Trustee **Williams**

All ayes. Motion carried.

~~~~~  
Approval of Reports – Clerk, Code, Street, Sheriff's Report, Water

Motion by: Trustee **Cutler**

Seconded by: Trustee **Williams**

All ayes. Motion carried.

~~~~~  
**Audit of the Bills – Abstract #4**

**General - \$116,072.84 ( Peckham's – Pave Case Street \$76,930.33. Reimbursable by CHIPS)**

**Pay Before - \$8,832.99**

**Water - \$9,296.05**

**Pay Before - \$2,244.63**

**Motion by:** Trustee **Boucher**

**Seconded by:** Trustee **Carpenter**

All ayes. Motion carried.

~~~~~  
Summary

The meeting focused on various community issues, including drainage problems, tree maintenance, and financial decisions regarding infrastructure repairs. Key decisions included appointing a new planning board member and approving a resolution for repairs on Burgoyne Avenue. Additionally, discussions covered budget considerations for village court expenses, project updates, land acquisition, planning for upcoming events, and logistical needs such as porta potties and paving bids.

 **Outline**

1. Facility Use Permit •

- Fort Edward/Kingsbury Seniors permit has been in use for a couple of weeks, with scheduled play on Mondays and Fridays.

Resolution 11 of 2024-2025

Facility Use Permit – Kingsbury/Fort Edward Senior Center – Mullen Park

Motion by: Trustee Cutler

Seconded by: Trustee Boucher

Date: September 3, 2024
All ayes. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby acknowledge receipt of the Facility Use Permit and supporting documentation from the Kingsbury/Fort Edward Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Edward Village Board does hereby grant the Senior Center, permission to use Mullen Park Pickleball court in Monday's and Friday's from 9:00 am to 11:00 am; and

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

ALL AYES. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Planning Board Appointment •

- Mr. Amorosi will step down from the planning board as alternate, and Doreen Rabine is proposed for appointment.
- Rabine expressed interest in the position after attending a meeting.

Resolution 12 of 2024-2025

Appointment of Planning/Zoning Board Member

Motion by: Trustee **Williams** Seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**
Date: September 3, 2024
All ayes. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, the village board of Trustees are seeking a member for the combined Planning and Zoning Board; and

WHEREAS, Doreen Rabine expressed her interest to the mayor and Village Board in an email to the clerk after attending the August 7th Planning Board meeting to observe; and

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

3. Drainage Issues •

- The settling pond and storm system issues were discussed, with clogged laterals needing cleaning.
- Five permits have been obtained, with more possible as conditions are met.

Resolution 13 of 2024-2025

RESOLUTION CONDITIONALLY ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF PROPERTY IN DRIFTING RIDGE DEVELOPMENT FROM BROCO DEVELOPMENT, CORP.

Motion by: Trustee **Cutler** Seconded by Trustee **Boucher**
Date: September 3, 2024

All ayes. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, Broco Development Corp. has requested that the Village Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Village of Fort Edward (the “Village”) accept for dedication to the Village, a parcel of land consisting of a stormwater basin located in the Drifting Ridge Development and identified for tax map purposes as tax map parcel 171.14-1-7 (the “Property”); and

WHEREAS, Broco Development Corp. has offered to clean out certain culverts conveying stormwater to said stormwater basin on the Property as a condition of dedication of the Property to the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds and determines that the acceptance of said Property is in the best interests of the Village, provided that the conditions herein are satisfied.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts dedication of the Property and authorizes the Mayor to execute any and all documents accepting dedication of the property, provided that the following conditions are met prior to such acceptance:

1. Broco Development Corp. shall complete clean out of the culverts discharging stormwater to the Property, as may be acceptable to the Mayor; and
2. Review by counsel to the Village of all title and conveyance documents showing no liens or superior claims to the Property, as counsel to the Village may determine; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution 14 of 2024-2025

DEC MS4 Settlement

Motion by: Trustee **Williams** Seconded by Trustee **Cutler**

Date: September 3, 2024

All ayes. Motion carried.

WHEREAS, the village clerk received a notice, Failure to File a 2024 Notice of Intent for the MS4 General Permit; and

WHEREAS, the village did file for the MS4 General Permit however, NYS DEC stated an automatic generated email was sent noticing there were corrections that needed to be made. With failure to receive the email stating this notice, the village received a proposed Order on Consent for which the village must reply stating “failure to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) with a fee of \$2,085.00; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees does hereby approve this offer to settle the matter as a penalty and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

All ayes. Motion carried.

4. Financial Decisions for Infrastructure •

- A five-year ban is proposed to fund repairs on Burgoyne Avenue, estimated at around \$70,000.
- The materials and labor costs were discussed, with a motion to proceed with the paperwork.

5. Tree Maintenance and Beautification •

- Plans for tree planting along Broadway and in the marketplace were discussed, with a focus on beautification.
- Concerns were raised about damaged trees on Cortland Street affecting nearby properties.

6. Tree Removal Concerns •

- A resident expressed frustration over a village tree causing sewer line issues and the lack of action regarding its removal.
- The discussion highlighted the challenges of managing tree roots and their impact on sewer lines.

7. Tree Removal Discussion •

- A resident expressed frustration over a tree owned by the village causing sewer line issues, stating it must be removed.
- The village representative indicated that the tree is healthy and does not need to be removed, suggesting trimming instead.
- The resident insisted that trimming would not resolve the underlying soil and root problems caused by the tree.
- The resident mentioned previous experiences with tree removals in the village and the need for action due to ongoing plumbing costs.
- The village representative agreed to inspect the tree and discuss further actions after a scheduled visit.

8. Village Court Budget Considerations •

- Discussions were held regarding the potential transition of village court responsibilities to the town and associated budget implications.
- The town supervisor proposed a budget increase of around \$100,000 for the upcoming year to cover court expenses.
- Concerns were raised about the village's financial contributions and the impact on local taxes.
- The board discussed the importance of cost-effective savings and the need to evaluate the necessity of maintaining the village court position.

9. Project Updates • Kayak Launch

- The gangway is expected to be installed by Friday, with all components for the dock ready.
- A large dock at the visitor center is available for retrieval but will remain in storage until next year.

10. Land Acquisition •

- Papers for the Doty property have been signed, securing a favorable deal for the village.
- Matt will send a letter of thanks to the landowners for their cooperation.

11. Timber Harvesting Strategy • Gary Hill

- Small bulldozers with low ground impact have been located for timber harvesting.
- The approach will be sensitive to environmental conditions, with work paused if it becomes too wet.

- A proposal will be developed to outline the percentage of materials harvested and associated costs.

12. **Community Event Planning • Fort Edward Parade – September 2025**

- A military-themed celebration for Fort Edward's history is being planned for next year.
- Local churches will provide food, and a cornhole tournament is being considered.
- Coordination with the Washington County 250th Anniversary Committee is essential for event success.

13. **Coordination with Reenactors •**

- Future reenactments may conflict with the planned celebration, necessitating early outreach to participants.
- Collaboration with Fort William Henry is crucial to avoid scheduling conflicts and enhance event participation.

14. **Water Project Progress •**

- The water project is advancing well, with ground preparation and milling completed in key areas.
- A pre-construction meeting was held, although there were issues with attendance and communication.
- The water project has commenced, with significant progress on the new water line installation.

15. **Porta Potty Arrangements •**

- Porta potties are estimated to cost \$280, with various companies available for service.
- A specific company, Stone, is noted for being more expensive but reliable.

16. **Budget Modifications and Grant Opportunities •**

- A budget modification could allow for additional work in low-income neighborhoods, potentially covering sidewalks and tree removal.
- The grant application is due by November 28th, with discussions on how to maximize funding.

17. **Demolition and Asbestos Concerns •**

- There are plans to address vacant properties, including potential demolition of buildings with asbestos.
- A proposal for a grant to cover demolition costs is being prepared, with a focus on properties that could serve lower-income activities. A motion was made by Trustee **Carpenter** to set a public hearing for October 7th meeting at 6:30 p.m. and seconded by Trustee **Cutler**.

All ayes. Motion carried.

18. **Community Engagement and Publicity •**

- There is a need for better publicity regarding community projects to engage residents and stakeholders.
- Discussions included the importance of addressing local issues and improving community relations.

A motion was made to enter executive session by Trustee **Williams**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**.

All ayes. Motion carried.