

**Village of Fort Edward  
Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting  
Monday, November 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Present:** Dave Earsing, Kyle Cozzens, Doreen Rabine

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES**  
MOTION BY: TRUSTEE CARPENTER  
SECONDED BY: TRUSTEE CUTLER

**APPROVAL OF REPORTS - CLERK, COURT, CODE, STREET, WATER, SHERIFF**  
MOTION BY: TRUSTEE WILLIAMS  
SECONDED BY: TRUSTEE CUTLER

**AUDIT OF BILLS – ABSTRACT # 6**

**GENERAL ABSTRACT - \$155,307.78** (\$95,732.00 TO POLICE SERVICES FOR APRIL, MAY AND JUNE. ENGINEERING FOR SWMP, MS4 AND WATER PROJECT)  
**PAY BEFORE \$16,984.64**

**WATER ABSTRACT - \$10,517.72**  
**PAY BEFORE \$1,517.88**

MOTIONED BY: TRUSTEE CARPENTER  
SECONDED BY: TRUSTEE WILLIAMS

**Summary**

The meeting focused on addressing ongoing issues with the water project agreement, discussing the regulation of food trucks and vendors in the area, and planning for an upcoming festival. Key decisions included authorizing actions related to the water project, considering permit fees for food vendors, moving forward with a logging contract, and organizing outreach to local businesses for festival support.

** Outline**

**1. Water Project Agreement Issues •**

- The water project has faced significant challenges, particularly with the county's engineering firm, which has been difficult to work with.
- There are concerns about the depth of the water line on Prospect Street, which is currently below the required five feet, leading to potential warranty issues with the contractor.
- The contractor, Bellamy, has refused to warranty the work unless the line is lowered, which may require additional excavation and adjustments.
- Discussions are ongoing with LaBella and the county's attorney regarding the best course of action to resolve these issues.
- Matt is responsible for communicating with LaBella and the county to ensure proper handling of the situation.

**2. Food Trucks and Vendor Regulations •**

- A local business owner raised concerns about the presence of food trucks and their impact on traditional businesses, prompting a discussion on permit regulations.
- The board is considering implementing fees for food trucks and vendors, especially those operating regularly in the area.
- There is a need for better communication and coordination with vendors to ensure they follow proper permitting processes.
- Janelle is tasked with overseeing vendor permits and ensuring compliance with village regulations.

**3. Food Truck Fees and Permitting •**

- The current fee for food trucks is \$250 per year, which some attendees believe is too low given the operational days.
- There is a need to establish a fair fee structure that considers the frequency of food truck operations and the revenue they generate.
- Concerns were raised about the permitting process being too complicated, which could deter food trucks from applying.
- It was suggested that the revenue from permits could be used to promote Fort Edward, potentially reducing the budget needed for promotions.
- The importance of consistency in enforcement and the need for food trucks to have proper insurance and permits were emphasized.

#### 4. Economic Impact of Food Trucks •

- Food trucks can attract visitors to Fort Edward who may not otherwise come, benefiting local businesses.
- The discussion highlighted the need for a balance between fair fees and the economic benefits food trucks bring to the community.
- It was noted that some food trucks may only make a small profit during events, which should be considered when setting fees.

#### 5. Champlain-Hudson Power Express Project •

- The Champlain-Hudson Power Express project involves drilling under the Hudson River and is expected to last up to six months.
- The project requires 24/7 operations once drilling begins under the river, with safety measures in place to prevent environmental issues.
- Concerns were raised about potential damage to public infrastructure caused by the project, and the company is responsible for any disruptions.

#### 6. Infrastructure Restoration Concerns •

- There is visible damage from drilling, particularly along the curb and grass areas.
- Large trucks are causing wear on old streets, raising concerns about potential water infrastructure damage.
- No formal complaints have been received from the neighborhood regarding noise, although some residents can hear it.

#### 7. Logging Proposal Discussion •

- A proposal was presented regarding stumpage rates and trucking costs for logging operations.
- The speaker emphasized the need for realistic pricing and mentioned variability in trucker rates.
- A motion was made and approved to enter into a contract with Gary for logging services for the upcoming year.

Motion by Trustee **Boucher**, seconded by Trustee **Carpenter**.

All ayes. Motion carried.

#### 8. Festival Planning Updates •

- The town has tentatively approved a budget of \$5,000 for the upcoming parade and festival.
- Plans are in place to reach out to local businesses for support and to compile a list of dignitaries to invite.
- The speaker will send out a letter to businesses detailing how they can contribute to the event.

A motion to enter executive session was made by Trustee **Boucher**, seconded by Trustee **Cutler**.  
All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Rose  
Village Clerk-Treasurer