

MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF FORT EDWARD PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, AT TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:50 P.M.

PRESENT: Supervisor Fisher
Councilman Middleton
Councilman Suprenant
Councilwoman Mullen
Councilwoman Collier

OTHERS PRESENT: James Donahue, Scott Fitzgerald, Chuck Bump, Peter Ives, Brian Brockway, Frank McCleneghan, Theresa Rose, Ben Bramlage, Dave Earsing, Doreen Rabine and Town Clerk Aimee Ives.

**Public Hearing 6:50pm
Local Law #1 of 2025
Nuisance Properties**

Supervisor Fisher opened the Public Hearing at 6:50pm

The following notice was published in The Post Star on October 7, 2025:

TAKE NOTICE The Town Board of the Town of Fort Edward will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 6:50pm to hear comments on the proposed Chapter 14 entitled Nuisance Properties for the purpose of addressing chronic nuisance properties and nuisance activities in the Town of Fort Edward. At the Public Hearing anyone who wishes to comment will be heard.

Public Comment: None

Public Hearing will remain open until November 10th

**Public Hearing 6:55pm
2026 Preliminary Budget**

Supervisor Fisher opened the Public Hearing at 6:55pm

The following notice was published in The Post Star on October 7, 2025:

**TOWN OF FORT EDWARD
NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET HEARING**

Notice is hereby given, the preliminary budget for the Town of Fort Edward, Washington County, New York, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, has been completed and filed in the Office of the Town Clerk, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York where it is available for inspection during regular business hours.

Further notice is hereby given, the Town Board will hold a public hearing thereon

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 6:55 P.M. at the Town Hall, 118 Broadway, Fort Edward, New York and at such hearing any person may be heard.

Pursuant to Section 113 of the Town Law, the proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor	- \$ 12,287
Town Councilman (4)	- \$ 5,543
Superintendent of Hwy	- \$ 76,565
Town Clerk/Collector	- \$ 58,769
Town Justice	- \$ 41,000

In addition, REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW-SECTION 495

Exemption report: shows total assessed value on the final assessment roll that is exempt from taxation: shows the cumulative impact of all exemptions granted: this report is part of the final budget, and made available at the Town Hall.

Publish: October 7, 2025

Supervisor Fisher: The proposed budget increase is 1.0848 for 2026.

Public Comment: None

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilman Suprenant to close the public hearing at 6:59pm **ALL AYES**

Supervisor Fisher called the regular meeting to order at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 8, 2025 & 2026 Budget Workshop held September 30, 2025 **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to approve the monthly reports of the Town Clerk, Town Justice, Dog Control Officer, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Highway and Supervisor as submitted **ALL AYES**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to approve Abstract #10 in the amount of \$71,218.66 **ALL AYES**

ABSTRACT #10

GENERAL A – 13633-13645,13652,13679	\$13,588.65
GENERAL B – 13680-13683	\$ 3,794.45

HIGHWAY – 13684-13691	\$15,493.20
MUNICIPAL – 13646-13647,13692-13697	\$ 2,881.94
SPECIAL LIGHTING – 13698	\$ 3,333.48
SPECIAL WATER – 13648-13650,13699-13704	\$31,999.08
SPECIAL WATER 2 – 13651,13705-13707	\$ 127.86

TOTAL: \$71,218.66

BUSINESS:

**Scott Fitzgerald
Solar on Earth**

Scott Fitzgerald: I work for Solar on Earth, we partner with the State developers and help people subscribe to solar projects to get a subscription credit off their utility bill. The program is free. We work with our partners to allocate your Town meters onto some of the solar arrays through the NYSERDA program and generate off-set dollars which will be placed directly onto your National Grid bill reducing what you owe them every month. The program will save the Town 5%-10% off every dollar of credit they produce.

Councilwoman Mullen: Is that for each individual home in the Town of Fort Edward?

Scott Fitzgerald: Because it is a State program, National Grid does not sign you up for it but you can sign your home up for it.

Councilman Middleton: Is the savings just on energy consumption or also delivery & supply?

Scott Fitzgerald: It is the delivery & supply end of your bill.

Councilman Suprenant: Will it include street lighting?

Scott Fitzgerald: Unmetered lighting is not included; NYS has not passed that yet. If your streetlights have meters attached to them then yes, they will qualify. Without looking at your meters, it would be hard to tell what you qualify for.

The Board is interested in getting a proposal

Theresa Rose: How does it work in the winter when there is not a lot of sun?

Scott Fitzgerald: You will generate solar in the winter just not as much, but you will get more credits in the summer which is called a solar bank which you can take from during the winter months.

**Active Solar Development, LLC
142 Blodgett Rd.
Host Community/PILOT Agreements**

Frank McCleneghen: Presented the Board with the final PILOT & Host Community Agreement for the solar project located at 142 Blodgett Rd. in the Town of Fort Edward.

Set Public Hearing Noise Control Ordinance

MOTION by Councilwoman Mullen, Seconded by Councilman Middleton to set a public hearing on the proposed Noise Control Ordinance on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:55pm
ALL AYES

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you card from Dave Earsing to the Town Board for their assistance with Founder's Day.

Dave Earsing: We are having our first meeting Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Canal Street Marketplace to start planning for next year's event. I would like to get someone from the Town Board on the Committee if possible and we will be using the American Legion's 501-C3 instead of Rogers Island next year.

The following letter was read from RIHDA:

Tim,

RIHDA has applied and been approved for a matching \$25,000.00 Greenway Trail Planning Matching Grant for Rogers Island. Donations from the David Starbuck family will cover our contribution. The planning will consist of interpretive walking trails identifying the historic areas of the island. This will be done before any trails or signage can be installed. No cost to the Town and the grant will be written by Jim Thatcher from C.T. Male Assoc.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Brian Brockway:

- I received a quote of \$10,000.00 to cut down the tree on East Rd., 5 on DeGroot Rd and 1 at the pool.
- Blodgett Rd. work will begin next week.

Councilman Middleton: Will they be fixing the corner of Duer Rd. also?

Brian Brockway: I will check with them.

- The water tank is done except for anything they need to do inside the tank; that work will be done in the Spring.

- There is a junkyard in North Hoosick that is coming to look at all of the stuff at the old dump.
- Quote to tar cracks, seal and stripe the parking lot at Town Hall is \$11,000.00.

MOTION by Councilman Suprenant, Seconded by Councilwoman Collier to tar, seal and stripe the parking lot at 118 Broadway for a price not to exceed \$11,000.00.

Supervisor Fisher: We will contact both the Village and the Fire Dept. for their contribution.

Supervisor Fisher: We have an offer from Verizon to purchase an easement to the water tower for \$551,000.00.

Councilman Suprenant: I am not in agreement, I believe we need to negotiate. Will we still receive the rent we receive annually now?

Tabled

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Donahue: Thank you for your support at the pool this season. It went well; we ordered 500 bracelets, and they were gone by mid-July. We were able to have a pool party, school & library programs. I also wrote the federal school grant for breakfasts and lunches.

The Board thanked James for all of his efforts at the pool.

Theresa Rose: Why did you stop before the end of Gates Ave. with the paving?

Brian Brockway: We only pave to the State apron.

Theresa Rose: I heard the county taxes are going to go up 40%.

Supervisor Fisher: The County budget is being worked on to get the percentage down. There is a meeting at the County Building on Friday at 10:00am.

Doreen Rabine: The acquisition of the old number 9 school by the County; how did that come about? Was it purchased by the County?

Supervisor Fisher: The County purchased that building years ago.

Doreen Rabine: There was no voter requirement?

Councilman Middleton: It was brought up at several County Board Meetings.

Doreen Rabine: They have been putting a lot of money into that building.

Supervisor Fisher: The money that has been going into that project is all ARPA money that the Federal Government paid for.

Councilman Suprenant: A lot of what is affecting the County Budget is Medicaid.

Supervisor Fisher: By the end of August Social Services was already \$3.7 million dollars over their budget for the whole year because the Federal and State Government stopped reimbursing the County.

Supervisor Fisher: It's a lot of things; it's a \$220,000,000.00 budget.

Councilman Middleton: The price they paid for that building was about 1/10 of what they were looking at building a new building for even knowing going into it they needed a new roof, heating system, etc.

Councilman Suprenant: What agencies are going in there?

Supervisor Fisher: Board of Elections, Public Health and Code Enforcement are there now.

Councilman Suprenant: Public Health will get reimbursed some of the money to be in there from the Federal and State Government.

Peter Ives: The Federal Government stopped reimbursing the State Government, so the State Government has to keep money away from the Counties. Are Essex County and Clinton County having the same problems?

Supervisor Fisher: They are all going through the same thing, it depends on what they have for fund balance. Services are getting cut because we have no choice.

Brian Brockway: There is a camper at the property that we boarded up in the Burgoyne Ave. Trailer Park.

Supervisor Fisher: I will follow up with the Sheriff on that.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Councilman Middleton, Seconded by Councilwoman Mullen to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm **ALL AYES**

Dated: October 16, 2025

Aimee Ives, Town Clerk

