

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**April 18, 2023**

**Location of Meeting:**

Village Office  
12175 State Route 12E  
Chaumont, New York 13622

**Present at Meeting:** James Morrow, Jose Sosa, Michael Nichols, Dori-Ann Froelich, Karen Fitzgerald, Erin Fulton, Fred Wendell, Linda Wendell, Ralph Eastman, Alec Wendell, and Lynn Wendell

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:32 PM on April 18, 2023.

**I. Privilege of the Floor**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Lois Wendell introduced herself as a former summer resident (now full-time resident) of Hart Road in the Town of Lyme. She is a volunteer with the New York Citizens Audit, and thanked the Board of Trustees for hearing her concern. She explained that the New York Citizens Audit is a group of citizens that have organized for the purpose of performing an open-source audit of the New York State Board of Elections. She provided a “Study in Deficits” report to the Board of Trustees ahead of the meeting, and asked for board support in passing a resolution calling upon representatives including Town Board members, County Legislators, State Legislators, Federal Legislators, Law enforcement, State and Federal prosecutors, and judges to help enact legislation defining a mutually agreed upon process by which an end-to-end audit would take place for the New York State 2022 General Election, all future elections, accuracy in state and county voter roll databases, and anonymous vote verification and tracking. The anticipated legislation by the New York Citizens Audit would also criminalize election misconduct explicitly with regard to state election law, and increase penalties for offenses.

Deputy Mayor Morrow questioned what this may have to do with the Village of Chaumont, as all current trustees have run the past several years unopposed, and the amount of votes cast that have put them in office defies “voter fraud” accusations in their limited numbers.

Mrs. Wendell explained that her group is not accusing the Village of Chaumont of voter fraud, but rather is trying to get the support of many legislative bodies to demand an audit of the state’s Board of Elections. They believe the fraud is not necessarily on a local level, but statewide. She read the pre-written resolution her group provided and expressed her hope that the VBT would vote on it at the next regular Board of Trustees meeting in May.

**II. DPW Update**

Deputy Mayor Morrow and Trustee Nichols both shared their thanks (to be passed on to the DPW staff) for the work in repairing and replacing the street signs around the Village. The team has been doing a great job now that the ground is thawing of ensuring the signs are straight and visible.

Clerk Fulton presented the registration form for the 2023 Highway School through Cornell Local Roads Program/NYS LTAP Center at Ithaca College June 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Highway Superintendent for the Town of Lyme will be attending with some other Town DPW members,





- IT Support sales presentation invitation from Lisa Brown, CEO of CST Group, Inc.
- Notification that the Village of Chaumont's ZOOM account has been downgraded to the Basic Plan
- Notice from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield that although a correspondence sent to members in February listed names and/or addresses incorrectly, personal information was not compromised with this error
- Greg Ingerson signed the annual Scheduled Preventative Maintenance Agreement (PMA) with Emergency Power Systems, LLC of Stark Tech
- Our liability representative with Glatfelter Claims Management, Inc. who is handling the Susan Roof claim #NYPF22080861 has been reassigned to Phyllis Ross
- Email from NYCOM thanking Mayor Rust for signing the letter in support of a dedicated funding stream for water and sewer systems (known as SWAP). The letter, which garnered the signatures of 311 mayors, was shared with every legislator and the Governor's office
- The Department of Health sent the 2023 monitoring requirements for the community, direction to distribute updated Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) prior to May 31<sup>st</sup>, and instruction that all community water systems must develop and submit a lead service line inventory to their local health department by October 16, 2024
- Confirmation from ESA Insurance that they deleted the 2008 Ford F150 from our policy effective 10/15/2022 and reimbursement check of \$484.00 – the difference in the premium
- Letter from Kathy Saville, NYCLASS Investment Director, inviting our municipality to consider enrolling in their program
- Email from Jim Burrows, Village of Chaumont counsel, encouraging municipalities to look into investing with NYCLASS as an alternative banking institution for reserve accounts
- A letter from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Civil Rights conducting a research project to identify best practices for the Title VI program. The Village of Chaumont was requested to respond as a sub recipient of NYSDOT. The Village of Chaumont did not perform any Title VI self-reviews/self-assessments from FY 2019 – FY 2022
- Notification from the Department of the Treasury that our mailing address has been changed to PO Box 297, Chaumont, NY 13622

## **X. Resolutions #23 and #24 of the 2022-2023 Organizational Year**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 23**

**RESOLVED**, By the **Village Board of the Village of Chaumont** to adopt the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 as filed in the Village Clerk's office and on the public website. The Total Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 6/1/23-5/31/24 is \$180,104, which is under the Tax Cap of \$180,196. The Tax Rate for 2023-2024 will be \$4.58, which is \$.01 lower than 2022-2023 Tax Rate of \$4.59



with baseball coming up. Someone has been hired to mow the sports fields, but no one to draw the lines yet.

Trustee Froelich told the trustees that the Village Planning Board meeting for April had been canceled.

Deputy Mayor Morrow gave a recap on the recent Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) meetings he has been attending. Currently DANC is looking into a fair way to charge municipalities for water usage. The Village of Chaumont shouldn't change much – especially considering our municipality has nowhere to expand or build new water infrastructure. There will be a vote in June, and he is anticipating a decrease is what the village owes DANC quarterly.

Deputy Clerk Karen Fitzgerald informed the Board that she had been approached by Julie Gosier on behalf of the Hamilton family, requesting recognition (maybe some sort of memorial stone or plaque) at the Village Beach, formerly “Hamilton’s Beach.” Ms. Gosier was unsure if the beach had been donated by the Hamilton family or purchased by the Village of Chaumont. After some research, Karen found that the beach was “leased with option to purchase” by the village in 1962, under a contract of \$1600.00 to be paid annually (paid in \$800.00 increments every six months) to Lyle and Evelyn Hamilton.

Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald also informed the Board that there will be a meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 of concerned citizens who are hoping to form a committee to raise money for repair and revitalization of tennis courts.

## **XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Trustee Nichols made a motion to adjourn at 8:33 PM, which was seconded by Trustee Froelich.

Respectfully Submitted

*Erin Fulton*

Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer