

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**December 19, 2023**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Tammy McIntosh, Erin Fulton, and Jim Morrow (*second half*)

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Deputy Mayor Nichols at 6:30 PM on December 19, 2023.

**I. Privilege of the Floor**

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no privilege of the floor.

**II. DPW Update**

Clerk Fulton updated the Board of Trustees on ongoing Zoning & Code violations and their status. A violation letter was mailed to 27730 Water Street for trash accumulation on the property. The building at 12148 County Route 125 remains condemned while undergoing renovations. A visit to 27374 Mill Street was made regarding trash accumulation on the property, with forthcoming violation letter due to noncompliance. Further complaints were made regarding this property on December 14<sup>th</sup> (by email) and December 18<sup>th</sup> (to DPW staff) by two different residents. Trustee McIntosh informed the Board that the owner of this property works at Euro Auto Classics if an additional visit is required. While Mr. Millington gave a Zoning Board of Appeals application to 27405 Washington Street, who is currently operating a dog kennel business which they are not zoned for within the village, all supporting documents and fees have not been submitted to the Village Clerk's office at this time to move forward. The Board requested that Mr. Millington follow up again, as just last week three dogs were loose from the property and harassing children on school grounds.

Deputy Mayor Nichols asked Clerk Fulton how the biweekly DPW meetings with Mayor Morrow and DPW staff have been going. Clerk Fulton shared some meeting notes as well as informed the Board of hazardous sewer levels with the heavy rains the village has experienced. The DPW has been keeping abreast of the situation. A negative contributing factor to these elevated levels are the use of basement sump pumps fed directly into our sewer lines, which is illegal yet difficult to enforce compliance. A suggestion for a notice to go out to residents as a reminder was offered, and accepted.

**III. Motion to Approve Abstract #7 of 2023/2024**

Deputy Mayor Nichols said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #7, with Trustee McIntosh making a motion to approve and Trustee Sosa seconding the motion.

### IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of November 21, 2023

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting and Trustee McIntosh seconded the motion.

### V. Water/Sewer Report

There was no water or sewer report.

### VI. Treasurer’s Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT					
NOVEMBER RECEIPTS					
YR ENDING	May 31, 2024				
REAL PROP TAXES	SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	REGISTRAR FEES	UNCLASSIFIED	TOTAL
A1001	A1120	A1130	A1603	A2770	
	46538.64	0.01	100.00	299.73	46938.38
		20.03			20.03
		30.20			30.20
0.00	46538.64	50.24	100.00	299.73	46988.61
		Google	Audo	Mike & Karen	
		Time Warner Cbl			
		Township			

METERED WATER	O&M AND DOC	INT AND PEN	METER FEES	SERV CONNECTION	RET CK	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	F2144	F2145	FEES	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
1,006.01	105.35	5.00				1116.36	536.64	835.71	5.00	150.00	1527.35
327.16	44.25					371.41	138.00	331.02		63.70	532.72
65.00	20.00					85.00	54.00	52.67		50.00	156.67
440.16	70.00	10.00				520.16	318.55	273.52	10.00	243.08	845.15
474.07	140.01					614.08	195.34	373.28		226.14	794.76
284.65	50.00					334.65	252.00	212.01		149.35	613.36
142.49	60.00	10.00	25.00			237.49	12.00	195.51	10.00	145.00	362.51
275.16	40.00					315.16	137.68	252.52		119.00	509.20
1,009.37	430.00					1439.37	582.00	971.10		779.51	2332.61
1,659.01	669.98	5.00				2333.99	944.40	1,686.45	5.00	1,398.84	4034.69
2,270.65	809.91	15.00				3095.56	1,476.00	2,282.47	15.00	1,906.81	5680.28
1,478.11	335.32	5.00				1818.43	1,004.46	1,431.87	5.00	796.34	3237.67
295.00	130.00	15.00				440.00	156.00	377.68	15.00	399.34	948.02
9726.84	2904.82	65.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	12721.66	5807.07	9275.81	65.00	6427.11	21574.99

### VII. Old Business

Clerk Fulton shared the info she gathered from Town of Lyme Clerk Ariana Henderson regarding a municipal debit card, as requested in the last board meeting. This card is used to make purchases such as hotel rooms, supplies, training expenses, etc. The Town of Lyme’s debit card is through Watertown Savings Bank and has a limit of \$3,000. There are no fees to use it. An authorized user can withdraw up to \$500 at an ATM. Generally, a municipality has 1-2 authorized users. There is no bounce protection. Clerk Fulton believes the Village of Chaumont would only need \$1000 on a prepaid debit, and if the Board approves, will contact Kerri Noone at WSB to set it up. Trustee Sosa made a motion to have Clerk Fulton move forward with procuring a debit card for the Village of Chaumont, seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

Although Clerk Fulton talked with PT Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer Richard Ingerson about his willingness to take on the added responsibility of CEO/ZEO if necessary, she followed up with attorney John Mancini of NYCOM and learned there is no inherent conflict with allowing new Town of Lyme Supervisor Jim Millington to remain as Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Chaumont.

### **VIII. New Business**

The Board of Trustees reviewed the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department's Membership Roster for 2024. Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the roster, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

### **IX. Correspondence**

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- From the Office of the State Comptroller, the Village of Chaumont's share of funds collected by the Town of Lyme court for the month of October 2023 is \$250.00
- Notes from the November 28, 2023 Hydraulics Webinar by ARC/FEMA attended by Deputy Clerk Soules
- A letter from the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury urging State and Local leaders to use their SLFRF/ARPA funds to build and improve access for affordable housing
- Invitation from the New York Association of Local Government Records Officers (NYALGRO) to become a member
- Notice from Jefferson County Department of Planning that the Eight-Year Review for the North Agricultural District #2 has been completed and certified for 2024

### **X. Resolution #20 of the 2023-2024 Organizational Year**

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees that there is various pieces of junk equipment, vehicles, a generator, scrap metal, etc. at the Village of Chaumont's Wastewater Treatment Plant that Mayor Morrow had requested the DPW dispose of in accordance with the law. Clerk Fulton talked to Rebecca Ruscito, NYCOM counsel, to discuss the process of surplus property. She learned that municipalities do not need to have competitive bids to sell property. The Board of Trustees must declare (by resolution) that any property to be sold is "surplus property." We must provide fair and adequate consideration, meaning (in this case) the DPW Supervisor must identify a fair price for the property to justify what the village accepts as payment. We do not need to solicit quotes, but simply indicate a fair market value.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees declares the junk equipment, inoperable vehicles, scrap metal, and obsolete generator at the village's Wastewater Treatment Plant surplus property. DPW Supervisor Ingerson called various establishments and found that a fair market value price for the generator is \$2,000.00. For the equipment, vehicles, and other pieces of scrap metal, the current valuation of scrap per pound is .0625/lb. Supervisor Ingerson estimated the weight of current scrap at 14,000 pounds.

<b>VOTING:</b>	<b>Ayes</b> 3	<b>Nays</b>	0
The roll call vote was:	Mayor, Jim Morrow		ABSENT
	Deputy Mayor, Mike Nichols		YES
	Trustee, Jose Sosa		YES
	Trustee, Dori-Ann Froelich		ABSENT
	Trustee, Tammy McIntosh		YES

**RESOLUTION NO. 20 ADOPTED.**

At a rate of .0625/lb. for 14,000 lbs., our valuation is \$875.00. Perkins Scrap has offered \$1,500.00. Trustee Sosa made a motion to accept Perkins’ offer, seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

**XI. Mayor’s Report/Committee Reports**

Mayor Morrow updated the Board of Trustees on his current correspondence with Village of Chaumont’s attorney, Jim Burrows. Among the points of discussion was further transparency with legal invoices, Convergent solar matters, outside water user issues, and current property maintenance laws.

Deputy Mayor Nichols had no report.

Trustee Froelich was absent, so there was no committee report on the Village Planning Board.

Trustee Sosa gave a brief report on the Youth Commission. Scott and Derek cleaned the commission’s shed out, which went toward Derek’s community service hours. He also took down soccer nets, etc. Basketball started the first week of December. There were twelve 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, and ten 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger. Soccer ended successfully. It was great having the seniors as referees, and Sierra Walker as the new soccer coordinator. New ball pumps are needed. Also, a new ski club is in the works. There are about twenty students interested. The fee would be \$10 for a lift ticket with free admission for chaperones.

Trustee McIntosh informed the board that the first Sesquicentennial Meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> was a success. There were about 12 people in attendance. A discussion was started regarding a potential date for the sesquicentennial celebration in 2024, and the consensus was to have the events in conjunction with Lyme Community Days. Trustee McIntosh talked to both Winning Promotions and Inkwell Graphics regarding a logo, and found it will cost about \$300.00. This could be used to make shirts, souvenirs, etc. She informed the Board that Heather Lipczynski did receive some donations from the Community Dinner, but she is unsure where donation and fundraising dollars are being kept. Mayor Morrow asked if someone on the committee could open an account, and Trustee McIntosh said she believes she can do it through the Lyme Improvement League and their 501c3, and she would talk to Chris Roland with the Copley House. Mayor Morrow suggested a logo for the Sesquicentennial could possibly be done on Powerpoint or Canva for free. Trustee McIntosh said she knows a vendor who can do a banner for State Route 12E.

Clerk Fulton reminded the Board of Trustees that a new organizational year warrants new authorized signers at the Village of Chaumont’s financial institutions, Gouverneur Savings & Loan and Watertown Savings Bank. The new official signers for the Village of Chaumont are Mayor

Morrow and Clerk-Treasurer Fulton, per Resolution 18-2023/2024. She will be handing in the paperwork next month. In lieu of financial discussion, the Town of Lyme will begin their water billing cycle at Veteran's Park now that the water lines have been installed. Because water is not yet turned on at the park, MXU and meters have not been installed. This brought up the question of equipment fee, and whether or not it should be waived. A discussion was had regarding product versus service, and while the Village of Chaumont is generally willing to waive an inter-municipal service fee, it cannot waive a fee on a product that costs the village money. Trustee Nichols made a motion to begin Veterans' Park's water billing cycle with initial startup costs charged to the Town of Lyme (MXU and meter fees), which was seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

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

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:06 PM, which was offered by Deputy Mayor Nichols and seconded by McIntosh.

Respectfully Submitted

*Erin Fulton*

Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer