

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 16, 2024

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Tammy McIntosh, Dori Froelich, Erin Fulton, Rose Soules, and Will Lipczynski

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:32 PM on January 16, 2024.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chief of the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department, Will Lipczynski, took privilege of the floor. He informed the board that there will be another free Community Dinner at the Fire Department, Sunday February 18th from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Updating the room on the service of the firefighters and first responders, he affirmed that 31 calls have been responded to year-to-date, in January alone. On January 7th, the team attended to a non-responsive infant with RSV. They worked for 36 hours round-the-clock in conjunction with the DPW during the windstorm in the village.

Chief Lipczynski made a request regarding more thorough plowing of the fire department parking lot. On the night of the non-responsive infant, LifeNet could not land as anticipated since the helipad wasn't completely plowed.

He also asked the Board of Trustees to make a resolution to approve the VFD's purchase of a new fire truck, guaranteeing them a lower APR through the Bank of Greene County. They have already published a notice in the newspaper for their Public Hearing, notifying the public of their intention to purchase a truck for \$358,000 over 15 years, on January 31, 2024. They would then need approval from the Village Board by municipal resolution – which in no way forces the Village of Chaumont to guarantee the obligation by board approval. Mayor Morrow asked if the Town of Lyme did this for Three Mile Bay? This couldn't be confirmed. He also asked Chief Lipczynski if they have looked further into the grant information he provided to them. The chief asked if the board had any recommendations to help with this, and Mayor Morrow said he could discuss with a contact he knows. He would also like a little more time to research this resolution on financial approval and will get back to Chief Lipczynski on Monday regarding how the board will move forward.

The Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department has also taken in a new member since the Village Board of Trustees approved their membership roster last month. This brings their total to 38 members. Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the membership of Megan Thomas. Trustee McIntosh made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Froelich. All in favor.

II. DPW Update

Clerk Fulton updated the Board of Trustees on the Zoning & Code violation at 27405 Washington Street. While Mr. Millington had previously given the resident a Zoning Board of Appeals application for the dog kennel business they were operating within the village, they decided to withdraw the application and cease operations. Since then, witnesses have claimed harassment by dogs coming off the property – specifically onto school grounds and bothering students. The Board requested that Mr. Millington follow up again. A violation letter was sent by certified mail to 27374 Mill Street.

The DPW has continued to pick up tree branches throughout the village after last week’s wind storm. Our crew worked long hours during the storm to keep the streets clear, gauge power outages, and monitor generators and lift stations. The board expressed their appreciation for our staff, as well as first responders during this storm.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #8 of 2023/2024

Mayor Morrow said he’d accept a motion to approve Abstract #8, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Deputy Mayor Nichols seconding the motion.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of December 19, 2023

Mayor Morrow asked for a correction to be made in the December minutes, with the title “Deputy Mayor” changed to “Mayor” in the Committee Reports section when referring to Mayor Morrow. Contingent on that edit, Trustee Froelich made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023 Organizational Meeting, and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion.

V. Water/Sewer Report

There was no water or sewer report.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT								
DECEMBER RECEIPTS								
YR ENDING <i>May 31, 2024</i>								
REAL PROP TAXES	LIEU OF TAXES	GROSS UTILITY TAX	FRANCHISE FEE	CLERK FEES	REGISTRAR FEES	BLDG/PERMIT	UNCLASSIFIED	TOTAL
A1001	A1081	A1130	A1170	A1255	A1603	A2555	A2770	
		19.87	1431.52				6.00	1457.39
		30.16	1438.60				1500.00	2968.76
		0.01						0.01
0.00	0.00	50.04	2870.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	1506.00	4426.16
		TWC	Charter				ESA Adj.	
		Township	National Grid				Scrap to Perkins	
		Compliance						

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	INT AND PEN	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&m AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
2,180.55	332.68	13.74	2526.97	887.52	1,858.76	13.74	938.01	3698.03
1,056.98	340.00		1396.98	764.00	995.09		639.67	2398.76
294.66	80.00		374.66	187.60	169.34		182.08	539.02
1,914.38	578.92		2493.30	1,014.79	1,294.19		1,250.00	3558.98
691.82	325.01		1016.83	378.00	796.88		833.36	2008.24
2,427.99	894.32		3322.31	1,694.74	2,123.05		1,952.86	5770.65
309.17	110.00		419.17	231.17	281.85		328.67	841.69
57.50			57.50	42.00	15.50			57.50
1,969.71	329.67	9.17	2308.55	1,248.00	1,161.38	9.17	789.61	3208.16
10902.76	2990.60	22.91	13916.27	6447.82	8696.04	22.91	6914.26	22081.03
WEBPAY								
LIHWAP (transfer from General Fund)								

VII. Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII. New Business

Trustee McIntosh brought up two (2) issues with DPW plowing. The first is near the home of Justine Dowe on Academy Street. The snow is consistently being plowed in a way that buries the fire hydrant. The responsibility to keep hydrants clear was questioned. Second, village streets remained unplowed for a majority of the morning on January 15, 2024. Clerk Fulton said she would address both of these concerns with Superintendent Ingerson and the DPW laborers.

The Board of Trustees also discussed sidewalk maintenance during the winter months. Although the DPW is responsible for bridge sidewalks, many residents in the village need a friendly reminder to keep their sidewalk clear, as students and various other walkers are being prohibited from using the sidewalks – especially with the large amounts of snow the village has been experiencing. Residents must maintain their sidewalks by shoveling or snow-blowing during the winter months. The trustees requested that the DPW staff let the clerk’s office know when any length of sidewalk has remained unclear for at least three (3) days.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- From Jefferson County Recycling and Waste Management, a notification that DANC passed a resolution in February of 2023 increasing the tipping fee at the Rodman landfill by \$4.00 per ton for all Municipal Solid Waste and Construction Debris. Therefore, effective as of January 1, 2024 the tipping fee at the County Transfer Station increased \$4.00 per ton – from \$80.00 to \$84.00

- A legal notice from the Charleston Wipes Settlement that Sewage Treatment Systems Operators in the United States whose system was in operation between January 6, 2018 and November 21, 2023 may be affected by a class action settlement. A Final Approval Hearing will be held on March 8, 2024
- A quote from McQuade & Bannigan and Stewart Signs for crossing guard sandwich board signs for the school crosswalk
 - Stewart Signs quoted 2' x 3' double sided sign for \$200.00
 - McQuade & Bannigan quoted 2' x 3' double sided, including frame for \$200.00
 - The trustees unanimously agreed to go with McQuade & Bannigan. Mayor Morrow asked Clerk Fulton to send a copy of the invoice to LCSD, who is working on securing grant funds for this reason
 - Chief Lipczynski recommended checking with NYS Department of Transportation to ensure sign compliance on a state highway
- Automatic renewal of the Village of Chaumont's permit to discharge waste at the City of Watertown William T. Field Memorial Pollution Control Plant. The permit is valid for three (3) years as long as all terms are met (until 1/16/2027), and a bill of \$250.00 will be forthcoming sometime after July 1, 2024
- Invitations for the Board of Trustees and Village of Chaumont staff to attend NYMIR's free training webinars for Workplace Violence Prevention and Harassment & Discrimination Training. These webinars fulfill the annual training requirements set forth by New York State for public employees
- A notification from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield notifying Village of Chaumont subscribers to a change in health coverage reimbursement for out-of-network providers

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Nichols asked if the DPW has a list of nonoperational street lights throughout the village that they monitor, as there have been many out in recent weeks. Deputy Clerk Soules confirmed that we do, and we keep National Grid updated of all lights that need repair as they are reported to us. As the whole board has noticed an influx of lights not working, it was questioned whether it was a malfunction or intentional (as an energy saving method).

Trustee McIntosh had no official report, as the next Sesquicentennial Committee meeting is not until the end of January. She informed the board that they are working on logo options as well as fundraising, but they need to acquire a 501c3. She also asked Chief Lipczynski about the funds that were raised for the celebration at the last Community Dinner, but he deferred her to talk to Heather, as he was unsure where they were being held.

Trustee Sosa said there was no Youth Commission meeting. Mayor Morrow added that the last two (2) Town of Lyme supervisors were on the Youth Commission, and it is important to have

someone from the town council as part of the commission. He is going to request that someone from that board join.

Trustee Froelich gave an update on the January 9, 2024 Village Planning Board meeting.

- She informed her fellow trustees that the VPB would like to take back final approval for Site Plan Review. Mayor Rust had given them final approval at one point, before rescinding that right based on an unfair scenario that had taken place that the VBT was unaware of. Mayor Morrow explained that the difference lies in the positions being elected versus appointed. Elected officers have more accountability with residents, thus should have the final say on their site plans. He further elaborated that most villages do not give final approval to the planning board. Furthermore, the trustees agreed that they generally follow the recommendations of the Planning Board regarding site plans in the village.
- Trustee Froelich asked if the VBT had any further info on the ZOOM request of the Planning Board. Mayor Morrow confirmed we are waiting on further direction from the state.
- A discussion was also had concerning who should be the point of contact for Site Plan Review (SPR). The planning board could not come to a consensus on this. The Board of Trustees agreed that the Clerk's Office, specifically Clerk Fulton, is a great point of contact for SPR. As has been done up to this point, she gives paperwork to residents during her office's business hours (Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and informs them of their need to attend a Pre-Submission Conference with the Village Planning Board. She then informs the VPB that they will be at the next meeting. When they hand in their completed paperwork (as they have been advised by the VPB), she lets the board secretary Jennifer Sosa know so that she can make copies and disseminate the packets to the chair and other board members by the SPR meeting.

A general discussion was had by all trustees regarding whether or not the Town of Lyme Supervisor should also be the Village of Chaumont's ZEO/CEO. Chief Lipczynski shared his opinion that Richard Ingerson is a fantastic option. Clerk Fulton reminded the board that she had talked to legal counsel, John Mancini, at NYCOM and found that there was no inherent conflict or legal issue with Jim Millington holding both positions. Mayor Morrow explained that Mr. Millington does not want to relinquish his position with the village, although the board seemed to be in varying stages of disagreement if this was a good fit moving forward. It was decided that compliance and documentation would be monitored over the next few months, and the topic would be revisited.

Mayor Morrow continues to work on village legislation regarding the sewer/water deal with the new Town Barn. He also informed the board that he and Clerk Fulton have been meeting on Wednesdays to work on an updated Personnel Policy. This should be done by the next meeting, and then they will move on to the budget for 2024/2025. Employee evaluations have been moved from June/July to January of every year, and have been scheduled for the end of this month. Mayor Morrow will evaluate Clerk Fulton and Superintendent Ingerson, who will in turn evaluate office and DPW staff they oversee.

Clerk Fulton requested that Deputy Clerk Soules attend the NYS Tug Hill Commission's 2024 Local Government Conference at Turning Stone on May 1st and 2nd. She would need one (1) night

lodging, and if registered by April 1st, the price of the training is \$25.00 for day one (discounted from \$50.00) and \$85.00 for day two (discounted from \$170.00). She will learn about funding and financing for municipal infrastructure, drinking water and wastewater, road-related projects and community investments. A five (5) hour training certificate will be given. Trustee McIntosh made a motion to approve Deputy Clerk Soules' attendance at this important training event, seconded by Trustee Froelich. All in favor.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Trustee Sosa made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue at 8:10 PM, seconded by Trustee Froelich. Trustees came out of Executive Session at 8:33 PM.

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM, which was offered by Trustee Sosa and seconded by Trustee Froelich.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer