

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
July 19, 2022

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Valerie Rust, James Morrow, Dori-Ann Froelich, Michael Nichols, Jose Sosa, Karen Fitzgerald, & Erin Fulton

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:33 PM on May 17, 2022 at the Village Office by Mayor Valerie Rust.

I. Privilege of the Floor

Mayor Rust began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no Privilege of the Floor.

II. DPW Updates

Mayor Rust asked Clerk Fulton to change the pay code on the McQuade & Bannigan invoice for the new catch basin and pipes from “General Fund” to “Sewer,” as they are affiliated with the storm drain repair on Mallard Drive and should be taken from the correct account. The installation of Percy’s sewer line had caused deterioration, and while a full repair was deemed too expensive, this small project was a temporary repair to the crushed storm drain.

Deputy Mayor Morrow noted that the potholes by Church Street looked a lot better. The DPW had filled holes there and on Park Drive with crushed stone in the last couple weeks. Mayor Rust stated that Park Drive will be refurbished. It has had problems since the work on the school fields. Culvert and drainage pipes are in the process of repair, with Suit Kote anticipated to come in and do resurfacing when that work is complete.

Although Water Street’s full resurfacing has be postponed until the completion of the Bridge Project, any potholes can and should be patched by the DPW.

The damaged, unusable playground equipment at the beach has been hauled out. The beach is open and all NYS and DOH requirements have been fulfilled for the season. Clerk Fulton confirmed that the beach safety plan is updated and posted, and she set up a petty cash box for beach fees. TDS has turned on telephone and United Rentals has delivered and is servicing the porta-johns and handwashing station. A new First Aid kit has been purchased.

Trustee Froelich asked when the last brush pickup will be for the season, and it was confirmed that Thursday, October 27th, will be the final day in this year’s cycle.

Trustee Nichols followed up on Joan O'Brien's driveway repair, and it was confirmed that Greg Ingerson had Al Netto repair the damaged "lip" where the road and her driveway meet. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald revisited Mrs. O'Brien's request that the garbage truck and plows (in the winter) no longer use the marina driveway as a turnaround, but instead back out up the road. Mayor Rust explained that as she is not the only resident on Mill Street, and garbage service and plowing is a necessary commodity for the LaFontaine's as well, we must come up with a solution that benefits all parties involved. She asked the clerk staff to schedule a teleconference with DPW Supervisor Greg Ingerson, as well as the village's garbage pickup contractor Mark Jessman, to determine how we can move forward. The Board also questioned what the Village of Chaumont's right of way is on Mill Street. The clerk's office will reach out to the County to gather this information.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #2 of 2022/2023

Deputy Mayor Morrow made a motion to approve Abstract #2 of 2022/2023 and Trustee Nichols seconded.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of the June 21, 2022 Board Meeting

Deputy Mayor Morrow made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022 Board Meeting and Trustee Froelich seconded.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees of a DEC Notice of Violation that was received on June 30 due to our Wastewater Treatment Plant's RBC being inoperable, and after a review of monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports indicated the facility has exceeded SPDES permitted effluent (treated wastewater) limits. Greg Ingerson wrote a response, as required within 30 days, to explain the situation. After months of working with insurances, factory representatives, manufacturer technicians, and engineers, the parts identified in a field report have been ordered and paid for. They arrived in late May, and since then we have been waiting on the contractor to come and do the work. Don Elzer of Darlington Equipment came on July 15, 2022 and set a time for the last week in July to start our repairs. No completion date was given, but he feels it will only take a week. Greg told the DEC that upon the completion of our RBC repairs, a complete survey of the sand beds will be performed. Since the RBC has been down the sand beds have been our source of treatment, and sample results have been steadily declining. New UV lights and globes have been ordered and will be installed when they arrive. Mayor Rust stated that Don Elzer said this is only the second RBC issue he has encountered in 30 years or so in this business. It is not a common malfunction, and we have had issues since the initial installation.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Clerk Fulton presented the Treasurer's Report as follows:

revitalization program where residents could come together to help out those who are struggling with property maintenance. Perhaps this could help with the Valentine property, as well. Trustee Froelich mentioned The Garden Club used to plant flower beds on that property, but have since discontinued this act.

Deputy Mayor Morrow asked about the trees that were supposed to be planted along the property line of the Solar Farm on County Route 179. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald said the company is indeed outside of their approved site plan if they haven't planted the trees. She asked if they have officially finalized and closed out their building permit. Clerk Fulton relayed that Jim Millington went to do a final walk through the property to inspect building code and close out permit, but she was unsure if it was officially signed off on. As far as Mayor Rust is aware, there is no new info on solar. This year's school tax should be based on full assessment. She understood that the Town of Lyme's late assessor Marsha Barton had sought outside help from the county with their assessment and hiring an outside assessor was considered. The last conversation Mayor Rust had with Mr. Norbut relayed her disappointed in learning there would be no PILOT, after the Board of Trustees had done everything in good faith that the Village of Chaumont would be benefitted.

VIII. New Business

Mayor Rust explained a RESTORE New York Communities Initiative that Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer had presented in an email to her this week. NY will be releasing grant money to smaller municipalities, primarily villages and hamlets, for downtown revitalization projects. She asked the Board if anyone would be willing to join a committee and serve toward applying for one of these grants, specifically "NY Forward." The Village should also consider an application for "RESTORE NY," as that could help some private developers in our downtown area by helping fund the renovation of blighted buildings in our community. Mayor Rust highlighted some information on the pamphlets, which suggested applicants develop a list of projects with "one or two substantial anchor projects." These projects could include building facade renovations, activation of vacant upper-stories and shops, crosswalks, public art, and parks. The Board came up with some ideas including a village municipal building, the Valentine property, main street building renovations, new sidewalks, and repairs to Memorial Drive. As this is something Mrs. Schweitzer works with professionally, Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald wondered what ideas she would bring to the table, as well. Before submitting a letter of intent to apply, everyone agreed that a teleconference with Hartley Schweitzer and Stephen Hunt – the two residents who approached the Mayor with this opportunity – would be in order to better understand our options, learn the best approach, and glean any guidance they have to offer. Mayor Rust will set something up with them for this week.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

The Village of Chaumont received notification from the Office of the New York State Comptroller that we will be receiving the remaining 50% of its American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in the amount of \$29,640.93.

The Village of Chaumont received notification from the Environmental Facilities Corporation that our short-term note is scheduled to mature on 12/31/2022. An upcoming conference call with EFC will explain our options going forward. Mayor Rust asked Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald to type up a summary email of where we are at with the loan and what our next steps will be in regards to long-term financing.

Slack Chemical Company is changing the price of Sodium Hypochlorite 15% to \$5.05/gallon.

Converse Laboratories will be adding a surcharge of 3% to every invoice as a separate line item with all work received starting July 1, 2022.

Campanelli & Associates, P.C. sent a form letter offering assistance in drafting a new, more comprehensive zoning code provision to control the number and placement of new wireless facilities in our jurisdiction.

Supervisor Countryman provided a signed copy of the annual agreement between the Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, and Chaumont Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

A request for consent by Citizen's Bank of Cape Vincent to assign the Village of Chaumont's Security and Custodial Agreement to GS&L Municipal Bank, Gouverneur Savings and Loan Association's NYS chartered limited purpose commercial bank subsidiary, pursuant to their merger's closing on July 15th, and Clerk Fulton's signed consent form.

X. Motion to Approve Proposed Project at 12166 Co. Rte. 125

Resolution No. 35

Mayor Rust stated she would accept a motion to approve a proposed project at 12166 Co. Rte. 125 of a Training Center for Boxing (as a home occupation) in the garage of Jose and Jennifer Sosa. A motion was offered by Trustee Nichols and seconded by Trustee Froelich, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly approved as follows:

Valerie Rust, Mayor: YES

James Morrow, Deputy Mayor: *Abstained*

Dori-Ann Froelich, Trustee: YES

Jose Sosa, Trustee: *Abstained*

Michael Nichols, Trustee: YES

Resolution No. 35 ADOPTED.

XI. Motion to Adopt New Rate of Pay for Chaumont Beach Staff

Resolution No. 36

Mayor Rust stated she would accept a motion to adopt a new rate of pay for the Beach Director and lifeguards at Chaumont Village Beach for the 2022 season. The Beach Director position will be paid an hourly rate of \$17.00/hour, and the lifeguard positions will be paid an hourly rate of \$15.00/hour. A motion was offered by Trustee Sosa and seconded by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and upon roll call vote of the Board, was duly approved as follows:

Valerie Rust, Mayor: YES
James Morrow, Deputy Mayor: YES
Dori-Ann Froelich, Trustee: YES
Jose Sosa, Trustee: YES
Michael Nichols, Trustee: YES

Resolution No. 36 ADOPTED.

XII. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Trustee Nichols presented his concerns regarding street signs around the Village of Chaumont. There continue to be bent signs down by the beach. He noticed the flag at Memorial Park is flying, although the stones could use some pressure-washing and general cleaning. The glass that surrounds light at end of lane at Memorial Park is pretty dirty. Trustee Sosa reminded the Board that Pat Reome is currently looking into quotes to have the stones at Memorial Park professionally refurbished.

Trustee Froelich notified the Board that suspected drainage from County Route 179 appears to be flowing through Scott and Janet Willett's property and some residents on Water Street have had to make berms out of sand bags to prevent water from filling their basements. Mayor Rust asked her to please take pictures of this as this is the first complaint she's heard of this happening. Trustee Sosa questioned if any roadwork had recently been done on Route 179 to cause this, but no one is aware of anything. The drainage issues on Water Street are slated to be addressed with Water Street repairs and paving after the Bridge Project completion, and Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald suggested talking to Tim Maloney about this. Mayor Rust agreed, but we definitely need pictures to track it. There is a catch basin off 12E, so it can't be coming from there. Our water fund will have to carry the cost of the repairs including contractors, excavating, etc., so we have to be cognizant of what we are spending.

Mayor Rust went through her notes which included any further research on Wilson Lane being tabled, and the upcoming work on the widening of Church Street. The DOT wants to know about drainage and ADA ramps. The water line repairs on that street have been temporarily postponed as the quote to add them to our current projects was too high and over budget. Pat Weston and the Town of Lyme Highway Department are doing the

sidewalk and curb work on Church Street, and the village is very appreciative for their help.

She has been in contact with Bob Oaky for tennis court repairs. Gregor (our contact at BCA) said that Alex Bay had 4 tennis courts refurbished in the amount of \$35,000, and gave us the name of two vendors. Mr. Oaky was the only one who came through, but unfortunately his current quotes are double what we anticipated. To have the courts cleaned, true and leveled, with asphalt – the Village of Chaumont would be looking at \$52,000 for 1” and \$60,000 for 2”. That does not include an additional \$22,000 for labor. It is simply not feasible for this year. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald reminded the Board that Kathy Carr had offered to do a fundraiser. The Board wondered if this project would warrant a vote by village residents to gauge interest vs. cost.

Following up on the previous request by Joe Chavoustie to connect the sidewalk at Bayview Manor to the bridge’s sidewalk, it was determined that the sidewalks are on opposite sides of the street and the DOT is unlikely to go outside of their project scope – especially with having to consider a crosswalk to connect the two sidewalks. The higher speed zone in that area would make a crosswalk a dangerous addition. Mayor Rust sent an email to Gregor to confirm all of this, and is awaiting a response.

The proposed food vendor at Memorial Park has been tabled to next year, as they ran into some issues with the Department of Health for this season.

Mayor Rust is currently working on the AUD report with Clerk Fulton. They will need office assistant Cathy Munger to provide propane unit report for the sewer plant.

XIII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and seconded by Trustee Sosa.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer