

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

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Dori-Ann Froelich, Tammy McIntosh, Erin Fulton, Karen Fitzgerald, Paul Norton, Ethan O'Brien, Derek Radley, & Evan Froelich

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:33 PM on September 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 gave the Board of Trustees a recap from the DPW meeting on Monday, September 11th with Mayor Morrow, Greg Ingerson, Al Netto, and herself in attendance. Various beach closeout tasks were discussed, as well as a foundation for a changing shed in the spring. Mayor Morrow has requested that the Town of Lyme keep the village informed when they do repairs to the fence at Bicentennial Park, and we will make repairs to the beach portion of the fence at the same time.

The ash trees at Memorial Drive were trimmed with Mrs. Pat Reome, and the birch tree by the tennis courts will be removed. Meters must be fixed at several locations including Bevens, Murray, Meeks, Porter, and liquor store. Fire department parking lot apron will be temporarily repaired with cold patch before blacktopping this spring. The grinder pump on Water Street has been repaired.

Trevor Weston will be going to school for his water license October 11th and October 12th. Both Trevor and Al Netto completed the Certified Excavator Program in the end of August.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #4 of 2023/2024

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve Abstract #4 and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of August 15, 2023

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting, contingent on two edits recommended by Mayor Morrow. Trustee Froelich seconded the motion. The edits are removing "Deputy" from Mayor Morrow's title in the motion to adjourn, and changing Tammy McIntosh's appointment statement to "was appointed to take the open trustee position on the Village Board," in section VIII. New Business. All in favor.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton brought up several resident concerns regarding the recently assessed surcharge for water turn-ons this spring. Although the Village of Chaumont Water Use Law requires a shut off and turn on fee, the implantation of this for seasonal residents has been hit or miss over the last few years, and many villagers were surprised to see it on their water bills this period. The Village DPW are the only persons authorized to shut off or turn on water at the curb, and minutes from July of 2015 directed that a notice should go out to residents reminding them that a \$25.00 fee is assessed each time water is turned on or turned off. In September of 2015, a notice went out stating that \$25.00 would be charged for shut off, but not for turning water back on in the spring. Mayor Morrow stated that every time the DPW has to turn on or shut off water, it takes time from their regularly scheduled work. Trustee McIntosh agreed, and said the fee is nominal. The Board of Trustees agreed unanimously to follow the current law, with disconnect and reconnect fees remaining in place going forward.

Alissa Van Niel called regarding turning the water back on in the upstairs apartment at 27379 Mill Street. It was determined by the Board of Trustees that the water would be turned on in the same status as it was turned off – with a separate meter and classified as 1 EDU.

Clerk Fulton discussed the costly repairs on obsolete equipment at the WWTP for the past several years. Currently, the radiator in the backup generator at the WWTP needs emergency repair as it can barely function due to uncontrollable leakage. Greg Ingerson received a quote for approximately \$14,000 to send it out for repair, with a turnaround of about 10 weeks. We have also recently paid for repairs/new parts for the generator in the amounts of \$3,500 (August 2022), \$2,000 (November 2022), and \$1,500 (July 2023), on top of generator maintenance. Greg also looked into a quote for a new generator, eliminating the need for repair on obsolete parts with the current apparatus. He was quoted \$36,000 for a whole new generator, installed, and no lapse in function (such as the 10 weeks where we would be holding our breath that we don't lose power for a repair). Although pricier now, this would save the village major revenue loss going forward. In the current event of power outage, the generator will kick on, but the status of the radiator would require 24/7 surveillance by our DPW staff during the event to continually be on top of the leaking and keep it functioning. The company who sent the quote for \$36,000 currently has the generator we need in stock, and we'd be looking at 46-48 months to have one available to us again through them. Where an emergency exists, an agency may issue procurement contracts without complying with formal competitive bidding requirements. However, an agency should make a reasonable attempt to obtain at least three oral quotes. We have already started this process (reasonable attempt for quotes) and our second quote is \$44,300 with the generator being available 50-65 weeks from now.

VI. Treasurer's Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT										
AUGUST RECEIPTS										
YR ENDING										
	REAL PROP TAXES	PEN/INTEREST	SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	FRANCHISE FEE	REGISTRAR FEES	BLDG/PERMIT	UNCLASSIFIED	BEACH	TOTAL
	A1001	A1090	A1120	A1130	A1170	A1603	A2555	A2770	A7140	
	4971.64			0.01	30.28	30.00	10.00		102.00	5143.93
	287.16	17.23		18.99					34.00	357.38
	860.12	51.61								911.73
TOTAL	6118.92	68.84	0.00	19.00	30.28	30.00	10.00	0.00	136.00	6413.04
BUDGET										
				Google Voice	Township	Cleveland Funeral	Tucker Fence		Beach Fees	
				TWC					Beach Fees	

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	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
2,453.51	1,004.00			25.00		3482.51	1,196.01	1,964.44		1,817.43	4977.88
173.16	40.00					213.16					0.00
5,415.79	1,625.34	5.00		74.98		7121.11	3,679.20	4,337.22	5.00	3,609.38	11630.80
130.00	59.34	5.00				194.34	60.00	158.01	5.00	145.49	368.50
323.68	120.00	5.00				448.68	211.34	381.62	5.00	363.51	961.47
170.00	40.00	5.00				215.00	132.01	158.02	5.00	95.00	390.03
330.00	140.00	25.00				495.00	174.00	368.69	25.00	330.00	897.69
8996.14	3028.68	45.00	0.00	99.98	0.00	12169.80	5452.56	7368.00	45.00	6360.81	19226.37
WEBPAY											
LIHWAP (transfer from General Fund)											

VII. Old Business

The Property Maintenance Code in the Village of Chaumont continues to be an ongoing discussion. Mayor Morrow had requested the Village Planning Board review an update he had made to the current law, as well as sent it on to Attorney Jim Burrows for evaluation. Trustee Froelich presented her committee report here to inform the other Trustees that the VPB is still deliberating over recommendations and edits to the law, as there were technical difficulties with Planning Board members attending over ZOOM, making extended discussion necessary. Mayor Morrow agreed to table this matter until the Planning Board was able to meet again and wrap up their review.

Clerk Fulton presented some property maintenance violations to the board on behalf of Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, Jim Millington. A notice of violation was served on August 15th, 2023, and the building at 12148 County Route 125 condemned 30 days later when the violation was not rectified. A notice of violation was served for 8280 County Route 125 on September 9th, 2023, giving 30 days to attend to the violations before a requirement to appear in court will be established. Further notices of violation are pending for properties on Water Street, as well. The Board has requested that Jim Millington also re-cite the owners at 12234 NYS Route 12E for the (3) violations that remain unfixed since the last court date: 1) old chicken coop, 2) unregistered vehicle, and 3) excessive weeds.

It has been discovered that the property at 27405 Washington Street, with the dog disturbance referenced at our last VBT meeting, is now offering a boarding service through www.rover.com. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald suggested they come before the Village Planning Board for Site Plan Review with their new business. Clerk Fulton informed the board that only (1) one of the current dogs living there is registered and Betsy Ring has been out to the property to issue tickets.

VIII. New Business

The Village of Chaumont liability insurance through NYMIR is set to renew on October 15th, 2023 with a proposal of \$27,499.51. Optional quotes were provided for fireworks (sponsors risk only) and the increase in coverage for miscellaneous tools and equipment. Trustee Froelich made a motion to accept the insurance renewal through NYMIR and add on the optional increase in tool coverage from \$10,000 to \$25,000 for an annual premium of \$57. This motion was seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Clerk Fulton presented various resident concerns regarding a new Weed Harvesting Machine in Sawmill Bay, owned and operated by Paul Norton and Joe Bearup. Several office visits, calls, and emails from concerned residents addressed the excess weeds filling the bay and Horse Creek. Concerns range from boats and kayaks getting stuck, to wildlife navigation, and beauty aesthetic. Mr. Norton

attended the meeting to address these matters directly. Paul said he has owned the marina for the last (4) four years. Previously, when the marina was owned by Geordie Magee and Mr. Norton worked for him – a weed cutter was available, but never used. Mr. Norton did not believe it was ethical to use a cutter that didn't harvest what it cut. Eighteen (18) years later, now owning the marina himself, Mr. Norton purchased a weed *harvesting* machine. RJ Schweitzer had a weed harvesting machine previously to remove weeds from Horse Creek. This weed buildup happens naturally with wind and water direction in the harbor. Generally, associations and municipalities will use them to keep waterfront clear. Mr. Norton said, "Our weed harvester goes down (4) four feet, and holds up to 3,500 lbs. of weeds. Do we get it all? Probably not. But we harvest more than we cut. We are not in the business of helping our property and harming our neighbors." He also explained that in the second week of August, decay begins and wind changes, thus causing the weed buildup. He also spoke with Donnie Bourquin about a possibility of the Town of Lyme contracting them to clean up the shoreline and along the bay where it catches. Mr. Norton said his cutting and harvesting began on July 5th – and there were no complaints then. Mayor Morrow asked where the weeds eventually end up. Mr. Norton said they get loaded into the bucket of loader and taken across the street to a quarry for compost.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- An easement for the construction of a water pipeline at the Presbyterian Church was filed
- Connectivity must be ensured prior to October 18th, 2023 for implementation of the Dept. of Health's new Health Commerce System (HCS). IT Administrator for the Town of Lyme (Ben Rubacha) has confirmed we are all set
- Letters have been sent to all confirmed Short-term Rental Unit (STRU) owners in the village requesting their compliance with the STRU law and completed registration
- The Village of Chaumont's Annual Comprehensive Inspection at the WWTP by the NYS DEC was rated as satisfactory
- An Annual Notice of Change was sent by Excellus detailing benefit changes to Medicare Advantage plans
- Letters were sent to marina owners/operators and several village residents with docks near public access points requesting warning signage be used in conjunction with the use of any decicers or bubblers near docks, for the protection and safety of snowmobilers, ice fisherman, etc.
- Lisa Jock, the Director of Insurance with Jefferson County, will be retiring September 30th
- A visit by Ronald P. Russell with the Department of Labor questioned our compliance with requiring vendors and contractors to pay prevailing wage for all Village of Chaumont projects. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald showed Clerk Fulton payroll certification files from JL Excavation through 2021 (most recent projects) to confirm that it is something we do require and collect

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Clerk Fulton presented the Board of Trustees with two requests. First, Gouverneur Savings & Loan is requesting the Village of Chaumont join the GS&L Association Board of Directors in voting in favor of a conversion plan and reorganization of Cambray Mutual Holding Company (with whom we are a member through GS&L) converting to a stock holding company. They are required to ask all depositors for a vote. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald said she personally opted to vote "yes," as a depositor and ignoring it is the same as voting "no." A motion to approve the Village of Chaumont voting in favor of the conversion was made by Deputy Mayor Nichols and seconded by Trustee McIntosh.

Second, some large (unexpected) purchases for sewer over the last few months have left the G fund short for the annual sewer debt payment to EFC next month. Clerk Fulton believes the remaining ARPA funds should buffer this shortage, but asked board permission for a General (A) fund transfer to sewer, if necessary. This transfer was approved with a motion by Trustee Sosa, seconded by Trustee Froelich.

Mayor Morrow requested that Trustee McIntosh head a committee for the 150 year (Sesquicentennial) anniversary of the Village of Chaumont slated for next year. A parade was discussed, among other celebratory ideas such as a new letterhead, different village sign, kiddie fair, etc. Trustee McIntosh agreed.

Deputy Mayor Nichols gave a report on the Village Beach. The rope must be removed from the water now that the swimming season is over. Brush along the fence should be removed, and swings should be disassembled by the end of October. Painting was also discussed. Deputy Mayor Nichols also agreed to contact the state regarding the stop sign from Bayview Drive onto NYS Route 12E, which is crooked.

Trustee Froelich gave a brief committee report earlier in the meeting during the Property Maintenance discussion and Trustee Sosa had no youth commission committee report to share.

Mayor Morrow informed the Board of Trustees about his current projects. He is currently working on the Decommissioning Bond for the solar field on County Route 179. He and Clerk Fulton have also worked together to send a water bill to Convergent Energy to recoup water costs during the solar fire incident in August. The situation regarding the Hart Road outside water users also continues to be a top priority, with us waiting on direction from our lawyer currently. Finally, regarding the ongoing tennis court project, a professional who did the courts on Wellesley Island believes we could do (6) six pickle ball courts and keep the basketball court for about \$5,000 if we use our own laborers. Mayor Morrow plans on power washing the courts soon to get a better idea, and then this will be discussed with Parks & Rec, the tennis court committee, and the Carrs.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM, which was seconded by Trustee Froelich.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer