

Regular Meeting of the Chaumont Board of Trustees
Village of Chaumont/Town of Lyme Municipal Office
Located at 12175 NYS Route 12E
Via zoom meeting
Held on the 16th Day of February, 2021

Board Members Present:

Mayor: Valerie Rust
Deputy Mayor: Michael Nichols
Trustee: Patricia Reome
Trustee: James Morrow
Trustee: Dori-ann Froelich

Also Present:

Village Clerk: Karen Fitzgerald

Regular Board meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees January 19, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. via zoom meeting. Mayor Rust requested that the minutes reflect that all trustees are present this evening.

Privilege of the Floor

No one was present for privilege of the floor.

DPW Updates

Trustee Morrow reported that he did not have an opportunity to meet with Al prior to his quarantine. He was able to meet with Garrett, and depending on the weather, he will get together with both as soon as possible.

New Chaumont Bridge Project

Karen reported that representatives from the NYSDOT held a joint meeting with Karen, Robin and Gregor Smith (BCA) regarding the new bridge and discussion about betterments of ornamental lighting and other ideas. The new bridge has been designed to have a 5.7' sidewalk on one side with 8' shoulders. That's substantially wider than the current bridge. The bridge will be raised a little higher than it is now and it doesn't appear that the old toll house (Peggy Fikes) will be affected whatsoever. Anticipated bidding is December 2021 and construction in 2022-2023. They said a public hearing will be held in the very near future.

The betterments that were discussed were the ornamental lighting, possibility of a bike/snowmobile lane and fishing platform. The DOT understands that the Village does not have the funds for ornamental lighting in place but explained that if we are going to seek grants for the funding, we would have to commit by October 2021 and pay the funds then, regardless of when our grants would become available. Estimated costs is \$84,000.00 and we would have to get bonding to get the money in time. Regarding a bike/snowmobile lane, the engineers said that they felt that the extra width on the shoulders is more than sufficient for snowmobiles and bicycles. The 8' shoulders and 5.7' sidewalk is standard bridge construction, but placing another lane would increase costs substantially

They have made plans for improvements on the Circle Dr side of the bridge to accommodate fisherman. They intend to place a formal road down to water with a cul-de-sac at the end. They intend to do landscaping and maybe some picnic tables too.

On the Village side of the bridge, there aren't many changes or improvements. They said there will be a retaining wall installed in the alignment to the approach. They may replace the pathway to the old bridge pier for easier access.

DANC Proposal-Asset Management Plan

Mayor Rust requested a quote from the Development Authority for their technical services to develop an Asset Management Plan. The proposal includes services that would be performed by the Authority consisting of three tasks: 1) Research and data acquisition; 2) Plan development and 3) Presentation of Final Plan. The quote indicated that the total cost of such services shall not exceed the amount of \$18,000.

Mayor Rust stated that she has also requested a quote from Bernier, Carr & Associates and anticipates that the quote will be available for the March meeting at which time we will accept the lowest bid.

River Crossing Legal Agreement Revision-Jim Burrows

Attorney Burrows complied with our request to amend his original legal agreement for the River Crossing Project. The original agreement signed on September 7, 2018 was for a maximum of \$8,000.00. Due to the postponement of the project for a number of years and reasons, Atty. Burrows stated that there have been a lot of duplication of efforts. After consideration of what services he may need to provide until the entire project is completed, Atty. Burrows submitted a revised legal agreement not to exceed \$14,000.00.

Resolution #24 (2020-2021)

At their regular monthly meeting of February 16, 2021, the following members of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees were present via zoom meeting:

- Mayor: Valerie Rust
- Deputy Mayor: Michael Nichols
- Trustee: Dorianne Froelich
- Trustee: Patricia Reome
- Trustee: James Morrow

At said meeting, Mayor Valerie Rust forwarded the following resolution, which was seconded by Trustee Nichols:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees did hereby find it necessary to retain legal counsel in regards to the River Crossing Replacement and Water System Improvement project (DWSRF Project #DO-18329) and at their September 18, 2018 regular board meeting hired Atty. James Burrows of the law firm of Conboy, McKay, Bachman and Kendall, LLP as said counsel for a sum of not to exceed \$8,000.00 for the project's legal matters; however, due to the elapsed time the project has been delayed, Atty. Burrows has requested a revision to the agreement not to exceed the amount of \$14,000.00 due to duplication of services in regards to this project.

VOTING: Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

The roll call vote was:	Valerie Rust, Mayor	no _____ yes <u> X </u>
	Michael Nichols, Deputy Mayor	no _____ yes <u> X </u>
	Dorianne Froelich, Trustee	no _____ yes <u> X </u>
	Patricia Reome, Trustee	no _____ yes <u> X </u>
	James Morrow, Trustee	no _____ yes <u> X </u>

RESOLUTION NO. 24 ADOPTED.

Snowmobile Trail Closing

The snowmobile trail closed by Norbut's solar project, has become a problem and has fueled complaints from Village residents. The snowmobilers are forced to travel through the Village and as a result, they are using the village streets, sidewalks and in some cases, people's private property. Residents try to maintain their sidewalks but it is impossible once the snow has been packed down by a snowmobile. Mayor Rust placed an article in the Lyme Light requesting snowmobiles to refrain from using sidewalks.

A rumor, spread especially to the TI Snowmobile Association, is that the Village was responsible for the closure of the trail, which is untrue. The promise of maintaining the trail was a primary tool used by Norbut to encourage sub-division and site plan approval of the project.

Mayor Rust has reached out to the Snowmobile Association Vice President, Troy Beach, who informed her that it is their understanding is that when the project is completely done, the snowmobile trail will be reopened with the possibility of moving it to the opposite side of the project. Their discussion included the possibility of re-designating a temporary alternate route for the remainder of the season.

Mayor Rust stated that she sent a request to NYSDOT representative, Mike Zimmerman, for the consideration of temporarily designating a section of NYS Rte 12E to allow snowmobiles the connection to adjacent trails.

Planning Board members, Bryan Stumpf and Hartley Schweitzer, along with Mayor Rust and Karen met to discuss the trail closure also. At this time, it was decided that the Village will encourage and support the TI Club in their efforts to negotiate an agreement with Norbut in early summer when the project is expected to be completed.

Trustee Reome asked if the Village could purchase a bobcat to clear sidewalks in the Village. Mayor Rust responded that the Village could look into the purchase of a snow blower however there is so much expected of the DPW crew currently, that providing clearing of sidewalks would most likely require hiring another individual .

Public Employer Health Emergency Plan

In September 2020, Gov. Cuomo signed legislation requiring all public employers in NYS to prepare a plan for continuation of operations in the event of another state disaster involving a communicable disease. Plans need to be finalized by April 1, 2021. Karen reported to the trustees that she has started working on the plan and expects to present it at the March 2021 Village Board meeting.

January 2021 Accounts Receivables

General Fund

Real Property Tax	A1001:	\$	-0-
Lieu of Taxes	A1081:	\$	-0-
Jeff. County Sales Tax	A1120:	\$	33,974.89
Penalty/Interest:	A1090:	\$	-0-
Gross Utility Tax:	A1130:	\$	99.46
Franchise Fees:	A1170:	\$	-0-
Clerk Fees: -	A1255:	\$	-0-
Registrar Fees:	A1603:	\$	-0-
Building Permits:	A2555:	\$	100.00
Unclassified	A2770:	\$	300.12
Beach fees:	A7140:	\$	-0-
Chips	A3501	\$	-0-
State Aid: Aid & Incentives	A3001	\$	-0-
Total:		\$	34,754.47

Water Fund

Metered Water Sales	F2140-1:	\$	10,561.83
O&M/DCC FEES:	F2140-2:	\$	6,135.66
Unmetered Water:	F2142:	\$	0.00
Interest & Penalty Fee:	F2148:	\$	76.51
Water Meter Fees	F2144:	\$	0.00
Service Connection fees:	F2145:	\$	285.46
Total:		\$	17,059.46

Sewer Fund

Debt Service:	G2122:	\$	4,514.71
Usage Fee Sewer Rent:	G2120:	\$	8,398.13
Interest & Penalty Fees:	G2128:	\$	76.50
O&M Fees:	G2770:	\$	2,428.78
		\$	15,418.12

Motion to Approve Minutes of the January 19, 2021 board meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Nichols, and unanimously passed, it was **“Resolved** to Approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Village of Chaumont Regular Board Meeting.

Motion to Approve Payment of Abstract #9 of the February 16, 2021 Board Meeting:

Upon a Motion by Mayor Rust and unanimously passed, It was **“Resolved”** to Approve Payment for Abstract #9 of the February 16, 2021 Regular Board Meeting via email confirmation of each trustee in the amounts of \$3,910.97 General Fund; Vouchers 1376-1386 \$1,067.37 Water Fund, Vouchers 400-402, \$,937.25 Waste Water Fund, Vouchers 663-670, Trust & Agency: \$5,959.82 Vouchers #78-79, River Crossing Project \$17,854.52, vouchers 35-36.

Water/ Sewer Report

Mayor Rust informed the trustees of Paul Norton's frozen waterline at his short term rental property in the marina. The Village DPW has spent 1 ½ days using the thawing machine to thaw the line, however they have been unsuccessful so far. The line is frozen before the curb stop and appears to be the Village's responsibility. The DPW is contemplating how to remedy the problem at this time.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rust reported that she has completed the proposed 2021-2022 budget and would like to schedule three work sessions to review the budget. She commented that she has included VFDs in the sewer fund and is hopeful they can be installed this budget year. She anticipates a very slight tax rate increase. Also included is an Asset Management Plan and the Water Street paving project.

Mayor Rust directed Karen to continue gathering sewer easements for filing with the County Clerk for properties that have sewer lift stations.

Committee Reports

Trustee Reome: Nothing to report as she was unable to attend the Planning Board's zoom meeting.

Trustee Froelich: The Planning Board has requested that Jim review the solar farm's site plan and inspect the construction on a regular basis. They have concerns that the site plan has not been followed as prescribed. They suggested that any future inspections should be written and documented in their file. Trustee Froelich commented that Jeff, County Planning Board representative, Andy Nevin also attended the meeting to assist with questions regarding the solar farm and village-wide zoning. A special work meeting is scheduled for Feb 23rd to review the zoning map and possible combination of districts.

Trustee Morrow: The Youth Commission met to discuss sporting activities for the summer. New officials were appointed: Chairman: Scott Radley, Vice-Chair: Jim Morrow and Sec: Heather O'Brien.

Trustee Nichols: Opening the Village Beach to afford access to the ice fisherman is good, however consideration of plowing to create a slight barrier between the parking lot and grounds may limit the amount of damage caused to the property by vehicles.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Correspondence

National Grid: Notice that as of the next meter reading for street lighting, National Grid will start billing service at a different rate. A review of the electric consumption over the last 12 months indicated that the use remained under 2000 kWh per month. As a result, the account will be changed to a non-demand status, eliminating charges for demand service.

Jeff County Recycling & Waste Management: Notice that starting March 1, 2021 a fee of \$10.00 will be charged for mattresses and box springs.

Mr. Martin Jones: Letter of complaint regarding snowmobiles riding on Village sidewalks. His letter stated that for years he has diligently maintained his sidewalk, his neighbors and Church St. sidewalk for pedestrians and school children. The snowmobiles using the sidewalks this season has made it impossible for him to keep them clean and safe. His letter states he does not intend to maintain his sidewalks if snowmobiles continue to be allowed to ride on them.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Froelich, and unanimously passed, It was “ **Resolved** to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees February 16, 2021 meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Fitzgerald, Village Clerk/Treas.