

**Public Hearing – Solar Law and  
Regular Meeting of the Chaumont Board of Trustees**

**September 17, 2019**

**Held at the Village of Chaumont/Town of Lyme Municipal Office**

**Located at 12175 NYS Route 12E**

**Chaumont, New York 13622**

**Held on the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of September, 2019**

**Board Members Present:**

Mayor: Valerie Rust

Deputy Mayor: Michael Nichols

Trustee: Patricia Reome

Trustee: Dori-Ann Froelich

**Also Present:**

Village Clerk: Karen Fitzgerald

WWTP Supervisor: John Duvall

Planning Board Chair: Hartley Bonisteel-Schweitzer

**Others Present:**

David Norbut

Jarred Perral

Mr. & Mrs. Steve LaFontaine

**Public Hearing –Solar Law--6:00 P.M**

Mayor Rust opened the Public Hearing regarding the tentative solar law at 6:03 pm.

Mayor Rust asked Planning Board Chair, Hartley Schweitzer to bring the VBT up to date with any changes recommended by the Planning Board to the proposed solar law. Chairperson Schweitzer stated that the Village's solar law was drafted using NYSERDA's model solar law. She also stated that Chairperson Schweitzer, Mayor Rust and Clerk Fitzgerald attended a meeting with NYSERDA representatives who reviewed the Village's proposed law seeking their recommendations.

Based on this meeting and a phone conversation between Chairperson Schweitzer and NYSERDA reps, the Planning Board proposed the only change necessary to the draft would be that the setback between parcels used for solar development be set at 0 feet.

Hartley also addressed Mr. Norbut's concerns regarding split zoned parcels, photo simulations, lot coverage, screening and road size requirements. She explained why the PB feels they items should remain as written. Mr. Norbut agreed that the proposed law is a law that his project can work under with the exception of the decommissioning plan. He stated that the security requirement of 125% cost of removal for decommissioning is financially not feasible. He also stated that there are no projects that have been built under these terms and conditions. He said that he has reached out to NYSERDA for their assistance to find agents that will bond under these conditions. NYSERDA did not respond prior to this meeting. He explained that his decommissioning proposal is substantial security protection in the event of abandonment of the project and has been accepted by other communities. Mayor Rust stated that her research indicated that other municipalities have employed professional engineers to provide projected cost estimations that will take into account inflation and removal of the large scale solar system.

Since NYSEDA drafted the language in the solar law, Hartley recommended that the trustees keep the public hearing open until we receive NYSEDA's response regarding available bonding agents or options used by other communities. Mayor Rust emphasized that the decommissioning language is of the utmost importance to the VBT to safeguard the Village taxpayers.

Mayor Rust concluded the Public Hearing for the Village of Chaumont Solar Law at 6:30 p.m leaving the public hearing open to be continued at the October 15, 2019 Village Board meeting.

### **Regular Board meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees**

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees September 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Rust requested that the minutes reflect that Trustee Morrow is absent this evening.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Mr. & Mrs. Steven LaFontaine, Mill St, questioned the Trustees why it was necessary for him to bring his garbage to the sewer pump station on Mill St. He said it is physically difficult for him to continue dragging the trash there as he suffers from debilitating back problems. Mayor Rust explained that a meeting with Mrs. O'Brien, Kathy Revelle, Mayor Rust and Greg Ingerson resulted in an agreement to change the trash pickup location to eliminate the need for the refuse truck to turn around at the base of the hill. This decision was made in hopes of eliminating potential damage to Mrs. O'Brien's yard. Mr. Lafountain stated that he recently spoke to Mrs. O'Brien who said she did not care if the garbage truck came down and turned around. John commented that he was under the impression that yard damage was the result of snow plowing not trash pickup. Mayor Rust stated that since Mrs. O'Brien was agreeable to allow the refuse truck to come down the hill, trash pickup at the LaFountiane's residence could start again immediately. John will notify Mark Jessman to tell him of the change. Prior to the October Board meeting Mayor Rust will access the area to figure out how to address concerns for plowing and trash removal.

### **DPW Updates**

John reported that WWTP tank #3 has been pumped and another tank should be pumped soon. He reiterated how important it is to stay on a schedule of two tanks in the fall and two tanks in the spring to help reduce disposal costs and for tank maintenance.

John thanked the board for installation of the STAT sewer pump alarms. He said that they have have paid for themselves many times over with the ability to respond quickly before serious conditions arise.

Mowing is winding down and brush pickup will be ending in October. He said hopefully there will be some time to work on faulty or broken shutoffs before snow falls.

Picnic tables and swings have been left at the beach while the weather remains nice. Swim ropes have been removed.

The Fire Dept. sewer line have been repaired. The replaced line is a 4" line and will be sufficient for their needs.

Trustee Nichols asked about the trash cans at the Morris Tract ballfield. John said that Mark Jessman picks up the trash when they turn around at the field. Trustee Nichols recommended that the trash cans be removed and stored at the garage now that the season is over.

**Chaumont Fire Department**

Mayor Rust has extensively researched responsibilities of the Village to the Fire Dept in regards to membership. Her research resulted in findings that the Village may only create rules regarding external affairs of the fire company, not internal affairs. Internal affairs include but are not limited to: voting requirements, membership requirements, and discipline. Her findings also state that the Village must confirm all the fire company officers from lieutenant through Chief. They do not however approve by-laws or require financial statements of the department.

The Chaumont Fire Dept. submitted an updated officer list to be entered into the September 2019 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the officers was made by Trustee Reome, seconded by Trustee Froelich and unanimously passed.

**Solar Law**

As noted in the public hearing notes above, the public hearing was left open to continue the discussion of the decommissioning requirements of the law. The hearing will continue at the October 15, 2019 Village Board meeting.

**Trident Insurance Cancellation**

In anticipation of the cancellation of Trident Insurance as of October 15, 2019, Karen requested a quote from NYMIR insurance as requested in the August 2019 VBT meeting. Our current agent, Mike Gillette from Fuller Ins. Co. continues to request insurance quotes from other companies as well. Significant increase in the premium can be expected and Mike suggests it could be as high as \$25,000. A special meeting may need to be called to determine the insurance carrier we will insure with.

**August 2019 Accounts Receivable: General/Water/Sewer Fund Updates:**

Real Property Tax	A1001:	\$	2,473.57
Lieu of Taxes	A1081:	\$	128.16
Jeff. County Sales Tax	A1120:	\$	30,825.62
Penalty/Interest:	A1090:	\$	128.16
Gross Utility Tax:	A1130:	\$	57.94
Franchise Fees:	A1170:	\$	0.00
Clerk Fees: -	A1255:	\$	0.00
Registrar Fees:	A1603:	\$	0.00
Building Permits:	A2555:	\$	117.00
<u>Unclassified</u>	A2770:	\$	0.00
Beach fees:	A7140:	\$	155.22
Chips	A3501	\$	0.00
State Aid: Aid & Incentives	A3001	\$	0.00
Total:		\$	33,753.03

**Water Fund**

Metered Water Sales	F2140-1:	\$ 11,333.38
O&M/DCC FEES:	F2140-2:	\$ 9,029.48
Unmetered Water:	F2142:	\$ 0.00
Interest & Penalty Fee:	F2148:	\$ 128.83
Water Meter Fees	F2144:	\$ 0.00
Service Connection:	F2145:	\$ 0.00
Total:		\$ 20,491.69

**Sewer Fund**

Debt Service:	G2122:	\$ 5,865.77
Usage Fee Sewer Rent:	G2120:	\$ 9,255.68
Interest & Penalty Fees:	G2128:	\$ 128.83
O&M Fees:	G2770:	\$ 3,097.15
Total:		\$ 18,347.43

**Motion to Approve Minutes of the August 20, 2019 board meeting:**

Upon a Motion by Trustee Froelich, Seconded by Trustee Reome, and unanimously passed, it was **“Resolved** to Approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2019 Village of Chaumont Regular Board Meeting.

**Motion to Approve Payment of Abstract #4 of the September 17, 2019 Board Meeting:**

Upon a Motion by Trustee Reome, Seconded by Trustee Morrow, and unanimously passed, It was **“Resolved”** to Approve Payment for Abstract #4 of the September 17, 2019 Regular Board Meeting in the amounts of \$10,071.59 General Fund Vouchers 1117-1132, \$653.81 Water Fund, Vouchers 322-325 , \$92,133.67 Waste Water Fund, Vouchers 505-516, Trust & Agency: \$5,684.40 Voucher #54, River Crossing Project \$0.

**Water/Sewer Report**

Karen reported that Trace Mathieu has not been paying on his water bill as agreed. Based on the outstanding balance, the trustees requested that the water be shut off as soon as possible. The DPW will post a notice for shut off on September 23<sup>rd</sup> unless a payment is received.

It has been found that property located at 27783 Co. Rte 179, owned by Ralph Schueller is not being charged for water and sewer. Mayor Rust stated that this property should be charged even though no one is living at the property and no meter is installed. Karen will contact Mr. Schueller to make arrangements to have the meter installed and start charging for the utilities.

It was also found that Bayview Housing is being charged for 24 water EDUs, 12 sewer EDUs and 10 DCC charges. Mayor Rust stated that properties should be charged at the same EDU & DCC rates and requested that the water EDUs and DCC be changed to 12 starting on the next billing cycle.

Changes to the EDU rates for the CYC Junior Division building was also discussed. Currently the Crescent Yacht Club is charged 5 Water EDUs and 6 Sewer EDUs . Mayor Rust requested that the EDUs be changed reflecting 6 Water EDUs and 6 Sewer EDUs effective on the next billing cycle due to the addition of the Junior. Division building.

Karen reported that we are still awaiting the CYC Dunior Division's signed grinder pump agreement. She has left a message for Mr. Condino to contact her but as of yet, he has not returned her call.

Mayor Rust stated that she has never been confident with the water & sewer program's EDU accuracy even though she has personally verified each water & sewer account EDU charge. She recommended that an audit of EDU charges and fees assessed would be beneficial.

## **Mayor's Report**

### **REDI Program (Resiliency & Economic Dev. Initiative)**

Mayor Rust read an email sent to the Village and Senator Ritchie's office from Tara Morina of Chaumont Bay Marina requesting updates regarding REDI business funding and their concern that they had missed an application deadline. Mayor Rust reported that to date, neither the Village or Town has received REDI business funding information. Most recent announcements were for owner's of primary residences who could apply for flood relief assistance via an application available around Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. Sarah Compo of Senator Ritchie's office replied that they have record as of July 8<sup>th</sup> of the Marino's business and that the REDI commission has an inventory of all affected marinas in the region. The REDI Commission is currently in the process of determining how the funds will be allocated.

Mayor Rust stated that the Chaumont Bay Marina was also included in the Village's REDI Funding potential project list.

Mayor Rust also read an email from Joan Sharlow, Wilson Lane, in regards to her submerged concrete dock and concern for boater safety. The Board agreed that this is a concern for many permanent docks under water in the bay. Mayor Rust stated that the initial phase for funding was for municipal repairs and improvements and is unclear how REDI funding will pertain to docks on private property. Mayor Rust will contact Joan to inform her of the anticipated homeowner REDI application for flood relief. She stated that if the municipality is given an opportunity to address other flood relief projects, we will submit for funding relief to address permanent docks on private property.

### **River Crossing/ NYSDOT**

Mayor Rust reported that the DOT's updated budget to place the river crossing waterline on the new bridge is \$280,000. DOT has also added an additional \$150,000 for potential inflation and contingency. On Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, a conference call with Gregor Smith, Val, Karen, Erin Kelly of EFC, Scott Alden of DOH and others discussed the project funding and financing options. We were told that additional funding is always an option if necessary. Gregor will remain in contact with the DOT and will keep us informed of any future changes.

## **Committee Reports**

**Trustee Nichols:** Mike stated that the tennis courts are an embarrassment for the Village. All trustees are in agreement however funding to repair the courts is not available.

**Trustee Reome:** The Planning Board reviewed comments from NYSERDA in regards to the Solar law.

**Trustee Froelich:** Amy & Andy Williams came to the Planning Board to discuss changes and concerns they have regarding their original site plan. The Planning Board

asked them to submit a revised site plan so that any design changes can be considered for approval.

### **New Business**

**2020 Employee Health Insurance:** Rates for the Standard Gold plan will increase by 6% for 2020. Other plans are available with no increases however co-pays and deductibles are substantially less desirable. A decision regarding what employee plan will be used for 2020 was tabled for the October 15, 2019 meeting.

### **Old Business**

The Tri-board meeting has been scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Don Alexander from the JCIDA will be the guest speaker.

### **Correspondence:**

**BOCES:** Federal Motor and Carrier Safety Admin Clearinghouse information letter. BOCES will conduct queries on employer's behalf, however it is the employer's responsibility to purchase the appropriate query plan. A flyer was enclosed with plan costs. Mandatory use of the Clearinghouse goes into effect January 6, 2020.

**Jefferson County Dept of Human Resources:** Sexual Harassment online training is available through a web-based program offered through Jeff. County. The cost is \$395.00 one time fee and \$11.50 per employee.

**Gerry Kostyk:** A letter regarding his desire to form a committee of interested individuals who would like to explore the development of a recreational trail utilizing the former Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg railroad bed between Watertown and Cape Vincent. He also included the numerous contacts he has made regarding this. He asks for interested persons to contact him personally.

### **Motion to Adjourn:**

Upon a Motion by Trustee Reome, Seconded by Trustee Froelich, and unanimously passed, It was “ **Resolved** to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees September 17, 2019 meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Fitzgerald  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

