

Village of Chaumont
Regular Meeting of the Chaumont Board of Trustees
Held via virtual zoom meeting (COVID-19 shutdown)
12175 NYS Route 12E
Chaumont, New York 13622

Held on the 19th Day of May, 2020
Via Zoom meeting

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Village Clerk: Karen Fitzgerald
BC&A Engineers: Gregor Smith & Rachel Bernat
DANC: Star Carter

Regular Board meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees May 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Rust requested that the minutes reflect that all trustees were present via virtual meeting.

Privilege of the Floor

No one was present for privilege of the floor.

Water Street Project Bid Acceptance

Mayor Rust informed the trustees of a conference call held yesterday with representatives from EFC, DOH, RD, Rachel Bernat & Gregor Smith from BCA, Jim Burrows, Village Atty and Joe Russell, Bond Atty. The primary reason for the call was to discuss DOT's timeline of the Chaumont bridge replacement which could be extended as far out as 2027 and how that affects our EFC grant and RD loan. EFC and RD's suggestion was to encourage DOT to start the bridge project sooner rather than later or request them to install the new waterline on the old bridge and transfer it to the new bridge when constructed. Of course, it is understood that the Village is at their mercy for either scenario.

Mayor Rust stated that the Water Street bid by JL Contractors will expire on May 22nd so a decision must be made whether to accept or reject that bid tonight.

Mayor Rust presented both options to the trustees. Currently, expenses of at least \$180,000. have been paid for legal, engineering and bonding. If it was decided that the project were to be scrapped, the Village would be responsible to pay these expenses with no improvements made to either side of Water Street and the River Crossing would still need to be completed at a cost of approximately \$500,000. We would need to reapply to Rural Development, lose the RD guaranteed rate and our 60% EFC funding grant would be forfeited.

If we accept the bid to proceed with the Water Street improvements at a cost of \$900,000.00 and eventually complete the River Crossing waterline, the total project cost is \$1,487,000.00. The EFC grant will pay 60% of that cost and leave the Village's obligation at \$594,800.00.

After discussion, it was decided to move forward with the project and award the bid to JL Construction, LLC. Karen read the following resolution to the trustees:

Resolution 27 2019-2020

At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont held at the Village Offices, 12175 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, New York 13622, on May 19, 2020 at 6pm there were:

Present:

Hon. Valerie Rust, Mayor
Michael Nichols, Deputy Mayor
James Morrow, Trustee
Dori-ann Froelich, Trustee
Patricia Reome, Trustee

WHEREAS, the Village of Chaumont has undertaken an improvements project for the existing water distribution system including replacement of water mains in select areas, installation of gate valve in select areas, and installation of a meter pit at the Village limits; and

WHEREAS, the Village received bids for the project on April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the apparent low bidder was JL Excavation, LLC from Chaumont, New York with a base bid of \$636,638.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth hereafter.
2. The Village of Chaumont hereby authorizes the award of the project to the apparent low bidder, JL Excavation, LLC, for the base bid only.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote as follows:

Mayor Valerie Rust	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Michael Nichols	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Dorianne Froelich	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
James Morrow	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Patricia Reome	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____

Regarding a modification to the River Crossing Fund budget the following was approved:

Budget line Modification Resolution
Resolution #28

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont held at the Village Offices, 12175 NYS Route 12E, Chaumont, New York 13622, on May 19, 2020 at 6pm there were:

Present:

Hon. Valerie Rust, Mayor
Michael Nichols, Deputy Mayor
James Morrow, Trustee
Dori-ann Froelich, Trustee
Patricia Reome, Trustee

WHEREAS, the Village of Chaumont has undertaken an improvements project for the existing water distribution system including replacement of water mains in select areas, installation of gate valve in select areas, and installation of a meter pit at the Village limits; and

WHEREAS, the following project budget items require modification:

- Bonding line item: increase to \$24,900.00 from \$8,400.00 to reflect actual contract value; and
- Bookkeeping and reporting line item: decrease to \$0 from \$4,000 as it is not needed and to match the EFC draw summary; and
- Miscellaneous line item: decrease to \$2,000.00 from \$4,000.00 to match the amount reflected on the EFC draw summary; and
- Contingency modified accordingly to reflect the changes in the administrative line items.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees as follows:

1. The foregoing recitations are incorporated herein and made a part hereof as if fully set forth hereafter.
2. The Village of Chaumont hereby authorizes the transfer of the above referenced budget items.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote as follows:

Mayor Valerie Rust	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Michael Nichols	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Dorianne Froelich	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
James Morrow	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____
Patricia Reome	yes	<u> X </u>	no	_____

Dissolution Implementation Plan Resolution

RESOLUTION #29 - 2020

To Accept and Endorse the Village of Chaumont Dissolution Study and Implementation Plan

Whereas, the Village of Chaumont established a Dissolution Study Committee in 2019 and applied for and was successful in obtaining funds from a Local Government Citizens' Re-organization Empowerment Grant to complete a Dissolution Study and develop a plan, and

Whereas, the Dissolution Study Committee members are Valerie Rust (Village of Chaumont Mayor), Scott Aubertine (Town of Lyme Supervisor), Ed Demattia, Robin Grovesteen, Fred Jackson, Bill Johnson, Jim Morrow, Scott Radley, Marcie Travers-Barth, and Pat Weston, and

Whereas, the Village's Dissolution Committee has been conducting a study since June 2019 with assistance from the study consultants, the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC), and

Whereas, the Dissolution Study Committee has developed the final Dissolution Plan and submitted the Plan to the Village and Town Boards for endorsement.

Now, therefore, be it resolved the Village of Chaumont does hereby accept and endorse the Village of Chaumont Dissolution Study Report and Dissolution Study Implementation Plan and will proceed with a final Public Hearing to be set within 90 days of this date.

Proposal by Trustee Patricia Reome and seconded by Trustee Dori-Ann Froelich.

Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes 0 nays

Mayor Rust	Yes
Deputy Mayor Nichols	Yes
Trustee Morrow	Yes
Trustee Reome	Yes
Trustee Froelich	Yes

DPW Updates

John reported that pump station 6 has had 5 pump failures since April 29th. During the month of April, there were 15 calls for pump failures. The problem is caused by the additional usage of adult and baby wipes. John and Karen have contacted residents to ask them not to use them, however it continues to be a problem. John has installed grates to try to eliminate the majority of the wipes which also helps. John feels that an impeller could help remedy some of the pump failure calls. He requested a quote from Koester's to manufacture and install an impeller, Their quote was \$7,200 for two pump stations. P&T quoted \$2,500. for one impeller and one pump. Mayor Rust stated that she will contact JRC tomorrow and asked John to keep monitoring the sewer alarms associated with clogging of the pumps.

The flags are up and the streets were swept by the Town DPW.

John reported that recycling and garbage has increased dramatically during the shutdown. Cardboard recycling has been extreme requiring more pickups by Jefferson County recycling. John reported that he has spoken to Mark Morina at Chaumont Bay Marina for the past three weeks to be reasonable about the amount of trash he puts out.

Village Office & DPW Reopening

Mayor Rust reviewed guidelines for reopening of the Village office and DPW. The DPW will return to work full time starting Monday, May 25th working four 10 hour days. Facemasks and hand sanitizer will be provided by the Village. Guidelines for the DPW include face coverings and maintaining social distancing. Reopening of the Village office is dependent upon the Town of Lyme. The guidelines states that a log must be maintained for individuals that employees comes in contact with. Floor marking within the building must be placed 6 feet apart. The mandate specifies no more than 50% capacity. Mayor Rust stated that once the Town office is opened, Karen can continue working from home if she is more comfortable.

Village Beach

Guidelines for the beach were reviewed. No picnic tables or swings are to be made available. Lifeguards and beach goers are required to wear face masks. No more than 50% capacity is allowed within the beach. Lifeguards would be required to monitor that face masks, capacity and social distancing is being practiced.

Discussion ensued. Upon a motion by Trustee Nichols and seconded by Trustee Reome, and unanimously passed, it was decided to not open the beach until COVID restrictions are lifted. Karen will still apply to the Dept of Health for the beach permit in hopes that the beach might be able to opened mid-summer.

The trustees instructed John to lock the beach and purchase beach closed signs. Any picnic tables and swings would need be removed. John requested that if a decision to open is made, he would need at least 1-2 weeks of reconstruction of the beach and preparation of the picnic area.

Planning Board-Norbut Solar Farms Lot Line Adjustment

Karen reported that the Planning Board will be advertising a public hearing for a lot line adjustment request by Norbut Solar Farms. The adjustment shifts the parcels inward an additional 130 feet from Co. Rte 179, thus increasing the setback from 70 feet to 200 feet. Karen will send notification letters to adjacent residents on Rockledge Dr and Co. Rte 179 to inform them of the public hearing.

May 2020 Accounts Receivable: General/Water/Sewer Fund Updates:

Real Property Tax	A1001:	\$	0.00
Lieu of Taxes	A1081:	\$	0.00
Jeff. County Sales Tax	A1120:	\$	26,046.31
Penalty/Interest:	A1090:	\$	0.00
Gross Utility Tax:	A1130:	\$	52.81
Franchise Fees:	A1170:	\$	0.00
Clerk Fees: -	A1255:	\$	0.00
Registrar Fees:	A1603:	\$	0.00
Building Permits:	A2555:	\$	0.00
Unclassified Cell Phones	A2770:	\$	164.47
Beach fees:	A7140:	\$	0.00
Chips	A3501	\$	0.00
State Aid: Aid & Incentives	A3001	\$	4,319.00
Total:		\$	33,582.69

Water Fund

Metered Water Sales	F2140-1:	\$ 7,490.51
O&M/DCC FEES:	F2140-2:	\$ 4,974.13
Unmetered Water:	F2142:	\$ -0-
Interest & Penalty Fee:	F2148:	\$ 175.74
Water Meter Fees	F2144:	\$ -0-
Service Connection:	F2145:	\$ -0-
Total:		\$ 12,640.38

Sewer Fund

Debt Service:	G2122:	\$ 3,139.43
Usage Fee Sewer Rent:	G2120:	\$ 6,715.51
Interest & Penalty Fees:	G2128:	\$ 175.74
O&M Fees:	G2770:	\$ 1,746.00
WWTP Claim		\$ 72,317.86
Total:		\$ 84,094.54

Motion to Approve for Payment Abstract #12 of the May 19, 2020 Board Meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Reome, Seconded by Trustee Froelich, and unanimously passed, It was “**Resolved**” to Approve Payment for Abstract #12 of the May 19, 2020 Regular Board Meeting in the amounts of \$20,615.84 General Fund Vouchers 1234-1245, \$1,120.42 Water Fund, Vouchers 358-361, \$75.365.86 Waste Water Fund, Vouchers 584-593, Trust & Agency: \$4,348.79 Voucher #65, \$6,283.92 River Crossing Fund, Voucher 14.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Board Meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Nichols, and unanimously passed, it was “**Resolved** to Approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Village of Chaumont Regular Board Meeting.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Rust requested that CEO Millington be given a list of problem properties in the Village to contact the owners to bring the properties to code.

Committee Reports

Trustee Morrow: Nothing to report
Trustee Nichols: Nothing to report
Trustee Froelich: Nothing to report
Trustee Reome: Nothing to report

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Correspondance:

NYCOM: An email regarding extension of the interest free period on property tax payments. If the Village would like to waive the penalty, a request must be made to the Asst. Counsel to the Governor. It was decided not waive penalty payments.

NNY Newspaper: Notification that effective March 16, 2020, all future public notices that require an affidavit will be charged an additional \$20.00 fee.

DANC-Regional Water Line- Notification that the water line rates for 4/1/20-3/31/21 will be \$1.63 per k/gal per 1000 gallons. The current rate is \$2.09 per k/gal.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Reome, and unanimously passed, It was “ **Resolved** to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees May 19, 2020 meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Fitzgerald
Village Clerk/Treasurer