

Budget Work Session/2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing
And 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 20th Day of April, 2021

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Village Clerk: Karen Fitzgerald

2021-2022 Budget work session

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees 2021-2022 Budget work session at 5:45 p.m. via zoom meeting. Mayor Rust requested that the minutes reflect that Trustee Froelich is absent this evening.

The trustees reviewed General Fund anticipated revenues for the budget year and have projected approximately \$208,000 in revenues through State Aid, sales tax, CHIPS, etc. Each budget line in expenditures were reviewed to ensure that the amount was reasonable and prudent. Only one adjustment to the budget was made from the clerk's fund of \$2,500.00 and transferred to the Law fund in anticipation of more legal needs in the coming year. Estimated expenditures for the 2021-2022 was determined to be \$376,000.00.

Mayor Rust closed the budget work session at 6:15.

2021/2022 Budget Public Hearing

Mayor Rust opened the Public Hearing for the proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget at 6:15 pm.

Mayor Rust informed the Trustees that the 2021 final taxable property value total is \$37,125,180.00. The proposed budget indicates an amount to be raised by taxes of \$168,000.00 resulting in a \$4.46 per thousand dollar of assessment. This is a decrease of \$.04 from the 2020/2021 budget year.

The water & sewer proposed budget suggests increases to sewer fees and reductions to the water fees.

The sewer fund budget indicates all fees remain the same with the exception of the O&M fee. This fee increases from \$20.00 to \$40.00 per billing cycle.

The water fund budget indicates reductions to O&M and DCC fees from \$25.00 to \$15.00 per billing cycle for water residents. There is an exception of 4 water customers without sewer charges within the Village that would not qualify for the reduction and would remain the same rate as the 2020 budget year. Outside water user fees will remain the same at the 2020-2021 budget year.

Mayor Rust closed the Public Hearing for the proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget at 6:30 p.m.

Regular Board meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees April 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. via zoom meeting.

Privilege of the Floor

No one was present for privilege of the floor.

DPW Updates

DPW operations for May include: grounds keeping at Memorial Lane, Fire Dept., tennis courts and water facility. Complete servicing to lawn mowers. Inspect street signs, fill & patch pot holes on Park Drive. Check storm drains and drop inlets. Paint crosswalk at school. Shut water off on bridge sewer line. Sawmill Boatyard driveway.

2021-2022 Budget Approval

Upon receiving no comments during the budget public hearing, a motion was made by Trustee Nichols, Seconded by Trustee Morrow and unanimously passed, to approve the proposed Village of Chaumont annual budget for 2021-2022. The amount to be raised by taxes is \$168,000.00 resulting in a tax rate of \$4.46 per one thousand dollars of assessment.

Fiscal Stress Monitoring Score

Karen reported that the Office of the State Comptroller has released the 2020 Fiscal Stress Monitoring Score for the Village of Chaumont. The report summary indicates a reduction in fiscal stress from 36.3 in 2019 to 23.8 in 2020. The Environmental Stress score is 20.0.

Utility Termination Moratorium Law

The State Legislature voted to extend the expiration date of the Utility Moratorium Law until 180 days after the state emergency has been lifted or December 31, 2021 whichever is earlier. Shut off to water services is prohibited for non-payment. Residents and small businesses must be offered an opportunity to enter into deferred payment agreements and can not be shut off for non-payment. Notice of the moratorium must be given in each billing cycle.

Local Control of Cannabis Legislation

Attorney Burrows provided a short written narrative regarding the legalization of marijuana in NYS. Local municipalities have the option to opt out of allowing cannabis sales in their community by adopting a local law subject to a permissive referendum. Municipalities that decide not to opt out may still adopt zoning laws to address restrictions in regards to time, place and manner restrictions on these types of facilities. Mayor Rust suggested that this discussion be tabled at this time to consider whether to hold a public referendum for public opinion before adopting any cannabis local law.

Lyme School Playground Equipment

The school will be replacing their playground equipment in early summer. They have asked the Village & Town for assistance with land prep such as the removal of berms and anchors in exchange for parts of the removed playground. It was agreed that some of the playground components could be used at the Village Beach. It is thought that the School maintenance will be dismantling the equipment for transport by the Village. The trustees also gave their approval for Al to use the Village backhoe for the needed yard work at the site.

Village Beach Permit

Karen reported that the application for opening the beach has been received from the NYS Dept of Health which implies that parks and beaches may be opened this summer. It's expected that the beach will need to have extensive restoration in order to open this season.

Solar Project Permit Extension

CS Energy, the contractor for 12625 Morris Tract Road, LLC has requested an extension of their building permit until December 31, 2021. They cite that they are experiencing delays in receiving materials for the project as the reason for the request.

In review of the request, it was found that a zoning/building permit fee was never assessed at the time of granting the original permit. The Board has learned that it is common for municipalities to charge a zoning fee usually based on a metric regarding the size of the project. The trustees instructed Karen to reach out to neighboring communities to determine what metric they are using to determine a fair and prudent fee to charge.

River Crossing Long term Financing

The short term financing through EFC for the River Crossing project term is scheduled to be converted to long term financing in Nov.2021. It is now necessary to determine which long term financing will be the best for the Village. EFC can not commit to a rate until time of closing however it is estimated that it will be in the 2.25% range. In 2016, Rural Development committed to a long term financing rate of 1.75% however their rate commitment expired in March 2021. Meetings with EFC and Rural Development have been scheduled for the near future to determine which offer will be the best selection for the Village.

Planning Board

The Village Planning Board has been reviewing the Village Zoning Map and submitted a map proposal for review of the Village Board. They have also made comparisons of local municipality's fees. Based on their research, they are recommending increases to the site plan review fee from \$75.00 to \$125.00 and special meeting fee from \$50.00 to \$200.00. Mayor Rust asked to table this discussion to allow the trustees time to study the proposed map, use and fee recommendations.

March 2021 Accounts Receivables

General Fund

Real Property Tax	A1001:	\$	-0-
Lieu of Taxes	A1081:	\$	-0-
Jeff. County Sales Tax	A1120:	\$	-0-
Penalty/Interest:	A1090:	\$	-0-
Gross Utility Tax:	A1130:	\$	50.70
Franchise Fees:	A1170:	\$	3,111.12
Clerk Fees: -	A1255:	\$	-0-
Registrar Fees:	A1603:	\$	40.00
Building Permits:	A2555:	\$	222.00
Unclassified	A2770:	\$	144.20
Beach fees:	A7140:	\$	-0-
Chips	A3501	\$	-0-
State Aid: Aid & Incentives	A3001	\$	331.73
Total:			3,899.75

Water Fund

Metered Water Sales	F2140-1:	\$	9,148.16
O&M/DCC FEES:	F2140-2:	\$	6,066.17
Unmetered Water:	F2142:	\$	0.00
Interest & Penalty Fee:	F2148:	\$	43.68
Water Meter Fees	F2144:	\$	0.00
Service Connection fees:	F2145:	\$	0.00
Total:		\$	15,258.01

Sewer Fund

Debt Service:	G2122:	\$	3,798.25
Usage Fee Sewer Rent:	G2120:	\$	8,254.84
Interest & Penalty Fees:	G2128:	\$	43.68
O&M Fees:	G2770:	\$	<u>2,241.38</u>
		\$	14,338.00

Motion to Approve Minutes of the March 16, 2021 board meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Reome, and unanimously passed, it was **“Resolved** to Approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Village of Chaumont Regular Board Meeting.

Motion to Approve Payment of Abstract #11 of the April 20, 2021 Board Meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, second by Trustee Reome and unanimously passed, It was **“Resolved”** to Approve Payment for Abstract #11 of the April 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting via email confirmation of each trustee in the amounts of \$3,400.50 General Fund; Vouchers 1395-1407 \$21,108.00 Water Fund, Vouchers 408-412, \$5,710.07 Waste Water Fund, Vouchers 677-682, Trust & Agency: \$1,666.41 Voucher #81, River Crossing Project \$6,480.47, vouchers 38-39. Trustees will email their approval for the checks presented on the abstract.

Water/ Sewer Report

Karen reported that the Masonic Hall’s electronic read indicated 9000 gallons of water usage in their most recent billing. Water has been shut off at the property since fall so it is unknown why this happened. Inspection by Village DPW did not explain the reading. The trustees agreed that a 9000 gallon refund to the account be made for both water and sewer. The DPW will have to determine if the water meter may need to be replaced.

When trying to shut off the water at the Town water shed in anticipation of the shed’s renovations, the shut off seized and the saddle broke. These repairs will be at the expense of the Village and will include a curb stop, saddle and a valve. The cost is expected to be approximately \$1,000.00 for the all the necessary parts and materials. The Town DPW will make the necessary waterline repairs.

It was found that the Blue Heron has been charged 2 DCC fees at \$25.00 each since June 2020. All commercial accounts were changed to one DCC fee at that time (June 2020). The trustees agreed that a refund of \$25.00 for 6 billing cycles should be made to this account and reflected on the next water billing.

Water/Sewer Relevies

Karen reported that there has been much confusion regarding the legality of re-levy of water & sewer bills due to the State’s Utility Termination Moratorium Law. Although it has been extended through December 31st, the Governor has not signed the executive order that will put the law in place. At first it was thought that only the sewer portion could be re-levied, however Jefferson County Real Property shared an email from the County attorney that stated that since the order has not been signed, re-levies of both water and sewer could be made. After discussion with Mayor Rust, it was decided to include all accounts with outstanding balances of water & sewer that were at least three billing cycles delinquent. The total amount sent to the County for re-levy was \$5,743.46 on seven residential accounts.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rust reported that she and Trustee Morrow will be meeting with the Village DPW to discuss upcoming projects and spring maintenance tasks.

She also reported good news that there is a surplus of approximately \$198,000.00 in the Water Street improvement portion of the River Crossing Project. BC&A has confirmed with EFC that the surplus funds may be used for such as to replace balance of sidewalks and address drainage on Water St. Other approvals include a 2" shut off at the corner of Evans St., curb stop at 27379 Mill Street, leaking main waterline couplings on Stone St., raise drainage inlet on Circle Dr. near Chaumont Bay Marina, reset the misaligned valve box at WSB and replace hydrants on Washington St. and Circle Dr. Paving for the East and West sides of Water Street will be paid for through CHIPS funding.

Committee Reports

Trustee Reome: The Planning Board has been working on redistricting the Village zoning map and reviewing the fees. The Town park plans have been sent to the County for their review. Hartley stated that the PB does not have anything to add to the Unsafe Building Law as written by Atty. Burrows and is in support of adopting that law.

Trustee Morrow: The Youth Commission met to discuss baseball, softball and other sporting activities for the summer. It is questionable if Summer Rec will be held this season.

Trustee Nichols: Nothing to report.

Old Business

CEO Jim Millington has turned over the Trainham property maintenance violations to the Town court. Judge Wallace will hear the case on April 26th.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Correspondence

NYS Public Service Commission: Notice regarding the petition of Consolidated Edison Company of New York to conduct safety inspections for stray voltage testing on various facilities. The standards establish proactive steps for electric utilities to take to protect the public from stray voltage and to enhance the reliability of the electric distribution systems in the state.

Riverside Solar: 60 day notice of intent to file an application to construct a major electric generating facility under Section 94C. This solar facility project is for a 100 megawatt generating facility within the Town of Lyme and Town of Brownville.

New York Rural Water Association, Inc: Membership renewal invoice for \$347.00. It was decided that since we do not have employees with water or sewer certification, we would not renew our membership at this time.

GENETWORx: Advertisement for COVID-19 PCR testing solutions for schools.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Nichols, Seconded by Trustee Morrow, and unanimously passed, It was “**Resolved**” to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees April 20, 2021 zoom meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Fitzgerald, Village Clerk/Treas.

