

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**April 19, 2022**  
**6:30 PM**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Valerie Rust, James Morrow, Michael Nichols, Jose Sosa, Dori-Ann Froelich, Karen Fitzgerald, & Erin Fulton

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:30 PM on April 19, 2022 at the Village Office by Mayor Valerie Rust.

**I. Privilege of the Floor**

Mayor Rust began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no Privilege of the Floor.

**II. DPW Updates**

Mayor Rust asked about the recent windstorm and Trustee Nichols described gusts and damage throughout the Village of Chaumont, specifically involving road signs. He had provided pictures before the meeting. Mayor Rust stated that although Brush Pickup will officially begin on April 28<sup>th</sup> (and continue on the last Thursday of every month), the DPW crew will start picking up brush and branches earlier as they see them throughout the week, due to the windstorm.

Greg Ingerson has made a comprehensive “To Do List” for the DPW crew that includes, but is not limited to: cleaning the watershed, fixing signs throughout village, cold patch on Park Dr. and Water St., brush pickup, fallen trees at tennis courts, hauling sand to beach, inventory of shop tools, inventory of pump station parts, prepare mower for the year, stickers on grinder stations, etc.

**III. Motion to Approve Abstract #11 of 2021/2022**

Trustee Nichols made a motion to approve Abstract #11 of 2021/2022 and Trustee Froelich seconded.

**IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting**

Trustee Nichols asked if the potholes on Park Drive had been repaired (per the March 25<sup>th</sup> VBT minutes) and Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald responded in the affirmative. Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting and Deputy Mayor Morrow seconded.



## **VII. Old Business**

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees that the Village of Chaumont had (5) residents take advantage of the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program through NYS (LIHWAP) and recouped \$3,379.34 in delinquent water bill payments thus far.

After talking with Town Supervisor Terry Countryman and Water Board Chair Marsha Barton, the Village of Chaumont's shared service proposal (to have Town of Lyme DPW activate the Village's new model MXUs as necessary) was approved when brought before the Town of Lyme Water Board. This saves the Village of Chaumont thousands of dollars in new equipment upgrades and another \$1,400 annual fee for software support.

## **VIII. New Business**

After watching a NYSLRS webinar, Clerk Fulton approached the Board of Trustees about potentially changing their Standard Work Day (SWD) for administrative positions to 7 hours. With the Village Clerk/Treasurer position being scheduled 36 hours weekly, and the Deputy Clerk scheduled 16 hours, these positions are currently earning 4 ½ and 2 days in the NYS Retirement System each week, respectively, under the current 8 hour SWD. With a change in SWD that more aligns with other municipalities and villages, these positions would instead earn 5 days and 2 ¼ days in the local Retirement System. The Board agreed to vote on the change at the end of the meeting.

## **IX. Correspondence**

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- The Village of Chaumont has a \$355.15 credit with USABlueBook that they will be refunding by check.
- The price of Potassium Permanganate 50# pail will be going up to \$10.19/# effective April 15<sup>th</sup> through Slack Chemical Company, Inc.
- The Clerk's office received notification from our attorney to confirm that Local Law 2 of 2022 (Opting out of RPTL 487) has been recorded with the NYS DOS and became effective March 21, 2022.
- The Crescent Yacht Club notified the Village of Chaumont that they are in the process of applying for a liquor license for the 2022 season.
- City of Watertown Pollution Control Plant will be charging a fee for their annual laboratory analysis effective January 1, 2023. It will cost the Village of Chaumont approximately \$260-\$260 annually.
- The WorkPlace is currently preparing for the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald's notary license will be expiring in April, and Clerk Fulton will be seeking licensure in June. The Board agreed that having a Notary Public in-house is a convenient service to Village residents, and will cover Clerk Fulton's fees associated with obtaining this title.

## **X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports**

Mayor Rust updated the Board of Trustees that after we had learned that the Village of Chaumont would not be receiving a PILOT from Norbut Solar Farms (as we had not responded within 60 days to their "Notice of Intent,") the Town of Lyme decided to provide notice from their lawyer to Norbut Solar Farm/Convergent Energy that the Town had anticipated a PILOT from the very beginning of the solar project, and had moved forward in all agreements thus far with that expected commitment on both sides. The Village of Chaumont will be following suit through our attorney Jim Burrows. Most recently, David Norbut created a new agreement concerning PILOT funds to be paid to the municipalities, which Mayor Rust sent to Jefferson County and the Town of Lyme. After reviewing the new agreement, Paul Warneck with Jefferson County advised that the numbers are too low, and unacceptable in his opinion. All three attorneys (Jefferson County, Village of Chaumont, and Town of Lyme representation) agreed – they will send a letter back to Norbut saying they are not acceptable.

Mayor Rust would like to move forward with the Williamson Law Books accounting software proposal for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. She asked Clerk Fulton and Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald to look further into what reports the software provides as we will need to begin to get acclimated to the program. Fitzgerald claimed we are currently about four software updates behind. We will need a manual and direct tech support.

LymeLight article has been submitted for May. All previous lifeguards are returning to work at the Village Beach for the season. We will need certification for the following guards: Kate Oliver, Ellen Oliver, Caryse Oliver, Emma Dupee, Lily Dupee, and Matthew Dickinson. Village sign permit has been sent to Maria Philips at DOT. Constitutional Tax Limit will be submitted on April 20, 2022 after adoption of 2022-2023 budget. Jessman Trash Removal service has requested fee increase to \$400.00/week effective April 1st to adjust for fuel prices.

Clerk Fulton gave Regional Waterline Meeting agenda to Deputy Mayor Morrow in lieu of his attendance at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and guaranteed disbursement of minutes afterward.

Wilson Lane brought up to get back on highway inventory list. Eligibility requirements are that a road must be utilized by traffic – which Wilson Lane is – there are (3) residences, cemetery access, and a village lift station. We could receive funds for upkeep if we add it back to inventory; Mayor Rust will continue to work on it.

The Board discussed COVID-19 recovery funds reporting and requirements. Mayor Rust stated that the funds can be used on administrative, labor, outside contractors, etc. Clerk Fulton mentioned that there are two ways to report for the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline – that the Village of Chaumont has OR has not yet used funds. Since we have an idea of how we want to use the funds, but it is supposed to be expenditures from 3/1/2021 – 3/31/22, how should we report? Mayor Rust said since we have not expended any funds, we will go forward with reporting as we have not, why we haven't yet (projects still out for bid), and what our plan is for 2022-2023. She also said that if it looks like the reporting will be overwhelming, the Village of Chaumont can follow suit with the Town of Lyme in hiring an outside individual to complete this reporting. Clerk Fulton assured the Mayor and the Board that there will be no need for that. She is confident that she can complete the

reporting in a timely and efficient manner, especially with the help of the Mayor and Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald.

Mayor Rust described George Talbot's great suggestion for a modified Spring Cleanup. While the village will not be returning to typical cleanup procedures this year, Mr. Talbot suggested opening up the Lyme Transfer Site for one week to village residents. Not only is this a convenient option for residents to remove some items from their residences, but it will be regulated by the town transfer department and village DPW. It was asked what we are looking at for estimated cost? Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald said typical dumping for a recycling trailer in previous years is \$1400. Another question was posed "what if someone doesn't have pickup truck to get to transfer site?" The consensus was that everyone has a friend with a truck. The Board also discussed identification – Mayor Rust wants as less work on the town guys as possible. Suggestions were tickets, water bills stubs, and resident lists with ID. Because the village is footing the bill, we need good accounting of it, Mayor Rust stated. We would have our own dumpster at the transfer site and be billed directly by Jefferson County. Trustee Froelich provided breakdown of transfer site fees as provided from Town of Lyme employee Marcus Espey. Mayor Rust will talk to Greg Ingerson about moving forward with this. The Board tossed around dates – while typically the week before Memorial Day – they want to be sure all residents are aware of dates with enough notice. Clerk Fulton suggested advertising on water bills going out the second week of May, as well as on the village's website and Facebook page.

Deputy Mayor Morrow's Youth Commission report stated that Summer Recreation will be taking place this year with a start date of July 5<sup>th</sup> through September 13<sup>th</sup>. Stephanie Doney will direct this program again this year. Baseball will begin this month, with softball following in May. Trustee Sosa added to the Youth Commission report that T-Ball is also beginning – they've had 19 kids sign up and he and his wife, Jennifer, have volunteered to help.

Trustee Nichols referenced some village maintenance items. While the beach doesn't look as trash-filled as recent years, he did notice a lot of wind damage and slight beach erosion. He also believes the entry fence area could use updating, as the entry gate is bent and old, and the Mayor agreed. She said she will ask Greg Ingerson to get a quote for fixing the gate and fencing.

Trustee Froelich reported that the Village Planning Board had an unofficial meeting with Ann Major-Stevenson of 27472 Washington Street, regarding a potential Bed & Breakfast in her home. She had submitted a formal application, but withdrew before the VPB meeting. She also informed the Board that the Office of the Aging has been opening up congregate meal sites during the pandemic, and wants to open one in Chaumont.

## **XI. Motion to Approve New Standard Work Day Resolution**

### **Resolution No. 33**

A motion to approve the new Standard Work Day for Village of Chaumont clerical staff of 7 hours for the New York State Local Retirement System was offered by Mayor Rust and seconded by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly approved as follows:

Valerie Rust, Mayor: YES  
James Morrow, Deputy Mayor: YES  
Dori-Ann Froelich, Trustee: YES  
Jose Sosa, Trustee: YES  
Michael Nichols, Trustee: YES

**Resolution No. 33 ADOPTED.**

**XII. Motion to Adopt Final Budget for Fiscal Year 6/1/22-5/31/23**

**Resolution No. 34**

Mayor Rust stated she would accept a motion to adopt the final Budget for Fiscal Year 6/1/22-5/31/23. A motion was offered by Trustee Sosa and seconded by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly approved as follows:

Valerie Rust, Mayor: YES  
James Morrow, Deputy Mayor: YES  
Dori-Ann Froelich, Trustee: YES  
Jose Sosa, Trustee: YES  
Michael Nichols, Trustee: YES

**Resolution No. 34 ADOPTED.**

**XIII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and seconded by Trustee Nichols.

Respectfully Submitted

*Erin Fulton*

Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer