

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 15, 2023

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Dori-Ann Froelich, Erin Fulton, Karen Fitzgerald, and Tammy McIntosh

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:37 PM on August 15, 2023.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no privilege of the floor.

II. DPW Update

DPW Supervisor Greg Ingerson sent a quote from Alpine Fence LLC for various repairs to the fence at the Village Beach. Mayor Morrow said he would like to ask the Town of Lyme what the plans are to repair their portion of the fence at Bicentennial Park, and we will table this until we learn how they are moving forward.

A Beach Inspection Summary Report was provided by the NYS Department of Health on August 9, 2023 finding (1) public health hazard and (1) other violation. The public health hazard was due to the heavy rains causing sand runoff into the swimming area. This created a murky water quality, which is unsafe for swimming. Clerk Fulton explained to the Board that this area was restricted for swimming until the runoff settled and water cleared. The other violation was in regard to seaweed removal and goose droppings. Both must be better maintained for a healthier beach facility. The lifeguards and DPW staff have been made aware.

Clerk Fulton shared an email from Pat Reome stating that the ash trees at Memorial Park should be trimmed every three to four years. She is requesting to meet with the DPW laborers to show them what needs to be cut. The Board agreed to and encourages this meeting.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #3 of 2023/2024

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve Abstract #3 and Trustee Nichols seconded the motion.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of July 18, 2023

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting, and Trustee Nichols seconded.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton presented Paul Norton's water leak at his rental property, and the Board agreed to waive the excess sewer fees on the gallons lost, as they did not go through the sewer system.

Joan Sharlow has questioned the \$25.00 reconnect fee for water turn on this spring, as she believes this fee has been waived for her since 2016. The Board agreed to waive the fee this year, but to be fair and consistent among all residents, required the shutoff and reconnect fee be paid going forward.

VI. Treasurer's Report

SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	BEACH	TOTAL
A1120	A1130	A7140	
39556.63	28.67	25.00	39610.30
	0.01	79.00	79.01
	18.96	48.00	66.96
	1.92	25.00	26.92
39556.63	49.56	177.00	39783.19
	Township	Beach Rental	
	Google Voice	Entrance Fees	
	Time Warner	Entrance Fees	
	MCI	Beach Rental	

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	INT AND PEN	SERV CONNECTION	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	F2145	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
1,217.88	279.52	73.46		1570.86	688.78	1,244.91	73.47	625.80	2632.96
406.19	80.00	20.00		506.19	237.68	479.99	20.00	170.00	907.67
991.47	322.36	89.95		1403.78	662.67	1,046.58	89.96	708.73	2507.94
2,708.60	875.33	10.00	50.00	3643.93	1,698.00	2,498.34	10.00	2,122.98	6329.32
3,166.73	1,075.00	15.00	50.00	4306.73	1,705.65	3,081.09	15.00	1,800.22	6601.96
911.52	129.34	20.00		1060.86	527.33	464.86	20.00	335.83	1348.02
483.00	160.00	40.00		683.00	378.00	429.36	40.00	365.00	1212.36
9885.39	2921.55	268.41	100.00	13175.35	5898.11	9245.13	268.43	6128.56	21540.23

VII. Old Business

The Property Maintenance Code in the Village of Chaumont continues to be an ongoing discussion. Mayor Morrow presented a final working copy to the Board of Trustees, requested they look it over this month and let him know of any recommended changes. After September's meeting, it will be sent on to the Village Planning Board for discussion, before being sent to the village lawyer. The final step will be holding a public hearing before it is adopted into village law.

VIII. New Business

There was a brief discussion of the solar fire on County Route 179 in the final week of July which postponed Lyme Community Days and caused community concern. It was determined that three batteries which support the operation of the solar project malfunctioned, causing fire. First responders were on scene for days on end. Many agencies, including but not limited to the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department, Three Mile Bay Fire Department, Village of Chaumont, Town of Lyme, County Fire and Emergency Management, State Office of Emergency Management, State Fire, NYS DEC, NYS

DOH, Convergent Energy, and various other fire departments were on scene to help support and mitigate this emergency. For weeks after the fire, and even now, agencies continue to watch the situation including air monitoring for potential toxic byproducts and inspections for groundwater or runoff contamination that would impose health risks. Soil sampling is being taken in a 100 ft. radius around the batteries, with a depth of >5 ft. Mayor Morrow informed the Board that an alarm did go off again as recently as this last Sunday, but the fire itself is no longer a concern. He also shared that there is an ongoing investigation – to determine why this happened, why the safety alarms were not triggered, why the extinguishers didn't activate, etc. Equipment will not be removed for at least a month, and everything will be done under the guidance of State Fire investigators.

Over 500K gallons of water was used from the Village of Chaumont and Town of Lyme, with an additional 300K gallons pulled directly from the lake. Mayor Morrow is proposing that Convergent Energy cover these entities' water fees to DANC with their insurance.

Mayor Morrow questioned whether or not our current relationship, in sharing a municipal attorney with the Town of Lyme, is a conflict of interest. The village currently uses Jim Burrows, who has now been acquired by the town since Joe Russell's passing. Mr. Burrows may be overwhelmed with his new workload, as well, as Mayor Morrow is still awaiting a response on various matters involving the village.

Clerk Fulton shared that she and Mayor Morrow had interviewed three candidates for the Deputy Village Clerk position, and felt confident that they had found someone who would perfectly fill the role. All candidates were discussed, and a unanimous decision was made.

Appointments

Rose Soules was appointed as a full-time clerk for the Village of Chaumont. She will be training with Clerk/Treasurer Erin Fulton and Deputy Clerk Karen Fitzgerald during her 120 day probationary period before her appointment as full-time Deputy Clerk in Karen Fitzgerald's place. This appointment was made with a motion by Mayor Morrow, seconded by Trustee Nichols. All in favor.

Mike Nichols was appointed as the new Deputy Mayor, taking the open position previously held by Jim Morrow. This appointment was made with a motion by Mayor Morrow, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

Tammy McIntosh was appointed to take the open trustee position on the Village Board. This appointment was made with a motion by Mayor Morrow, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- A reporter from the Watertown Daily Times called Clerk Fulton regarding the prevalence of “bubblers” in lake and river communities. Residents will install these devices underneath their docks to prevent freezing during the winter. Unfortunately, in many areas this is turning into a safety concern as the “bubblers” cause thin ice in a wide area that ice fisherman and snowmobilers do not always know to avoid
 - Mayor Morrow asked Clerk Fulton to reach out to local marinas inquiring about these devices, and to please request signage if and where they are being used

- An email from CEO/ZEO Jim Millington to the rental property owner at 12148 County Route 125 regarding a safety inspection in which multiple violations were cited and the rental was deemed unfit for human occupancy. A follow-up inspection on September 18th will determine whether the violations have been corrected or if the building will be condemned
- A preliminary apportionment of plan assessment to all participants of the Jefferson County Self-Insured Plan from the County Office Building
- A request from Brad Pinsky of Pinsky Law Group, who represents the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department, requesting a meeting for the proposed joint fire district
 - The date selection for this next meeting is in the Town of Lyme's court at this time
- A new SLFRF Interim Final Rule has been released by the Treasury in regards to reporting ARPA funds
- Williamson Municipal Software projects a 5% increase in 2024 annual support
- Adjusters International Basloe, Levin & Cuccaro offered their services in preparing and settling claims in relation to property insurance
- Settlement information for owners of a U.S. Dollar LIBOR-Based Instrument between August 2007 and May 2010
- A card to the mayor from Senator Mark Walczyk offering support after the solar fire and cancellation of Lyme Community Days, and extending his offer of help and assistance

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Trustee Froelich had no committee report to share as the Village Planning Board meeting was canceled this month.

Trustee Sosa had no youth commission committee report to share.

Deputy Mayor Nichols gave a report on Memorial Park and the Village Beach. The weeds between the pavers and along the curb are growing exponentially and must be removed on Memorial Drive. He also mentioned that the weeds along the bridge on 12E are impeding visibility. After questioning painting at the beach, Mayor Morrow confirmed the DPW will be staining the ship and painting the shed now that the season is closing down. They will also be removing the old bridge and installing a culvert pipe to make the area ADA compliant.

Mayor Morrow's topic of discussion regarding solar had already been addressed previously in the meeting, but he recapped his most recent meeting with DANC as well as some property maintenance issues. The new DANC billing procedure is still up in the air as a fair and consistent option is still being determined. The property at 12234 NYS Route 12E, while showing major improvements since being served an appearance ticket last month, still has some work to do. It was determined by the Board that Jim Millington should follow up with the property owner and make it clear the items that need to be completed to have a more favorable court appearance:

- 1) Remove all weeds from property, specifically between resident and restaurant
- 2) Register or remove camper from property
- 3) Remove old chicken coop

The ZEO/CEO and Clerk's office should also be reaching out to 8279/281 Co Rte. 125 and keeping an eye on properties in disarray on Water Street.

Trustee McIntosh addressed an issue regarding dog control in the Village of Chaumont. There is an ongoing disturbance with multiple dogs at 27405 Washington Street, where allegedly the dogs are on a runner from morning to night, barking excessively for hours. Multiple neighbors have brought their concerns to the homeowner directly, but nothing is being done. Clerk Fulton said she will look into dog licenses for that property and send Betsy Ring over to check out the situation.

Clerk Fulton and Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald presented the Board with the Village of Chaumont's 150th Anniversary, which will be next year (2024). The Board of Trustees discussed various ways to commemorate this grand occasion, with a parade/kiddie parade and fireworks as options to consider.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Morrow made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM, which was seconded by Trustee Froelich.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer