

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**August 16, 2022**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Jim Morrow, Doriann Froelich, Jose Sosa, Karen Fitzgerald, & Erin Fulton

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:37 PM on August 16, 2022 at the Village Office by Deputy Mayor James Morrow.

**I. Privilege of the Floor**

Deputy Mayor Morrow began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Both Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, Jim Millington, and resident Patricia Reome showed up for Privilege of the Floor.

Jim Millington presented the ongoing issues he is having with Code Enforcement at 12234 NYS Route 12E. He expressed his frustration in dealing with the same violations for the past four years. After speaking with a resident of the property (the daughter of the land owner) on Monday, he said she expressed the family has had many difficulties since her father's accident several weeks ago. She is in the process of reaching out to her sister for help in cleaning up the property. Many of the violations in the driveway and along the property line between their property and Wise Guys Ristorante are intentionally placed by the owner, as a "berm to not have to see the restaurant and deflect the lights from cars that visit the establishment." They also had questions concerning their land rights and an easement between the parcels they believe has been overrun by the restaurant owners. Trustee Froelich reminded the Board that the restaurant owners were going to put a buffer of trees as stated in the Site Plan application – not too high to obstruct neighbors' view of the water – but, to ease commercial congestion that could inhibit residential comfort. Mr. Millington claimed that the property owner will not move the boat until this has been executed. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald questioned if the boat is registered. Mr. Millington believes it may be time for the Village of Chaumont to look into NYS Fire Prevention Building Codes and adopt some more restrictive laws to help prosecute violators going forward, but this could cost several thousand dollars in the long run. If the Board would like him to initiate this, he can start, but it would need to go to Supreme Court – taking about a year and costing about \$9,000.

Deputy Mayor Morrow asked about recurring fines, with unpaid fines being relieved onto property taxes. Mr. Millington said it would need to be written and approved in our zoning laws. The Village of Dexter is considering this, as well. Local judges' hands are tied when they don't have the law backing them up. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald stated that a blighted property law was passed at the end of last year, and wondered if this could be

helpful, but the Board consensus was that that specific law was for vacant properties. “At this point,” said Mr. Millington, “I believe we have residents who are simply working the system. I’m very frustrated. We have to try something else.” Trustee Froelich agreed that many feel the same way.

“We will work on the zoning law,” said Deputy Mayor Morrow. “I would also like to talk to him personally and notify him by writing. This is an embarrassment to the village.” Some items of utmost concern that need to be addressed are the tall weeds, old chicken coop, unregistered camper, vending machine in front of the garage, and unmovable boat.

Deputy Mayor Morrow asked Mr. Millington if there was an update on 11871 NYS Route 12E. “I haven’t visited that property lately,” Mr. Millington admitted, “but I intend on updating that report as well as a report on Water Street.” On the subject of Water Street, Trustee Froelich mentioned she had been approached by those residents asking what they could do with their old sandbags. Deputy Mayor Morrow suggested the talk to the Chaumont Fire Department, or they could possibly be stored at the beach.

Pat Reome presented the quote she received from Laurie Koelmel at A Cozzi & Company Monuments for restoration work on Memorial Drive. Highlighting of the large stone monument would be \$450.00 and highlighting for the checkerboards and benches would be \$550.00. Travis Ryor would be completing the work, which includes a couple of coats and a clearcoat. Ms. Reome also reminded the Board that there is an anonymous donor who is willing to give \$500.00 toward the project. She is also going to be asking Kathy Carr to trim back the trees to avoid the overgrowth of moss in the shade. The Board thanked Pat for her work and research regarding this project, but asked to table a vote to move forward until next month’s Board meeting when Mayor Rust would be present.

## **II. DPW Update**

Mayor Rust provided updates for the Board for the following items:

- Bridge Project: a conference call is being scheduled to update our status with EFC. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald will be providing a financial summary for ease of understanding
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant RBC (rotating biological contactor) has been fully repaired
- Church Street Project: once the utility pole was finally removed, the project went along smoothly. The village will be putting an additional cost to the project, as Highway Superintendent Weston and his DPW crew will put a retaining wall on the church’s side of the sidewalk
- Clerk Fulton talked to Village DPW Supervisor Ingerson and learned that Tim Maloney, our engineer with BCA, will be working the Church Street water repairs into

the current water improvement funding. Jesse Linstruth would like to blacktop the area of those repairs and Co. Rte. 179 at the same time – so whether the water lines under Church Street are deepened or insulated (depending on what is deemed necessary to fix the problem), JL Excavation will then repair that section of the street. It was noted that these line repairs are much further up the street than the widening project, and could not be combined. Clerk Fulton wanted to thank the Town of Lyme DPW crew again for their shared service commitment to the Village of Chaumont, and shared personnel and equipment documents from the project with the Board

Trustee Froelich asked about Joan O'Brien's driveway repair, and it was confirmed that Greg Ingerson had Al Netto repair the damage where the road and her driveway meet.

### **III. Motion to Approve Abstract #3 of 2022/2023**

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve Abstract #3 of 2022/2023 and Trustee Froelich seconded the motion.

### **IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of the July 19, 2022 Board Meeting**

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 Board Meeting and Trustee Froelich seconded.

### **V. Water/Sewer Report**

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees of a water/sewer usage credit request by Elwood Skipper of 11887 NYS Rte. 12E. Mr. Skipper and his family went on vacation from July 11<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and at some point during that time had a pipe burst in their home. The fire department was called to pump their basement, and many items were destroyed – including their furnace and hot water heater. From their last meter read on June 28<sup>th</sup> to the water being shut off on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, their usage showed 36,000 gallons. Clerk Fulton reached out to Fuller Insurance and asked our agent if the overage on the water/sewer bill is something that could be added to a homeowner's insurance claim. In the past when this has happened, the Village has often eaten the cost, which over time adds up. For this case, we are looking at about \$396. While Mr. Fuller said he doesn't typically see insurance companies covering this, Mr. Skipper should submit for coverage determination – which Mr. Skipper did on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Fulton agreed to provide the Skippers with their last five water bills to submit to their insurance company along with their overage bill in September, but wanted to bring to the Board's attention in case they were denied. Mr. Skipper is requesting even a partial credit (for sewer usage as the Fire Department took the excess gallons) if his insurance company denies his claim.

Clerk Fulton also brought forward a request from DPW Supervisor Ingerson regarding the pumping of the village's sewer tanks. Currently, our tanks are pumped twice a year. He is proposing we have Gleason pump the tanks four times a year. As the cost is related to weight and not service calls, our expense should remain the same, but the alleviation in sludge buildup and weight will greatly benefit our RBC and prevent wear and breakdown



Clerk Fulton shared with the Board that on August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Village of Chaumont received notification from Empire State Development that our Letter of Intent for the RESTORE initiative was approved, and we were deemed eligible to apply for the grant. Now starts the period of gathering materials for the submission package that is due on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This will be primarily handled by RJ and Hartley Schweitzer.

### **VIII. New Business**

Deputy Mayor Morrow addressed the Village Beach. He noticed the tetherball was gone, but the new infant swing looks good and is being used. Clerk Fulton pulled the NYS Department of Health Bathing Beach Inspection Summary Report from the Correspondence folder and informed the Board that we had a great report on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Our Beach Director, Elle Oliver, met with Ryan Palmer from the DOH. No Public Health Hazards were found, and only (1) violation was reported. The violation was that after raking the beach and piling vegetation at the ends of the swim line, the decaying seaweed pile had grown rather large. DOH recommends keeping it further away from swim area and collecting more frequently so that it doesn't wash back into beach area when conditions are bad. All violations from previous years have been rectified. Lifesaving equipment onsite, First Aid supplies good, and beach operation reports are up to date. Updated Beach Safety Plan onsite and initialed by all guards. Handwashing stations good. Injury log being well maintained. Kudos to Director Elle and lifeguard team!

### **IX. Correspondence**

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

The Village of Chaumont received notification from National Grid that due to increased material costs and ever reducing availability of HID equipment, the Company has received approval to implement a program to replace existing failed HID luminaires with comparable LED luminaires. This program should convert all existing HID luminaries over the next several years.

The Jefferson County Planning Board sent a report pertaining to solar project decommissioning plans. An ad-hoc committee of agencies that work with municipalities on land use and agricultural issues developed the information to assist with reviews of solar projects.

The Jefferson County Planning Board will also start NYS Department of State Local Government Training again, and sent a "Save the Date" for September 20<sup>th</sup> for Land Use Training, which Clerk Fulton forwarded on to Village Planning Board members. Bryan Stumpf asked if meetings continue to be a non-reimbursable expense, as has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic. Deputy Mayor Morrow said we can look into reimbursing these trainings again, on a case-by-case basis. Clerk Fulton explained this particular meeting is sponsored by the JCPB and is free of charge.

Fuller Insurance Agency sent notice that the Village's insurance renews on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald is currently working on securing a quote from a competitive insurance agency, as well (Eastern Shore Associates).

Clerk Fulton passed on Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer's resignation as the Village Planning Board Chair, effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Unfortunately, due to the downtown revitalization projects and grant funding applications the Schweitzers are moving forward with, Hartley's role with the Village of Chaumont could have been considered a conflict of interest. She nominated Bryan Stumpf for her replacement, and contingent on Village Board of Trustees approval and subsequent appointment, he accepted. If appointed, we will need to advertise for another individual to serve as a member on the Planning Board going forward – use website and social media.

### **X. Motion to Appoint Bryan Stumpf as Village Planning Board Chair**

#### **Resolution No. 37**

Upon Village Planning Board recommendation, the Board of Trustees accepts Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer's resignation and moves to appoint Bryan Stumpf as new Planning Board Chair. A motion was offered by Deputy Mayor Morrow and seconded by Trustee Froelich, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly approved as follows:

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

#### **Resolution No. 37 ADOPTED.**

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

Trustee Sosa had nothing new to present as the Youth Commission meeting was cancelled.

Trustee Froelich presented information from the Village Planning Board. Ed Valentine, on behalf of Ruby Development, LLC, is applying for the RESTORE NY grant through the Town of Lyme to renovate the blighted building at 12319 NYS Rte. 12E. Based on preliminary plan and SEQR, she believes the intention is for a diner at this location. Some discussion was also had regarding rebuilding and developing the strip of downtown where the Country Store is located. The VPB also looked over the Town of Lyme's local law for "AirBNB" and short-term rentals. They had many suggestions to add, and the general consensus was that the town's law had a lot of restrictions. Planning Board member Stumpf believed it was restrictive, and perhaps the Village of Chaumont would like to be more lenient. The requirement of having a sign to identify short-term rentals was discussed (like "The Evening Star" on Main St.), higher fines for violations, and shorter turn-around was discussed. A directory should be put in place as well, as it's important to know who is who.

They worked very hard on it and Trustee Froelich believes the Board will be happy with the recommended STRU law they have developed when it is presented for approval.

Deputy Mayor Morrow attended the recent DANC meeting. He informed the Board that the Town of Lyme is currently looking into running a waterline all the way around Point Salubrious. They are in the preliminary discussion stages now, and some Public Hearings will be held in the near future. The Board had questions of where the water would come from – would they connect into our village pipes or into the DANC line directly? Would they put in their own water tower? This all seems up in the air right now, but is now on the Village Board of Trustees radar.

## **XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Deputy Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM. Trustee Froelich made a motion, which was seconded by Trustee Sosa.

Respectfully Submitted

*Erin Fulton*

Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer