

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 20, 2024

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Tammy McIntosh, & Erin Fulton

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:34 PM on August 20, 2024.

I. Privilege of the Floor

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

II. DPW Update

Clerk Fulton gave a brief summary of the most recent Department of Works meeting. Ray McIntosh has been hired as the Village of Chaumont's new General Laborer. His first day of employment will be Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024.

Clerk Fulton gave a report on Zoning and Code Enforcement in Officer Jim Millington's absence, with input from trustees regarding various complaints surrounding different properties. Many concerns regarding the property maintenance and dangerous condition of the Tefft property on Mill Street must be addressed. The court case of the Village of Chaumont v. Tefft was dropped as neither party showed up at the hearing. It was determined that the proceedings must start again at square one. Mr. Millington should follow up with the Paladino residence again about their fence enclosure that has been built without permit. The Soules property on Route 12E was addressed due to excessive grass length, junk around property, and other violations. The Rodriguez property on the corner of Evans Street and Route 12E received complaints, but was considered unfounded by the ZEO. Violation letters to Trainham and NYS Route 12E and Lisa Sizeland on Water Street must be followed up on.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #3 of 2024/2025

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #3 of 2024/2025, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Trustee McIntosh seconding the motion. All in favor.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve and Trustee McIntosh seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2024 special Village Board meeting. Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve and Trustee McIntosh seconded the motion. All in favor.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton discussed her conversation with Bruce Perlo, representative for gWorks – the parent company of UBMax, which is the Village of Chaumont’s water and sewer billing software. The software will be discontinued at the end of this year. Mr. Perlo gathered information from Clerk Fulton to provide a quote for new service by the next board meeting, and Clerk Fulton will collect quotes from other water billing software companies, as well. If the village decides to move forward with gWorks, the conversion is planned for the months of September – March, with current system ending in December for all clients who are parting ways with the company.

She also shared the C-941 Change Order #7 of the River Crossing Waterline Replacement Project with BCA Architects and Engineers to be signed and approved by Mayor Morrow.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT								
JULY RECEIPTS								
YR ENDING <i>May 31, 2025</i>								
REAL PROP TAXES	LIEU OF TAXES	PEN/INTEREST	SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	BLDG/PERMIT	UNCLASSIFIED	BEACH	TOTAL
A1001	A1081	A1090	A1120	A1130	A2555	A2770	A7140	
7623.06			40516.59	28.02	29.00	399.54	149.71	48745.92
2715.03				0.28				2715.31
0.00				0.01				0.01
23313.58				0.01				23313.59
2873.41		44.91		18.36				2936.68
3682.25		102.15						3784.40
2437.97		121.91						2559.88
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
35022.24	0.00	268.97	40516.59	46.68	29.00	399.54	149.71	84055.79
				Township	Pitkin	Fitzgerald COBRA	7/1-7/14	
				Nextiva				
				Google Voice				
				MCI				
				TWC				

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	INT AND PEN	SERV CONNECTION	INTEREST	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	F2145	FEES	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
1,884.78	597.80	10.00			2492.58	1,457.34	1,632.52	5.00	1,283.17	4378.03
97.49	40.00	5.00			142.49	126.00	157.35	5.00	100.00	388.35
1,733.32	458.69	16.84			2208.85	950.70	857.70	16.85	893.01	2718.26
635.87	110.04	5.16			751.07	128.22	630.85	5.17	300.00	1064.24
490.39	159.73	10.00			660.12	189.04	567.99	10.00	449.49	1216.52
318.16	60.00				378.16	111.33	54.67		50.00	216.00
57.33					57.33	108.00	34.67			142.67
1,128.51	225.10	35.00			1388.61	350.96	1,104.23	25.00	504.25	1984.44
3,262.29	1,337.84	15.00	75.00		4690.13	2,330.02	2,930.31	15.00	2,462.04	7737.37
295.80	140.00	10.00			445.80	192.00	316.02	10.00	300.00	818.02
				0.75	0.75					0.00
				0.01	0.01					0.00
					0.00					0.00
					0.00					0.00
9903.94	3129.20	107.00	75.00	0.76	13215.90	5943.61	8286.31	92.02	6341.96	20663.90
WEBPAY		Transfer 10,000 from SAVINGS								

VII. Old Business

Mayor Morrow has not yet presented a diminished speed limit at the Chaumont Bridge to the NYS DOT, but it is on his agenda to complete before having the Planning Board make further crosswalk plans.

The notices for Town of Lyme and Village of Chaumont residents who have been illegally dumping within village limits have been tabled until our new DPW laborer gets a clear idea of who is violating village regulation. This will be addressed again in September or October. Commercial trash collection in the village was also discussed, as some small businesses continue to abuse the 5-7 bag limit on a weekly basis. While mandating dumpsters is not out of the realm of possibility, the trustees decided to ask the Planning Board to work it into their new Land Development Code updates. “More than five (5) bags? Make arrangements for your own trash removal. The Town of Lyme transfer site is free for residents. There is no need to be abusing the village’s trash collection vendor,” said Mayor Morrow.

Edward Andrews at 11899 County Route 125 contacted the Village of Chaumont in March, and recently attended the Town of Lyme board meeting, to request "no wake" signs for Sawmill Bay. He said there are a few people that are speeding through and ultimately ruining the shoreline. “The waterways are a maritime issue,” said Mayor Morrow. He did talk to the Coast Guard as well as the Jefferson County Sherriff, and while the village can request no wake due to the lack of an outlet on Sawmill Bay, we have no authority to dictate or enforce it. He will follow up on this as well as talk to Mr. Andrews.

The Board of Trustees decided not to move forward with a resolution in support of the Town of Lyme’s Smart Growth Plan grant application, which was tabled last meeting. Mayor Morrow went on record to say that “Village of Chaumont residents are also Town of Lyme residents, and pay taxes to both municipalities. It doesn't make sense for village residents to pay double for the Town of Lyme Comprehensive Plan by financing it through the town as well as through the village with a 50/50 split in administrative costs and grant match.” The rest of the board were in agreement with this, and it was stated that the Town of Lyme had already moved forward without village participation.

VIII. New Business

An Inter-municipal Agreement (IMA) regarding Hart Road is being updated by Town of Lyme engineer John Condino of Barton and Loguidice. Going forward, Hart Road water residents will become part of Town of Lyme Water District #1 instead of being considered Village of Chaumont Outside Water Users. He has suggested that once it is updated, the town and village discuss charges to be adjusted for the residents. This will be done through a meeting with Town of Lyme Supervisor, Village of Chaumont Mayor and municipal Clerks.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- Village of Chaumont Beach Inspection Summary Report conducted on July 29, 2024 at 11:55 AM by Ryan Palmer. No public health hazards reported
- Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) notified village Bond Counsel of a short-term principal payment due on October 23, 2024 in the amount of \$4,500.00
 - Clerk Fulton informed the board that, after discussion with EFC and BCA and determination that while the waterline contract and DOT work should be on track for a fall completion, we don't really have a timeline on the DOT paperwork/final pay app. The project rep recommended we submit for a 6-month extension, in case the paperwork is not all complete in time, to ensure the Village would not lose out on reimbursement. He will send an extension request form for us, which should be pretty straightforward since it is just a time extension with no cost increase
- Public Statement Hearing from the Dept. of Public Service on Electric Utility Climate Vulnerability Study and Plan
- New Account information for 27651 E Water Street in Chaumont from National Grid, which is street lighting and navigation lights on the bridge
- Quarterly statement of CHIPS, PAVE NY, EWR, and POP funds from the NYS DOT
- Preliminary Apportionment of Plan Assessment for 2025 to the participants of the Jefferson County Self-Insured Plan from the county's Department of Insurance
- Mayor Morrow's signed engagement letter with Bond, Schoeneck, and King
- Email from Melissa Koffs voicing her concerns with Jim Millington being both the town supervisor and the village zoning officer. She highlighted conflicts perceived at both July and August Town of Lyme board meetings.
 - At the July 2024 board meeting it was brought up by a board member that a code enforcement officer should look at the building used by the town highway members, noting it was in the village limits. She believes this request was ignored by Mr. Millington and a code officer has not been asked to look at this building as requested.
 - At the August 2024 board meeting it was brought up that a sign was being placed in the new town park. Again, a board member mentioned the sign needed to be in accordance with the zoning laws of the village. Mr. Millington stated "No need to worry about the zoning."

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Mayor Morrow went on the record to thank Trustee Tammy McIntosh for all of her hard work and planning on the committee for the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Village of Chaumont. She received a round of applause for her efforts and contributions in leading such a successful and memorable event.

Deputy Mayor Nichols was not present.

Trustee McIntosh shared her satisfaction with an event well executed, and her relief in moving forward with her next committee liaison position. She explained that besides a small complaint regarding the car show, the entire schedule of events went off without a hitch, and she was so appreciate of the volunteers who helped and the community involvement. The committee raised enough funds to cover all expenses, with some capital remaining. She suggested donating to the Youth Commission, Parks & Recreation, or possibly building a community pavilion – but this will be discussed further by the committee.

Trustee Sosa reported that the Youth Commission did not meet.

Trustee Froelich was not in attendance, but sent a report of the Village Planning Board's September 10, 2024 meeting to be shared with the board. Chairperson Stumpf will be pursuing a crosswalk with the DOT. The board discussed the Planning Board's role of making recommendations to the Board of Trustees, not making policy or regulatory changes without approval. The Village Planning Board is continuing to finalize updates on the code: how to enforce when the code enforcement officer isn't successful, trash removal, definition of residential vs commercial, fees and/or consequences of law violations. They also discussed business need for a point-of-contact on file with the municipality, and parking stalls to avoid side roads from having an obstructed view of 12E.

Clerk Fulton addressed the Volunteer Fire Department's Game of Chance license. Now that they have applied for and received a Games of Chance Identification Number from the NYS Gaming Commission, they must file a Games of Chance License application with Clerk Fulton using forms GC-2, GC-2A, and GC-2B, annually, along with a \$25.00 annual license fee. She printed these forms and gave to Tom Donovan on July 25th. After she receives the completed forms with fee payment, she is authorized to issue a license to conduct on form GC-5. This is done every calendar year, as well. The Fire Department must maintain a special raffle checking account into which all raffle proceeds will be deposited, and from which such funds will be lawfully disbursed in accordance with Section 4624.21 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations and file a financial statement of raffle operations on Form GC-7R with the municipal clerk and the Commission by January 30th of the following year; and Remit an additional license fee to the municipality, if applicable, assessed at two percent (2%) of any net profits over \$30,000 (Note: There is no additional license fee paid on the first \$30,000 derived in net profits). Municipal clerks are required to complete and return to the Commission an Annual Report reporting games of chance activity during the previous calendar year. If our municipality has no reportable activity for the past year, Clerk Fulton is to write "No Activity" on the form and return it to the Division of Charitable Gaming. She explained to Mr. Donovan that all municipalities allowing the conduction of Games of Chance are required to have a local law or ordinance in place pursuant to section 187 and 188 of the General Municipal Law and includes raffles, bell jar tickets, carnival games using cards, dice or wheels, etc. She researched Village of Chaumont local laws filed with the DOS and found that this municipality has no such law or ordinance, and recommended that the Board of Trustees begin this process to not impede the Fire Department's fundraising raffles.

Clerk Fulton also shared information from her meeting with the Village of Chaumont's liability insurance broker in observance of the renewal coming up in October. The statement of values was reviewed and approved, as well as event schedule, vehicles, and inland marine. The broker informed Clerk Fulton that the village should anticipate a 9% increase in premium for next year. She also recommended a cyber security add-on, and said she will send that optional coverage along with the village's quote before the September Board of Trustees' meeting. Clerk Fulton also relayed to the board the Village of Chaumont's need for a Certificate of Insurance from all organizations and committees who implement any events on village property – Youth Commission, Summer Recreation, Chamber of Commerce, etc. Finally, the inconsistency on beach fees and unaudited collection opens the village up to lawsuit and must be addressed. “We could issues passes for all swimmers through the office,” suggested Trustee McIntosh. A family pass or individual pass was discussed, as well as the option of a punch card. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting by Mayor Morrow.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:39 PM. Trustee McIntosh made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer