

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 17, 2024

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Mike Nichols, Jose Sosa, Erin Fulton, Karen Fitzgerald, Fred Jackson, and Heather Lipczynski

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:30 PM on December 17, 2024.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Karen Fitzgerald exercised Privilege of the Floor on behalf of the Lyme Improvement League. They are looking for Board of Trustee approval and financial commitment to move forward with village tennis court renovations. Parks & Recreation has pledged \$10,000, the Sesquicentennial Committee has pledged \$5,000, the Chamber of Commerce has pledged \$2,000, and together with Kathy Carr, Karen was hoping to start a fundraising campaign in January. The Town of Lyme highway department has agreed to donate their time and labor, and have quoted approximately \$40,000 for supplies, services, and rental equipment. “We need the Village of Chaumont’s assurance to cover the remaining of the funding if we do not meet the total goal,” Mrs. Fitzgerald said. Mayor Morrow gave a brief history on the financial history of the court budget over the years, and Clerk-Treasurer Fulton said she could try to budget around \$20,000 for the courts in the 2025-2025 annual budget. Mayor Morrow made a motion to approve fundraising for the tennis courts’ renovation by the Lyme Improvement League and assure the group the Village would contribute financially. Deputy Mayor Nichols seconded. All in favor.

Karen Fitzgerald also addressed the Sesquicentennial Committee’s desire to acquire a time capsule to commemorate the Village of Chaumont’s 150th anniversary. Mayor Morrow said it should be fully up to the committee to decide how to use their remaining funds.

II. Operations Report

Clerk Fulton reported DPW operations. Seasonal brush pickup was discussed by the board, and ultimately decided to keep as is, with regulations inserted into the Property Maintenance Code. Biodegradable bags for leaves must be required, and while dates will not be extended, the DPW will be lenient on leaf pickup at the end of year. A motion was made by Mayor Morrow, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Clerk Fulton has followed up with Jessman's Trash Removal regarding various violators (businesses) within the village. Mayor Morrow said the Land Development Code gives businesses too much leeway when it comes to garbage disposal. "We must pick a date to end trash pickup for businesses – January 3rd – and stick with it," he said, "I will call Laker's to inform them of the change."

Mayor Morrow updated the Board of Trustees on Zoning and Code Enforcement activities. Sidewalks were specifically addressed, with the mayor classifying their enforcement just as any other property maintenance violation. "If we receive a complaint, we will look into the alleged violation and try to rectify it," Mayor Morrow said. As far as village bridge sidewalks are concerned, "we are responsible for Horse Creek Bridge. The NYS bridge (12E) is not our responsibility. We cannot ask the Town of Lyme not to plow the entirety of the bridge road, so the snow must remain on the bridge sidewalk as part of the designated snowmobile trail. The policy surrounding this will remain as-is."

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees that the Speed Limit Reduction Request for NYS Route 12E has been received by Aaron Docteur, but is awaiting a speed study in the summer by the NYS DOT before any decision will be made. She will be reaching out to the DEC for a depredation permit as soon as possible. The Board of Trustee would just like to know what firearm is being used and when, before each session. The Michael J. Finerson Memorial Bridge officially opened to two-lane traffic on November 26, 2024, to the delight of many. The Town of Lyme board waived the zoning permit application fee for the storage shed at the Village of Chaumont Beach, and Mayor Morrow wrote a Letter of Support for the George Brothers Buildings' application to National Grid for further project funding.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #7 of 2024/2025

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #7 of 2024/2025, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Deputy Mayor Nichols seconding. All in favor.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion. All in favor.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton discussed her conversation with Shirley Williams regarding use of water at the Presbyterian Church that did not go through the sewer. Mayor Morrow made a motion to waive the sewer fees associated with 21K gallons, as the water went directly into the ground from an unattended hose. This was seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

Resident Steven Leonard had called Clerk Fulton requesting a reduction in fees for his overage in water usage this billing cycle. Although he did not show up for the meeting as he had planned, the board discussed his plight and upon a motion by Trustee Sosa, seconded by Mayor Morrow, it was decided to waive 50% of his sewer fees for 16K of usage. All in favor.

VI. Treasurer's Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT									
NOVEMBER RECEIPTS									
YR ENDING <i>May 31, 2025</i>									
REAL PROP TAXES	LIEU OF TAXES	GROSS UTILITY TAX	UNCLASSIFIED	BEACH	STATE AID	STATE AID MORT	AIM	CHIPS	TOTAL
A1001	A1081	A1130	A2770	A7140	A3001	A3005	A2750	A3501	
		0.27	399.54						399.81
		0.03							0.03
		28.00							28.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
									0.00
0.00	0.00	28.30	399.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	427.84

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	INT AND PEN	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
167.00	100.00	10.00	277.00	133.00	181.60	10.00	165.34	489.94
		0.30	0.30					0.00
453.90			453.90					0.00
891.36	31.26		922.62	212.53	805.96			1018.49
1,027.82	170.00	13.69	1211.51	432.95	895.97	5.00	362.84	1696.76
245.01			245.01	203.10	296.86			499.96
221.69	104.96		326.65	327.45	414.59		159.82	901.86
827.31	324.00	5.00	1156.31	299.00	587.02	5.00	330.00	1221.02
159.20	40.00		199.20	140.00	131.68		110.00	381.68
846.39	245.00	5.00	1096.39	315.14	776.83	5.00	438.19	1535.16
554.64	210.00		764.64	224.00	617.26		429.80	1271.06
5394.32	1225.22	33.99	6653.53	2287.17	4707.77	25.00	1995.99	9015.93
WEBPAY		INTEREST						

VII. Old Business

Mayor Morrow addressed the previous request to house a fire truck in the Village of Chaumont's cold storage building on Circle Drive, citing the reasons for not allowing the storage – specifically lack of space and insurance liability. He also tabled discussion on the Land Development Code until January.

VIII. New Business

Deputy Mayor Nichols brought up a resident complaint regarding traffic parked on NYS Route 12E, specifically in front of the Blue Heron Restaurant, diminishing visibility for cars who are pulling onto the main street. Mayor Morrow said there is a state law prohibiting parking within a certain distance of an intersection, it is simply not being enforced. He tasked Deputy Mayor Nichols to come up with three (3) different options or ideas on how to fix this issue at the Blue

Heron and present at the next meeting. Heather Lipczynski asked if the same could be done for the parking issues along Church Street.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence:

- Jefferson County Recycling and Waste Management is increasing their fees by \$6.00 a ton to \$90.00 per ton. They are also increasing the municipal recycling pickup fee by \$25.00 to \$100.00 for each pickup
- LPAC reached out regarding the construction of a permanent stage at Bicentennial Park
 - Tom Donovan (Town of Lyme) responded to this request according to Mayor Morrow
- Amendment #4 to the EFC Drinking Water Facility Note – 2018 in the principal amount of \$594,800 from Bond, Schoeneck, and King
- Emergency Power Systems acquisition by Stark Tech Services, LLC
- Holiday Card from Pomerville's Septic Service, Inc.
- Holiday Card from Auctions International

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Mayor Morrow reported that when using an attorney for the closing of the River Crossing Project, Jim Burrows was still used as local counsel, as he had begun the project and was still within his agreement and contract.

Deputy Mayor Nichols had no report – all looks good.

Trustee McIntosh was not in attendance.

Trustee Sosa had no report on Youth Commission, as they did not have a meeting.

Trustee Froelich was not in attendance.

Clerk Fulton presented a financial discrepancy between the Village of Chaumont and Gouverneur Savings and Loan. Full investigations had been done on both sides, and official statements had been written by Village of Chaumont staff. The discrepancy could not be rectified. Mayor Morrow presented his intention to visit the bank this week with Clerk Fulton to get to the bottom of the discrepancy.

XI. Resolution(s)

WHEREAS, the Village Board is responsible for performing governmental functions as authorized by the NYS Constitution and applicable laws

WHEREAS, Lyme Central School contacted National Grid about adding a new street light on pole #5 on Academy Street due to many complaints from pedestrians and school walkers to academic events

WHEREAS, the approximate annual cost is \$178.00 for a 96W LED roadway to be added to the Village of Chaumont's billing inventory

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Chaumont, New York hereby approves the installation of the 96W LED roadway to be added to the Village of Chaumont's billing inventory

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Trustee McIntosh by absentee ballot on November 21, 2024, and seconded by Mayor Morrow, and upon roll call vote of the Board was duly adopted as follows:

Mayor, Jim Morrow	YES
Deputy Mayor, Mike Nichols	YES
Trustee, Jose Sosa	YES
Trustee, Dori-Ann Froelich	ABSENT
Trustee, Tammy McIntosh	YES

RESOLUTION NO. 20 ADOPTED

XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:37 PM. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer