

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

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Tammy McIntosh, Dori Froelich, Erin Fulton, Rose Soules, and Will Lipczynski

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:31 PM on February 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 and Mayor Morrow gave a brief recap on the most recent Department of Works meeting, which takes place at the Village of Chaumont offices biweekly on Monday mornings. The DPW staff will begin beach opening tasks next month, to include the initial repair of any damaged picnic tables and clearing fallen trees and brush from the fence line. Recycling continues to occur without incident, and many curb box and meter renovations have happened throughout the village. Storm drains are cleared, street lighting outages are observed and reported, and pump station heaters are monitored weekly. Signs along village streets are also straightened, as needed. It was determined during the last inspection that the F-350 is in need of a new power steering line. A timekeeping punch card system was discussed and unanimously agreed upon by the trustees. Clerk Fulton had brought options from W.B. Mason, but it was determined a cheaper model could be procured through Amazon. Mayor Morrow questioned the functionality between a battery-operated and electrical model, and ultimately the electric option was selected.

Clerk Fulton presented a training request to the Board of Trustees on behalf of Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington. The NYSBOC Central Chapter is having their 19th Annual Educational Conference on April 10th – 12th, providing 24 hours of required in-service training. While the Town of Lyme and Village of Dexter used to split this cost, with the Village of Chaumont covering mileage expense, it was presented as a new split between both villages (Dexter and Chaumont) as Mr. Millington no longer provides these services to the Town of Lyme. The cost for the conference is \$400.00, with lodging projected at \$348.00 under NYSBOC's rate. The Village of Chaumont would be responsible for \$374.00 of the total cost. Mayor Morrow explained that this conference meets all of CEO annual training requirements and he'd accept a motion. Trustee McIntosh made a motion to approve the training and associated costs, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Clerk Fulton gave an update on current Zoning and Code violations in the village. The Fulmer residence at 12148 Co. Rte. 125 has completed renovations, and after an inspection by Mr. Millington on January 30th, was released from placarding. Brandon Tefft has secured a dumpster on his property for cleanup, and has been given a deadline of February 29th. Mayor Morrow and Mr. Millington discussed the previous violations at the Paladino residence and determined it is now a dog control issue, rather than a zoning violation. According to witnesses, there are still seven (7) dogs on the property who run free and bark from 6:00 AM – midnight. A reminder will be sent out to Lisa Sizeland on Water Street. Mr. Millington is also scheduled for a meeting with the DEC on February 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM to discuss the village’s floodplain program and potential participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The board has requested Mr. Millington start attending their monthly meetings to give a report and address and questions or concerns they have that are out of Clerk Fulton’s field of knowledge.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #9 of 2023/2024

Mayor Morrow said he’d accept a motion to approve Abstract #9, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconding the motion.

IV. Motion to Approve January Minutes

Mayor Morrow said he’d accept a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 regular Village Board meeting, with Deputy Mayor Nichols making a motion to approve and Trustee Sosa seconding the motion.

Mayor Morrow said he’d accept a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2024 special Village Board meeting at the Chaumont Fire Department, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Deputy Mayor Nichols seconding the motion.

V. Water/Sewer Report

There was a question this month from Paul Norton of Sawmill Bay Marina regarding the bills for village marinas during the winter months. Although water is shut off during this season, and consequently there are no usage charges for water or sewer, he believes in the past there has also been a discount on EDUs when they are not in operation. It was determined that this was addressed during the June 2020 Board of Trustees meeting, when review of the water and sewer EDU charges for commercial customers had been addressed. It was revealed that customers with two or more EDUs were being charged the same number of DCC fees, and subsequently decided to adjust all commercial customers to one DCC fee per account as of the June 2020 water billing. There were also adjustments made as adopted in the 2020-2021 budget the previous month, with a rate reduction for three (3) marinas: Sawmill Bay, Mark Morina's, and the Crescent Yacht Club. This adjustment was made to lessen their burden of high utility costs during the winter months of no revenue. It was achieved by reducing the marinas’ water EDU counts from 4 to 1, causing an annual cost reduction of \$2,644 to \$1,924 (a decrease of \$720) spread over six (6) billing periods.

VI. Treasurer's Report

| VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|
| JANUARY RECEIPTS | | | | | | | | |
| YR ENDING <i>May 31, 2024</i> | | | | | | | | |
| REAL PROP TAXES | LIEU OF TAXES | GROSS UTILITY TAX | FRANCHISE FEE | CLERK FEES | REGISTRAR FEES | BLDG/PERMIT | UNCLASSIFIED | TOTAL |
| A1001 | A1081 | A1130 | A1170 | A1255 | A1603 | A2555 | A2770 | |
| | | 0.01 | | 250.00 | | | 734.40 | 984.41 |
| | | 0.03 | | | | | 214.62 | 214.65 |
| | | 19.49 | | | | | 436.74 | 456.23 |
| | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 19.53 | 0.00 | 250.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1385.76 | 1655.29 |
| | | Google | | Trainham Court | | | TIOGA (for 52035) | |
| | | MCI | | | | | Mike & Karen Cell | |
| | | Time Warner | | | | | COBRA (to T&A) | |

| 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 |
| 481.68 | 64.00 | | | 545.68 | 222.00 | 419.99 | | 184.35 | 826.34 |
| 70.50 | 20.00 | | | 90.50 | 54.00 | 52.67 | | 50.00 | 156.67 |
| 532.49 | | | | 532.49 | 136.00 | 571.26 | | | 707.26 |
| 1,447.16 | 562.59 | 15.00 | 12.50 | 2037.25 | 597.52 | 1,266.18 | 15.00 | 1,009.51 | 2888.21 |
| 912.32 | 165.02 | 7.46 | | 1084.80 | 458.84 | 422.69 | 7.47 | 444.73 | 1333.73 |
| 1,347.90 | 277.16 | 25.00 | 0.01 | 1650.07 | 664.87 | 1,450.93 | 25.00 | 623.01 | 2763.81 |
| 1,873.32 | 809.97 | 25.00 | 37.50 | 2745.79 | 1,026.01 | 2,043.30 | 25.00 | 2,020.17 | 5114.48 |
| 27.34 | | | | 27.34 | | | | | 0.00 |
| 205.65 | 70.00 | 5.00 | | 280.65 | 142.80 | 254.36 | 5.00 | 200.00 | 602.16 |
| 850.00 | 415.00 | 10.00 | | 1275.00 | 348.00 | 887.04 | 10.00 | 792.19 | 2037.23 |
| | | | | 0.00 | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 | | | | | 0.00 |
| | | | | 0.00 | | | | | 0.00 |
| 7748.36 | 2383.74 | 87.46 | 50.01 | 10269.57 | 3650.04 | 7368.42 | 87.47 | 5323.96 | 16429.89 |

VII. Old Business

The new sandwich board crossing guard signs have been ordered and are currently in use daily by our DPW staff at the school crosswalk on Route 12E. It was verified that there are no DOT regulations for this type of signage on a state road from McQuade and Bannigan, as well as Town of Lyme Highway Superintendent Pat Weston. The Lyme Central School District is currently working on a grant to help further assist in safety equipment and training for this important responsibility.

The Solar Decommissioning Bond for Convergent Energy has been secured through Wells Fargo.

VIII. New Business

Karen Strife from the Watertown Lions Club reached out to Clerk Fulton regarding their annual Cardboard Boat Race fundraiser, requesting to hold it at the village beach again this summer. The board deferred further conversation on this until the Lions Club has determined a date for their event.

Mayor Morrow addressed the navigation lights under the Chaumont Bridge and a situation that was recently brought to his attention. The electrical bill for the navigation lights has historically been paid by the village, since they were tied into the same circuit as the lighting. Steve Gagnon from the NYSDOT reached out to Mayor Morrow to explain that their plan with bridge construction was to take over the electrical charges for the new navigation lights, and separate them from the current street lighting. In order to do that, they would have to install some extra equipment to have two separate electric meters, separate cutoff switches, breaker panels, conduits, etc. All these extra components would result in additional clutter. The DOT inquired if the village would be willing to continue to pay for the energizing of the 4 navigation lights to eliminate this option. They are LED, on a photo eye (they are only on at night), and the cost to run them is relatively low. The DOT will still maintain & repair the navigation lights at their expense. A motion was made by Tammy McIntosh to keep good relations with our colleagues at DOT and treat this as a shared service, continuing our current practice of paying for the navigation lights' electricity with street lighting. This was seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

Mayor Morrow and Clerk Fulton have spent the last couple months working on an update Personnel Policy for the Village of Chaumont. The draft of this policy has been reviewed by office staff, DPW laborers, and board members. After much discussion and negotiations by all parties, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the final policy, which will be disseminated for use starting April 1, 2024.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- Mayor Morrow was copied on correspondence from Patricia Gibbons of Lyme Central School to Ms. Maureen Harrington-O'Neill of Make-A-Wish Foundation of CNY regarding the World Wish Day fundraiser "Joey's Basketball Game" on May 4, 2024
- On December 22, 2023 Governor Hochul signed Senate Bill S6815 for the expansion of eligibility of death certificates
- A report from Assemblyman Scott Gray by the NYS Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group on battery storage units. The report was in response to the battery storage facility fire in the Village of Chaumont last year, among other emergency responses in the state
- Informational letter from President Kathy Sheehan from NYCOM about becoming a Pro-Housing Community
- An email from a seasonal resident in Duck Harbor (Town of Lyme), formerly of Pillar Point regarding turning the old tennis courts into pickleball courts and suggesting a fundraiser

- Quarterly CHIPS, PAVE-NY, EWR, and POP apportionment and rollover balance
- Bankruptcy paperwork from an opioid manufacturer vs. NYS, where the NYS Attorney General will continue efforts on behalf of municipalities who have borne considerable expenses associated with fighting the opioid epidemic
- A thank you note to the Village Office from Christine Sharlow, who is moving after a long-time residence in the Village of Chaumont
- Response to Clerk Fulton from Todd Townsend (NYS DOT) on the status of the waterline replacement underneath the bridge construction project. As the final waterline location is on the second stage of the bridge, the installation will be done this fall. He estimates the waterline to be complete and functional sometime in late November
- A reminder of the funding opportunity for Volunteer Fire Department's in NY. The deadline for the grant application is April 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM
 - Chief Lipczynski said Robin Grovesteen, Heather Lipczynski, and Tom Donovan are working together on this application
- A request from Assemblyman Scott Gray to join in a proactive approach to advocacy for the Pardon Our Prisons movement
 - Mayor Morrow contributed a letter of support to this cause

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Nichols had no report.

Trustee McIntosh reported that the Sesquicentennial Committee meetings are coming along nicely. They considered moving this month's meeting to February 21, 2024 due to scheduling conflicts. The committee is planning a "Taste of Chaumont" on May 11th from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and have about sixty (60) vendors in mind. They do have concerns about a carnival; the cost to rent one (1) piece of equipment for four (4) hours costs approximately \$1,600 to \$2,000 dollars. The new village logo for the sesquicentennial year has been created and approved by the committee. Trustee McIntosh agreed to send it to Clerk Fulton for immediate use on village letterhead and documents.

Trustee Sosa reported on the Youth Commission. Current officers are Scott Radley, President; Jim Morrow, Vice President; and Kathy Gardner, Secretary. The commission had fourteen (14) kids play basketball this season from 5th and 6th grades: eleven (11) boys and three (3) girls. They had thirteen (13) participants from 3rd and 4th grades. Discussion was had by the commission regarding opening it up to 1st and 2nd grades next season. Also, moving the sign ups earlier for spring sports. Tom Donovan will be the new liaison for the Youth Commission for the Town of Lyme board. The Fire Department is looking into procuring AED for the commission as well as the Summer Recreation program. Firefighter Rich Little offered to train summer rec staff and beach employees on these devices for free.

Trustee Froelich had no report, as the Village Planning Board canceled their February meeting.

Mayor Morrow reported he has put updating the Village of Chaumont's Sewer Use Law on hold in lieu of the change in plans/temporary halt to the Town of Lyme's new highway garage. The location may change, the plans for the drains in the floor may change, etc., so he will wait to see how they plan to move forward before he continues with edits to incorporate them in to the law.

Clerk Fulton presented the 2024 municipal corporation agreement between the Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, and the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. After much discussion about residential and business water/sewer users with similar services, it was determined by a motion by Trustee Sosa and seconded by Trustee McIntosh that the new Town of Lyme Veterans Park would be classified as 1 water and 1.5 sewer EDU.

During committee reports, Chief Will Lipczynski presented an invoice from Doyle Security Systems regarding a service call that occurred as a consequence to DPW laborers inadvertently digging up telephone wires while doing drainage work on the Fire Department property on October 3rd. Clerk Fulton questioned a line item for corroded battery replacement, but the trustees agreed to cover the remainder of the bill due to our staff's error. A motion to pay the bill was offered by Trustee Froelich, and seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

A motion to adjourn was offered by Deputy Mayor Nichols at 9:21 PM, and seconded by Mayor Morrow. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer