

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**July 16, 2024**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Dori Froelich, Tammy McIntosh, Julie Gosier, Don Bourquin, Will Lipczynski, & Erin Fulton

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:31 PM on July 16, 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. Ongoing beach tasks include picking up goose poop daily, making disc line for reflection as a deterrent, removing seaweed piles on Mondays, refilling sand and cleaning up storm damage. DPW picked up F350 from Geyer's yesterday and dropped off water sample. They also picked up cold patch from State Street Hardware to fill Fire Department apron area. Recycling continues on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. Upcoming, they will change batteries in two portable generators in Cold Storage (Supervisor Ingerson is getting quote from NAPA and Interstate Battery) and following up on sump pump connections at Paladino's and Willett's. Mayor Morrow talked to Todd at LCS and ensured their compliance two weeks ago. Lead Service Line Inventory is due October 16, 2024. The new truck purchase has been deferred until Mayor can comfortably fit into budget. Finally, the resignation of DPW General Laborer, Trevor Weston, was announced. Mayor Morrow said he'd talked to him in an attempt to retain him in the Department of Works, but ultimately, he is ready to move on.

Clerk Fulton gave a report in Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington's absence. She read a notice from the Department of State confirming that Mr. Millington has fulfilled all in-service training requirements for 2024 required to maintain his active status as Code Enforcement Officer (certification #0408-7069). He is now active for calendar year January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. Mayor Morrow updated the board on the court case of the Teffts on Mill Street – and its dismissal due to neither party (Teffts or Village ZEO) appearing before the judge on the determined date. Deputy Mayor Nichols said he would follow up on this. Tefft's water line has been repaired and turned on, and Clerk Fulton charged a reconnect fee for service. It was announced that there has been another complaint re: the Trainham property on Route 12E with Mr. Millington sending a violation notice. Mayor Morrow found within village law that *any* fence, whether perimeter or animal enclosure, needs permit. He talked with Jim Millington today about this, and he will be following up with Teresa Paladino about the animal enclosure fence on her property that needs permit. For follow-up by Jim Millington, Clerk Fulton brought up the two (2) abandoned properties on Water Street owned by Lisa

Sizeland/Plunder House Realty, and Trustee McIntosh addressed Straders on the opposite leg of Water Street.

### III. Motion to Approve Abstract #2 of 2024/2025

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #2 of 2024/2025, with Deputy Mayor Nichols making a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich 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 June 18, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconded the motion. All in favor.

### V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton shared aged water and sewer balances and delinquencies with the Board of Trustees, and addressed the timeline of fees, notices, and shutoffs.

She also shared Amendment #10 of the River Crossing Waterline Replacement Project with BCA Architects and Engineers as signed and approved by Mayor Morrow at the last meeting with the engineers.

### VI. Treasurer's Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT								
JUNE RECEIPTS								
YR ENDING								
REAL PROP TAXES	GROSS UTILITY TAX	FRANCHISE FEE	CLERK FEES	REGISTRAR FEES	BLDG/PERMIT	UNCLASSIFIED	BEACH	TOTAL
A1001	A1130	A1170	A1255	A1603	A2555	A2770	A7140	
4754.09	27.29	1382.21		10.00	270.00	399.54		6843.13
20694.03	0.01	1597.87			2468.00			24759.91
22942.36	18.44							22960.80
16253.27								16253.27
42710.59								42710.59
372.43								372.43
19371.33								19371.33
								0.00
127098.10	45.74	2980.08	0.00	10.00	2738.00	399.54	0.00	133271.46
2023 Releived	Township	Charter		Wilson	7-11 (Beam Team)	Fitz June COBRA		
	Google Voice	National Grid			George Bros.			

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
			0.00	1,956.67	2,607.93	5.00	2,064.14	6633.74
2,070.37	734.30		2804.67	1,069.34	2,367.90		1,536.24	4973.48
684.69	274.68	20.00	979.37	144.00	779.74	20.00	630.00	1573.74
415.60	151.65		567.25	186.00	404.49		379.17	969.66
1,661.40	659.97	19.35	2340.72	798.00	1,688.55	19.34	1,540.00	4045.89
914.01	314.68	10.00	1238.69	379.70	1,061.39	10.00	657.85	2108.94
646.57	185.00	10.00	841.57	240.00	754.62	10.00	500.00	1504.62
244.66	65.00		309.66	286.52	266.52		189.17	742.21
6637.30	2385.28	59.35	9081.93	5060.23	9931.14	64.34	7496.57	22552.28
<b>WEBPAY</b>								
<b>TAX RELEVIES</b>								

Mayor Morrow asked about total penalties and late fees collected on taxes, and Clerk Fulton explained it's a little early to determine, as the village accepts tax payments (with varying levels of interest) through the end of October, but she will be sure to give a full report at the end of tax collection season.

### VII. Old Business

Following up on the Village Planning Board's discussion of crosswalk options, Mayor Morrow expressed his plan to present a diminished speed limit at the Chaumont Bridge to the NYS DOT, before going back to Planning Board for further crosswalk plans moving forward.

He also plans to go out on Wednesday and deliver notices to Town of Lyme and Village of Chaumont residents who have been illegally dumping, and will follow up with the board at the next meeting. Clerk Fulton sent out a notice at the beginning of this month to all business owners within the village, and read it to the board.

### VIII. New Business

Clerk Fulton shared the Letter of Engagement from Bond, Schoeneck, & King as the potential new attorneys for the Village of Chaumont. Mayor Morrow highlighted their experience with real estate, eagerness and availability (provided cell phone numbers, ease of communication, etc.) and cheaper hourly rate. Clerk Fulton reached out to a fellow municipality (West Carthage) who is a client, and they are happy with the service provided. Mayor Morrow reminded the board that Bond, Schoeneck, & King did our bonding for the River Crossing Project, and did a satisfactory job. Meanwhile, the last four things our current attorney billed us for were either uncompleted tasks, or agenda items that were not asked for by the village, but billed for in conjunction with Town of Lyme by their request.

Deputy Mayor Nichols asked about curb maintenance responsibility. The mayor said that he has asked our DPW to clean them up before the Sesquicentennial event in two weeks – they have 80 hours between now and then to get them done. In the past it was always taken care of, and with supervision and direction it can be maintained again. He also told the board he has been working on tennis court upkeep and preliminary maintenance for eventual repair.

## **IX. Correspondence**

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- She talked to the manager of the JRC facility in Chaumont, as many emergency alarms for the lift station on their sewer line have been accruing a great deal of overtime hours for our DPW due to wipes, clothing, and other prohibited items being flushed. They have said they will address this issue going forward
- Official letter of resignation from the Village Planning Board of Robin Grovesteen
- Notice of class action settlement between Commissioners of Public Works of the City of Charleston (d.b.a. Charleston Water System) v. Dude Products Inc.
- Notice of Special Election informational packet from a resident at 21010 S Shore Road in Three Mile Bay re: the Town of Lyme's vote on construction of a new highway barn

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

Mayor Morrow had nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Nichols updated the board on the status of the beach. Town of Lyme Summer Recreation continues to go well. The beach itself is concerning – it is completely washed out. Clerk Fulton explained that the beach will remain closed with no lifeguards on duty until the new sand has been filled in and beach fully repaired. It is top priority for all parties involved. She has talked with Steph Doney and Summer Rec director Kyle, and the kids will be on a field trip tomorrow. Plan is to have beach back up and operational by Thursday, if the storming and heavy rain subsides. There are holes near the volleyball net and the fence near the cemetery is in poor shape. He will bring spray can tomorrow to identify the holes that need to be filled. There is still no volleyball net or tetherball installed. Clerk Fulton said this error was brought to her attention yesterday, and upon further questioning of the DPW, she learned that the items are unaccounted for and must be ordered. She put the order through Amazon this morning. The weeds are coming up along Memorial Drive – especially in the cracks of the bricks. All around the monuments need to be weeded. The water shed is looking rough, too. There is still a portable toilet at Morris Tract field. He will check with Town of Lyme to see when this is scheduled to be removed, as it would be nice to still have it there for Sesquicentennial weekend. Clerk Fulton reported that the extra toilets and handwashing facilities are due to be delivered to beach this week.

Trustee McIntosh shared her excitement around the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration. There will be events, games, and activities all weekend for all ages. There has been input from the village, town, seasonal residents, and even other communities. She anticipates a huge crowd and believes costs will be completely covered. Clerk Fulton had printed and placed the proclamation for event officials in the trustees' folders, and they were able to read it through. She invited/will invite former mayors Val Rust, Geoff Donaldson, Mark Zegarelli, and James Price. Mayor Morrow asked who will emcee the event, and Trustee McIntosh said she will ask the committee. Deputy Mayor Nichols said Jim Collins will be getting in contact with Chief Lipczynski regarding Sunday's parade. Chief Lipczynski said he talked to NYS police and Jefferson County Sheriff and learned that the village must approve the parade on Main Street. Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the parade. Trustee Sosa said he'd make a motion to approve the parade on Sunday July 28, 2024 on NYS Route 12E from Morris Tract Road (where lineup begins) to the Fire Department (across the bridge) as approved by the Chaumont Fire Department. Trustee Froelich seconded the motion. All in favor.

Trustee Sosa reported that the Youth Commission did not meet. Texts have been circulating about summer soccer, with Britt, Janelle Dumaw, Mariah Wallace, and Jeff & Mindy Kaplan coaching the various age groups. Referees will be paid \$20 and Adam will maintain the fields.

Trustee Froelich reported that teleconferencing is no longer authorized as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. She was unable to make the last Village Planning Board meeting, but will give a full report at the next BOT meeting.

Clerk Fulton addressed her ongoing need for a Deputy Clerk, and the board discussed the qualifications and requirements for the new role. They ultimately decided on a new part-time role, twenty-two (22) hours weekly, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a ½ hour lunch break. The role would be responsible for answering phones, water and sewer billing, mail, filing, customer service, and other duties in support of the Village Clerk. The job would not be eligible for health insurance, but would accrue sick time and PTO, as well as optional NYSLRS membership. The pay will be commensurate on experience. Mayor Morrow informed the board that his wife, Jo Morrow, is interested in the position. He would abstain from interview and hiring process if Jo applies. Clerk Fulton also reported on the status of the Volunteer Fire Department’s Game of Chance license with NYS, as well as the Records Appraisal and Needs Assessment report that was currently conducted by grant with the Town of Lyme. She informed the board that she had applied for a SWIMS grant for our beach through the City of Watertown in conjunction with some other municipalities. Mayor Morrow asked if there was a way to better control the entrance fee for non-residents at the beach. “We provide lifeguard and beach facilities, how can we encourage patrons to pay for admission without the lifeguards having to harass them?” Ultimately, the board decided to table this and come up with some options for next year. Clerk Fulton requested that the board put the annual NYCOM training on their radar as a possibility for her to attend this fall. Finally, she requested board approval to ask NYS Comptroller for an extension of time for filing the annual financial report for the Village of Chaumont. With losing her deputy and taking over the duties of both roles for the last month, she would like more time to fulfill this duty of village accounting accurately and diligently. Trustee Froelich made a motion approving Clerk Fulton’s extension request, seconded by Mayor Morrow. All in favor.

## **XI. Resolution(s)**

The Board of Trustees decided not to move forward with Kendall, Walton, and Burrows as Village of Chaumont legal representation. Mayor Morrow expressed his uneasiness with having the same attorney as the Town of Lyme, the lack of communication, delayed & incomplete projects. There is still no resolution with the ongoing question of Norbut Solar Farm’s PILOT. They have made no progress determining the Hart Road residents’ concern over waterline responsibility. Attorney Burrows changed his contracted rate for the River Crossing project three times. Trustee Froelich admitted that it feels like an abuse of our limited budget. The mayor said he would accept a motion to discontinue legal representation by KWB. Trustee Sosa made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Clerk Fulton presented a resolution given to her by the Town of Lyme and their grant writer, asking for the Village of Chaumont’s support in applying for the Smart Growth Plan grant, to finance writing a new Comprehensive Plan. As all municipal laws are generally derived from the Comprehensive Plan, and the Town of Lyme is looking to develop their laws on solar, they are moving forward with updating their current plan. Mayor Morrow expressed his displeasure with not being invited to attend the meeting the Town of Lyme had regarding this venture. The town is requesting the village pay half of their grant match, which the board believes is unfair due to the fact that our Comprehensive Plan

from 2010 decrees that we have no room for growth within the village – so what is the benefit? “We weren’t invited, involved, and we didn’t budget for it,” said Mayor Morrow. Councilwoman Gosier said that the Town of Lyme will be putting their name into the county for Comprehensive Plan services, as well. He tabled the resolution.

**RESOLUTION NO. 25**

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board is responsible for performing governmental functions as authorized by the NYS Constitution and applicable laws which may, from time to time, include the use of attorneys to achieve those ends; and

**WHEREAS**, the Law Office currently providing services will cease to exist as of June 15, 2024, while the individual attorneys who provide municipal services practice in a newly named Law Office and the same location; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board is authorized to retain attorneys upon such terms as it deems appropriate in pursuit of, and to accomplish, those objectives and desires to do so.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village Board of the Village of Chaumont, New York hereby

1. Retains Bond, Schoeneck, and King to provide legal services for, and on behalf of, the Village of Chaumont and to serve as its attorneys effective June 17, 2024.
2. The attorneys are hereby authorized to obtain the Village's files, electronic and otherwise, from the current attorneys and to take steps as would be necessary to represent the Village's interests.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Mayor Morrow, and seconded by Trustee Sosa, 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	YES
Trustee, Tammy McIntosh	YES		

**RESOLUTION NO. 25 ADOPTED**

**XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session at 8:27 PM to discuss a personnel issue. Mayor Morrow made a motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

*Erin Fulton*

Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer