

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
June 18, 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, Erin Fulton, Rose Soules, Jim Millington, Trevor Weston, Julie Gosier, Melissa Koffs, 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 6:30 PM on June 18, 2024.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Due to the number of guests, the board introduced themselves to attendees. Department of Works laborer Trevor Weston requested Executive Session, which was granted for later in the meeting. Melissa Koffs, Will Lipczynski, and Julie Gosier all exercised privilege of the floor.

Melissa Koffs stated that she received an illegal zoning violation from Village of Chaumont Zoning and Codes Enforcement Officer, Jim Millington. Her and her husband's names were misspelled, alleged violations were not cited properly under village local law, and the wood pile and trailer that were listed are not legitimate infringements. She believes the document is a personal attack, and that Jim has stated he wants the wood pile for his personal use. Mayor Morrow questioned if the wood pile makes an issue with pests, and Ms. Koffs said it does not. She explained that Mr. Millington should not be village ZEO and Town of Lyme Supervisor concurrently as she feels it is a conflict of interest, as well as other staffing appointments throughout the village and town. Jim Millington interjected that he did make citations in accordance to the Village of Chaumont property maintenance code, requesting all trash and junk be put in an enclosure, and is happy to see some progress being made. Mayor Morrow told Ms. Koffs he would discuss this further with Mr. Millington.

Julie Gosier went on the record to confirm that she also feels that Jim Millington serving as Town Supervisor and Village ZEO is unethical and a conflict of interest. She has done legal research and found that it is not unlawful, but as a village resident, still feels it is corrupt. Mayor Morrow asserted that the only conflict would be with town property inside the village limits, and both he and Millington agreed that the Town Supervisor would step away from any village zoning decisions regarding town property. "We had a long talk about this [when he was elected supervisor] and I gave Millington the opportunity to decide," Mayor Morrow said. "He wanted to stay, so we have to give him a chance."

Fire Chief, Will Lipczynski, explained to the Board of Trustees that the Fire Department desperately needs to have their parking lot paved. "We have a lot of loose stone and run-off, and the rain is washing right into the office," he said. Mayor Morrow said he would have the DPW look into it.

II. DPW Update

Clerk Fulton gave a brief summary of the most recent Department of Works meeting. The staff continues to work on the Village Beach opening tasks: painting picnic tables, filling in culvert, spreading sand, etc. Superintendent Ingerson has started a rotation schedule to pump the village's (4) tanks with Pommerville on a bi-annual basis: (2) tanks will be pumped in June 2024, (2) tanks pumped in September 2024, first (2) tanks pumped again in December 2024, and second (2) tanks repeat in March 2024. Brush pickup will be June 27, 2024 this month. The DPW took the F350 to Geyer's Automotive to have the brakes and rotors replaced as they didn't feel confident or have the knowledge to perform this task on a dually. Clerk Fulton also told the Board that the Town of Lyme's Summer Recreation Program will be starting July 9th at the Village Beach and the changing room that was decided upon needs to be ordered and installed as soon as possible. She quoted \$5,700 for a 12x12 and \$6,600 for a 12x16, which could also be used for storage, as the current beach storage shed leaks and needs to be removed. Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the purchase of a 12x16 changing room/storage shed for the Village Beach for \$6,600. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Trustee Froelich. All in favor.

Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington presented an update on current Zoning and Code violations in the village. On Mill St., Tefft's water line has been repaired and turned on, but the ground must now be filled and seeded. The other violations on the property have shown some progress, but it must be finished before their court date. A violation notice has been sent to the Strader residence on Water St., with no response. Koffs on Route 12E is showing progress. In response to board query about Paladino's fence, Mr. Millington explained that garden fences and dog fences do not require a permit within village law – this is for perimeter fences only. Mayor Morrow believes they do. Melissa Koffs interjected that it may be confusing as there are two separate Zoning Laws in the village. Mayor Morrow replied that this was how the lawyer laid it out, but he will look further into it. Clerk Fulton informed the board that the Paladino family did come in and license all of their dogs with the Town of Lyme after being ticketed by dog warden, Betsy Ring.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #1 of 2024/2025

Mayor Morrow asked about the Asset Management Plan. Clerk Fulton explained it has been budgeted this year and is necessary for insurances and grants moving forward. The mayor said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #1 of 2024/2025, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Deputy Mayor Nichols 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 May 21, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconded the motion. All in favor.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Deputy Clerk Soules reported on the Lead Service Line Inventory survey Clerk Fulton and Superintendent Ingerson created for Village of Chaumont residents, with information that is due to the NYS Department of Health by October 16, 2024. "Of the 301 water and sewer residents who received a survey, we have 61 surveys back," she said. "Each survey will receive a \$5.00 credit on their bill that's due in October. The majority of residents have copper service lines." Deputy Clerk Soules also

confirmed that the sump pumps that were hooked into sewer lines have all been rectified, except for Lyme Central School, which is being fixed this summer per Pat Gibbons.

The board asked Clerk Fulton to check into the status of Tefft’s water. ZEO Millington said the line was repaired and water is on – is that accurate? Clerk Fulton has no record of the DPW turning the water back on at this residence. She will confirm with them this week. Mayor Morrow also questioned delinquencies. Deputy Clerk Soules confirmed there are no severe delinquencies – only bills that are currently or recently due. The Village of Chaumont just relieved unpaid water and sewer bills onto village taxes (through the county) in April.

VI. Treasurer’s Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT								
MAY RECEIPTS								
YR ENDING <i>May 31, 2024</i>								
REAL PROP TAXES	LIEU OF TAXES	SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	UNCLASSIFIED	STATE AID MORT	AIM	CHIPS	TOTAL
A1001	A1081	A1120	A1130	A2770	A3005	A2750	A3501	
		34050.59	0.01	399.54	1248.67			35698.81
			18.67	80.60				99.27
			26.86	156.18				183.04
			0.01					0.01
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
								0.00
0.00	0.00	34050.59	45.55	636.32	1248.67	0.00	0.00	35981.13
			Excess Telecom	Karen Cobra (T&A)				
			TWC	Mike Cell Apr/May				
			Township	Karen Cell Jan-May				
			Google Voice					

METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	INT AND PEN	METER FEES	SERV CONNECTION	RET CK	TOTAL	USAGE FEE SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL
F2140	F2142	F2148	F2144	F2145	FEES	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE
3,300.90	571.47	14.16				3886.53	1,843.33	1,746.30	14.17	1,188.28	4792.08
853.12	265.38	9.67				1128.17	586.66	786.19	9.67	646.01	2028.53
1,280.53	158.50	19.66				1458.69	337.69	1,190.88	19.67	443.02	1991.26
205.41		0.49				205.90	60.66	158.43	0.49	47.35	266.93
289.91	40.00	10.00				339.91	168.00	215.26	10.00	100.00	493.26
246.88	70.22	7.53				324.63	108.00	210.68	7.54	140.16	466.38
245.45	70.01	9.34				324.80	72.00	127.22	9.35		208.57
185.00	60.00					245.00	150.00	158.01		150.00	458.01
91.00						91.00					0.00
926.60	302.00	5.00				1233.60	384.00	861.15	5.00	572.86	1823.01
1,369.64	517.67	5.00				1892.31	384.00	1,056.16	5.00	828.87	2274.03
2,810.43	911.34	5.00				3726.77					0.00
						0.00					0.00
						0.00					0.00
11804.87	2966.59	85.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	14857.31	4094.34	6510.28	80.89	4116.55	14802.06
WEBPAY											
LCSD Water Testing											

VII. Old Business

The village’s annual spring cleanup was discussed again. “Perhaps it could be a fall cleanup,” Mayor Morrow acknowledged, “but we could be billed up to \$600.00 by the Town of Lyme – plus weight. It wasn’t utilized enough last year, so we didn’t pay, but we could be obligated to pay going forward and we didn’t budget for it.” It was determined to discuss this further in August.

The Village Planning Board has been discussing crosswalk options, according to Mayor Morrow. The mayor proposed a crosswalk near the bridge to connect the sidewalk from Bayview Housing to the bridge’s sidewalk and into the village. “I don’t support a crosswalk within the village [near the school] because we’d need another crossing guard. But one near Veterans’ Park of the 7-11 would be agreeable, too.” It was suggested that the speed limit at the bridge would need to be changed to have a crosswalk there. Clerk Fulton believes the village had tried this for Mr. Chavoustie in 2022, but we hit a brick wall with NYSDOT changing the speed limit on 12E. Julie Gosier agreed. They tried even further back than 2022 and got a “no.” Mayor Morrow said he will present it with the importance of twenty-four (24) Bayview Housing residents, Fire Department, Village Beach, etc. and will hopefully get some movement. Then there will possibly be some grant opportunities for sidewalks. “Is that a liability?” asked Trustee Froelich. She admitted she would love new sidewalks, but does the Village of Chaumont installing them make us liable for their repair and upkeep? “We also want to be careful about planning a crosswalk in a congested area,” Trustee McIntosh advised, “that section near 7-11 could be very dangerous.” Mayor Morrow said that most crosswalks are near intersections, so it’s not out of the realm of possibility, but he would like to put in a request for a 30 MPH zone on the other side of the bridge and see what happens – and move forward with crosswalk discussion and requests from there.

Clerk Fulton read a letter from Heather Lipczynski regarding Old Cedar Grove on Washington Street and the complaints about the condition of the cemetery. The committee is aware of the condition and trying their best to get it cleaned up, although their funding is very limited. She has been following up with the state on what the progress is in making the cemetery “abandoned” so that the Town of Lyme can take responsibility – and she has been told we are very close. The cemetery has a permanent

maintenance fund that the town will be able to use for mowing and upkeep of both Old Cedar Grove and New Cedar Grove, once the state finishes their paperwork and responsibility had changed hands. She has also been advised that until the state completes everything on their end, her committee is not to touch it. "John Hodge came and cleaned up some with the finances from two funerals this year," Will Lipczynski contributed. "It needs to be done again, but he did a very nice job," Trustee McIntosh said, "he cut down and hauled out all the broken trees. He did wonderful work." Will said it cost about \$4,000. The board agreed to volunteer in the meantime to help get the cemetery back on its feet and looking beautiful.

VIII. New Business

Deputy Clerk Rose Soules has resigned, with June 27, 2024 being her last day in office. The board thanked her for her effort over the last ten months and wished her well. A replacement or changes to this role were not discussed.

Clerk Fulton asked the Board of Trustees to approve her returning staff and new hires for the Village Beach by appointing the following lists of certified lifeguards for the 2024 season:

- Beach Director/Supervising Lifeguard Caryse Oliver
- Other returning lifeguards, Madelyn Ferris and Jocelyn Widrick
- Three new lifeguards Claire Pettit, Grace McDonough, and Tatum Wiley

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Nichols to appoint these lifeguards for the 2024 season, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- Excellus informed us (as an employer group) that they are requesting a rate adjustment that would increase our group's premium by 12.99% in 2025. Trustee Sosa suggested we look into AETNA. It's what the Lyme School District uses, and it's good insurance
- Invitation from the Chaumont Fire Department for the municipal office/Board of Trustees to join the parade for the Sesquicentennial Celebration
- The Hartford's Annual Customer Privacy Notice
- Request for info from Mark Bradwick about the potential pickleball courts within the village, and donation offer
- Email from Christine Panos re: bill S7834 and the construction of BESS lithium ion battery storage facilities
- Invitation from Andrew Marks of United Professional Benefits (Excellus' broker for the village) to a golf tournament at Highland Meadows
- Letter from Kendall, Walton, and Burrows announcing their dissolution. KWB will no longer be the Village of Chaumont's municipal attorneys as of June 15, 2024. The board chose not to retain the new firm (Kendall, Harrienger, & Burrows) until they shopped around. Mayor Morrow is working on this. He has reached out to Gilbert in Lowville and Bond, Schoeneck,

and King in Syracuse. “We will decide by June 25th,” Mayor Morrow said. “I don’t think we should retain the same lawyer as the Town of Lyme. This needs further discussion.”

X. Mayor’s Report/Committee Reports

Mayor Morrow discussed business/commercial garbage pickup and dumpster requirements. He asked Clerk Fulton to draft a letter to some of our small businesses to remind them of village protocols, or request they get individual dumpsters. “Historically, commercial properties have their own,” he said. Trustee McIntosh feels it should be equitable across the board – all businesses should be held to the same standard. Mayor Morrow agreed. He also brought up that there is illegal dumping by Town of Lyme residents on Park Drive for village garbage and recycling pickup. He believes it could incur a \$250 fine. He is going to talk to Greg about this and how to move forward.

Deputy Mayor Nichols updated the board on the Village Beach – specifically the broken areas of the fence by dead limbs and fallen trees. “There are also some holes that need to be filled,” he said. “The swings need to go out, and a lot of weeding still needs to be done around the swing sets.” On the other hand, Memorial Drive received kudos and is looking really good, although the monuments could be cleaned and shrubbery trimmed. He also informed Jim Millington that the first house on Mill Street may need a visit. “The lawn is very overgrown with junk scattered throughout the property.”

Trustee McIntosh shared the activity list for the Village Sesquicentennial, July 26th – July 28th. “We are doing very well with planning,” she said, “We just need many more volunteers!”

Trustee Sosa reported on the Youth Commission. Baseball will be done at the end of the month, with soccer starting next month. They are currently looking for soccer coaches. “Summer Rec starts on July 9th!”

Trustee Froelich reported that the Village Planning Board did not have a June meeting, although they are hoping to welcome village resident Nolan Pitkin as a member. He is a graduate of General Brown and currently an attorney with the Jefferson County DA’s office. He has a background in planning from 2016-2018, and excelled during his Facetime interview with the Planning Board members – they highly recommend him. She also questioned the VPB ZOOM policy, but Mayor Morrow said that effective July 1, 2024, teleconferencing protocols have been repealed and is no longer allowed in the OML (Open Meeting Law). Planning Board has also been discussing parking issues in the village, which the trustees feel is an enforcement problem.

Clerk Fulton reported on upcoming municipal holidays and closures. The Town of Lyme/Village of Chaumont offices will be closed on June 19th for Juneteenth, as well as Tuesday, June 25th for primary elections. Furthermore, Town Council Julie Gosier stated they will be closed July 9th as well for a special referendum regarding the construction of the new Town Barn.

XI. Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 23

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees will officially appoint Nolan Pitkin as a member of the Village Planning Board, to fulfill the term of Robin Grovesteen, which expires December 1, 2024. Reappointment can be made at the December Organizational Meeting for a new 5-year term, expiring December 1, 2029, if Mr. Pitkin and the Board of Trustees so choose. This

is in adherence with NYS Village law which requires staggered appointment terms for all members of a Village Planning Board.

VOTING: Ayes 5 Nays 0

The roll call vote was:	Mayor, Jim Morrow	YES
	Deputy Mayor, Mike Nichols	YES
	Trustee, Jose Sosa	YES
	Trustee, Dori-Ann Froelich	YES
	Trustee, Tammy McIntosh	YES

RESOLUTION NO. 23 ADOPTED

RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, the Development Authority of the North Country (Authority) and its partners completed a feasibility study and identified opportunities to consolidate and share Geographic Information (GIS) within the region, and

Whereas, in January of 2012, the Village partnered with the Villages of Glen Park and Cape Vincent, and the Towns of Brownville, Cape Vincent, and Lyme to develop this geographic information system (GIS) for municipal infrastructure. This project was funded by a grant from the New York State Archives and entailed records conversion, database development and web-based interface development. The Village of Chaumont directly benefits from the results of the project by having access to a public map viewer, self-service map viewer, and infrastructure data.

Whereas, The Village’s original GIS Hosting agreement period was July 8, 2013 through May 31, 2019 and was renewed from 2019 to 2024. The purpose of a new agreement is to provide provisions for the Village to continue GIS hosting and maintenance services. The term of this Agreement shall be five (5) years beginning on June 1, 2024, and ending May 31, 2030, provided that the Village and/or the Authority shall have the right to terminate with or without cause upon 90 days prior written notice, provided however, that the Village shall pay the Authority all costs incurred by the Authority to the date of termination.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Village of Chaumont does hereby authorize its chief elected official to sign a letter of agreement renewal with the Development Authority of the North Country.

VOTING: Ayes 5 Nays 0

The roll call vote was:	Mayor, Jim Morrow	YES
	Deputy Mayor, Mike Nichols	YES
	Trustee, Jose Sosa	YES
	Trustee, Dori-Ann Froelich	YES
	Trustee, Tammy McIntosh	YES

RESOLUTION NO. 24 ADOPTED

XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session with Trevor Weston at 8:05 PM to discuss a payroll and personnel issue. They returned to the regular meeting at 8:34 PM. Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Trustee Froelich made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer