

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
March 18, 2025

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: James Morrow, Jose Sosa, Dori-Ann Froelich, Michael Nichols, Erin Fulton, Tom Donovan, Mark Zegarelli, William Lipczynski, Kris Cook, Heather Lipczynski, and Karen Fitzgerald. *Tammy McIntosh arrived later in the evening.*

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 March 18, 2025.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Karen Fitzgerald exercised Privilege of the Floor in regard to the Lyme Improvement League's fundraising initiative for the village tennis courts. She informed the Board of Trustees that unfortunately the NNYCF's matching grant application will not be moving forward to the next stage after submitted Letter of Intent. Currently, the committee has about 600 names to reach out to for donations. Mayor Morrow said although village residents want to see something done with the tennis courts, it is individuals outside of the village who have requested pickle ball courts specifically. "I know the Town of Lyme is willing to do some work as a shared service," he said, "and I would like to see this go through Parks and Rec." Mrs. Fitzgerald explained that they have \$17,000 pledged from organizations, and they are trying to raise a total of \$25,000. "How much is the projected total?" asked Trustee Froelich. It was estimated that a "bare bones" total would fall around \$42,000 – and that doesn't include nets, paint, lights, etc. Karen shared Paul Carr's rendering of the courts with the board. Heather Lipczynski questioned why the board would have village taxpayers pay for this project instead of procuring a grant? Mayor Morrow said that the school is redoing their gym and getting new backboards, so he's hopeful that they will donate the old ones to the village. Karen finalized her floor time by announcing that the book produced for the Village of Chaumont Sesquicentennial celebration last summer by the Lyme Historical Society can be easily rolled to put into a time capsule. She is in the process of ordering a capsule with Sesquicentennial Committee leftover funds.

Fire Chief Lipczynski stated the Fire Department was in attendance to handle the property dispute. "The paperwork you provided [per FOIL request by VFD to the Village of Chaumont] shows we own the parking lot, but that is not how it should be." Mayor Morrow explained that this isn't really a property dispute as much as a plowing dispute. "Our village employees clear the truck bay's entrance for emergencies, then clear village streets, then return to plow the entirety of the Fire Department's parking lot – but it doesn't seem to be meeting your specifications or timeline. The village streets take precedence." Asst. Fire Chief Heather Lipczynski stated, "There were seven times over the winter that we weren't plowed at all. It's shameful." Mayor Morrow said he wasn't arguing whether or not the village employees *should* plow – he believes it's an important service, and he wants it to work out. Unfortunately, the

village only has two laborers, and we can't have one guy just hanging out keeping up on the department's parking lot during heavier snow events. Tom Donovan said that he sees the Town of Lyme Water Facility being plowed before their lot. "The wind drifts and overnight snow causes us not to be able to get the trucks out of the bay," he said, "and when the helicopter landing zone is not plowed in the parking lot, it creates a problem." Mayor Morrow stated that Village of Chaumont policy has not changed over the past decade with how our guys plow, and he questioned why there suddenly is a problem with efficiency or satisfaction. Kris Cook offered his opinion that "it seems to be an issue that needs to be taken care of within the village of priorities being adjusted." Clerk Fulton identified that everyone in the room has the same priority – the safety and well-being of village residents. She suggested they work together, especially in times of heavier snowfalls when the guys are not going to be able to expediently get to the lot, or more importantly when there is a staff call-off. She questioned who she should contact in that scenario, as the village would continue to offer plowing services, but would need to pass the baton to the volunteers to plow their own lot on occasion. It was suggested she call or text Will and Heather in that situation. They also requested she contact them for any future water main or service line breaks or disruptions so they can plan accordingly in case of emergency, and she agreed to do so.

Village resident Mark Zegarelli informed the board that the overhead door at the pole barn on Circle Drive has been left open on several weekends. He also made it known that he is not in favor of the Village of Chaumont supplying the crossing guard at the school crosswalk on State Route 12E. Clerk Fulton explained that if village employees did not provide this service, no one would. LCSD has already been asked to share in this service at a previous Tri-Board meeting and they declined. They did provide signs, vests, and grant monies to train volunteers.

II. Operations Report

Clerk Fulton reported DPW operations. She presented Ray McIntosh's Certificate of Completion of the Basic Operations Course for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators" through SUNY Morrisville. She also requested board approval for an optional lab at SUNY Morrisville in July to help Ray pass his licensing exam. Mayor Morrow made a motion to approve and pay for Ray's sewer lab, but split the cost of travel expenses and lodging. Trustee Sosa seconded the proposal. All in favor.

Clerk Fulton reminded the Board of Trustees that the Village of Chaumont's Annual Report of Code Enforcement Activities is due to the Department of State by April 1, 2025. It is currently being worked on by Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Jim Millington.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #10 of 2024/2025

Trustee McIntosh arrived at the meeting. Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #10 of 2024/2025, with Deputy Mayor Nichols making a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconding. All in favor.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees' Meeting minutes from February 18, 2025 with Deputy Mayor Nichols seconding the motion. All in favor.

VII. Old Business

The Board of Trustees discussed the Planning Board's Land Development Code redline updates for a final time, making the following recommendations in addition to the edits from last month:

- 1) On page 23, section 1 should read "The Village board reserves the right to implement Safety Zones on village streets"
- 2) Page numbers should be adjusted, along with table of contents, to accurately reflect information post-edit

Mayor Morrow asked Clerk Fulton to make the edits and send final draft back to Village Planning Board for review. He would also like the Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer to review, as well, before the process of Public Hearing (potentially in May) and filing with DOS.

VIII. New Business

There was no New Business to discuss.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence:

- A letter of interest request from LCS for Community Give Back Day on May 16, 2025 for any community service opportunities for LCS students
- Letter from National Grid informing the Village of Chaumont of removal of "Demand Service," and new meter installation at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- March/April 2025 Lyme Light with Village of Chaumont Budget Meetings and Public Hearings advertised
- Changes to deposit agreements with GS&L Bank

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Mayor Morrow had no report.

Deputy Mayor Nichols made rounds throughout the village. The beach is in good shape for this time of year. There is a large pothole at the entrance to the beach that must be fixed. The fence still requires repair in certain areas. There is brush entangled along fence that must be removed. "Perhaps the Parks and Rec grant could be used for a fence at the beach," Mayor Morrow suggested. Trustee McIntosh reported that the swing set seats are unsafe and recommended ordering new ones. Deputy Mayor Nichols referenced the excessive brush on Water Street, which is still pending removal. Memorial Drive needs to be cleaned. The area on Mill Street where the water pipe burst is in major need of cleaning – especially in front of Van Niel's where there is still a pile of dirt on sidewalk.

Trustee McIntosh said there was no Fire Department meeting.

Trustee Froelich talked about the Public Hearing for the Blue Heron/Chez Heron subdivision and subsequent Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board recommended a survey to determine where garage will fall within lot lines, but otherwise approved the subdivision after

the Public Hearing. Parking issues at Blue Heron were once again discussed, as well as a potential speed limit change at the crosswalk.

Trustee Sosa reported there was no Youth Commission meeting.

Clerk Fulton reported that Mayor Morrow requested information under FOIL from the VFD regarding the number of emergency calls within the Village of Chaumont, the number of calls within the Town of Lyme, and the number of calls supporting outside agencies on March 10, 2025. She shared that although the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department applied for a Games of Chance Identification Number from the Gaming Commission last fall, they did not file a Games of Chance License application with the local municipal clerk using forms GC-2, GC-2A, and GC-2B, or pay the \$25.00 annual license fee. When she followed up with them, they said they've abandoned pursuing it at this time, so she did not provide the license to conduct on form GC-5. Regardless, she must now file a Municipal Clerk Annual Report on Games of Chance and Bingo Activity to the NYS Division of Charitable Gaming. With this year's submission, she questioned the necessity of adopting a local law when the Fire Department decides to move forward. She learned that the Village of Chaumont already has local laws for Bingo and Games of Chance, enacted in 1976 and 1990 respectively. This is great news and will make the process a lot easier when they are ready to begin operating with these fundraising techniques. Finally, she presented the email from Michael Bourcy, the Director of Jefferson County Department of Planning, announcing that the County received the contract for SWIMS from NYS DOS that the Village of Chaumont, City of Watertown, Town of Clayton, and Village of Alexandria Bay applied for jointly under the county umbrella. Mr. Bourcy will send the contract to the County Attorney for review and approval, before drafting contracts between the county and participating municipalities to sign. Exciting news for our little village!

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session at 8:19 PM to discuss a personnel issue, and came out of Executive Session at 8:31 PM.

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:32 PM. Trustee Sosa made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer