

**Village Of Chaumont**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**May 17, 2022**  
**6:30 PM**

**Location of Meeting:**

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

**Present at Meeting:** Valerie Rust, James Morrow, Michael Nichols, Jose Sosa, Karen Fitzgerald, & Erin Fulton | *Dori-Ann Froelich, absent*

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:30 PM on May 17, 2022 at the Village Office by Mayor Valerie Rust.

**I. Privilege of the Floor**

Mayor Rust began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no Privilege of the Floor.

**II. DPW Updates/DOT Information**

Mayor Rust informed the Board that they should anticipate a fairly large bill for the Ford F-250, due to issues with pinion, tie-rod, and oil dipstick breaking off among other motor issues. She also shared that the DPW crew will be going over to Paul Norton's to determine a good time to install the inline heating cable.

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of the 2022/2023 apportionment of DOT funds received by the Village in the amounts of \$26,778.62 (CHIPS), \$7,108.96 (PAVE NY), \$6,015.87 (EWR) and \$4,739.30 (POP).

Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald spoke on behalf of Kathy Bellinger, who was unable to attend the meeting, but is requesting the Village of Chaumont lower the speed limit near the bridge (leaving the Village and going toward Three Mile Bay); it is currently a 45 MPH zone. It was determined that with Route 12E being a NYS road, this would not be under the Board of Trustees' jurisdiction, but rather a request to be made to the DOT. Mayor Rust has previously talked to the DOT about this, and the speed limit is determined by entrances/exits, as well as the number of residences and commercial buildings. Unfortunately, this section of road does not meet the criteria of going below a 45 MPH zone.

Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald also spoke on behalf of Joe Chavoustie, who is requesting that the DOT incorporate extending the sidewalk from Bayview Housing (to connect to the bridge) into their bridge replacement plans. Mayor Rust said she will certainly ask. Although the engineering specs have already been completed and put out to bid, and it may be too late, she will ask Gregor (our engineer at BCA) about it. She also believes that the residents could write letters to the DOT's Traffic and Safety division to have their requests heard by the right department heads. Deputy Mayor Morrow brought up the Bridge Replacement/River Crossing project going out for re-bid, and questioned the new timeline of the construction work, to which Mayor Rust gave an update. Kent Collier at the DOT informed the Village of Chaumont that the letting that was held in March unfortunately yielded a single bid which was rejected in April. They intend to make



							\$44,451.79						\$33,203.73
METERED WATER	O&M AND DCC	UNMETERED WATER	INT AND PEN	WATER METER FEES	SERV CONNECTION	RET CK	TOTAL	USAGE FEE/SEWER RENT	DEBT SER	INT AND PENALTY	O&M AND CONNECTION	TOTAL	
F2140-1	F2140-2	F2142	F2148	F2144	F2145	FEES	WATER	G2120	G2122	G2128	G2770	WASTE	
5982.62	2030.42		15.00				8028.04	\$ 3,210.00	3355.53	15.00	2181.85	8762.18	
5033.33	2203.03		5.00				7241.36	2108.33	4076.92	5.00	2569.51	8759.76	
							3045.49					3627.55	
1102.92	252.33						1355.25	335.57	905.86		334.01	1575.44	
391.80	267.00						658.80	222.05	451.41		374.66	1048.12	
							1997.14					2719.75	
							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					0.00	
							0.00					0.00	
12510.67	4752.78	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22326.08	5875.95	8789.72	20.00	5459.83	26492.80	
Transfers from SF to WF 1997.14   March 2022 Error Correct								2022 Relieved Water & Sewer Balances as sent to Jefferson Co.					
Transfers from WF to SF 2719.75   March 2022 Error Correct								(Transferred to WF and SF from General Fund)					

## VII. Old Business

As the Bridge Replacement Project had already been discussed, there was no other old business to review.

## VIII. New Business

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees of current Code Enforcement issues that are being handled by Officer Jim Millington at the following properties: 12234 NYS Route 12E, 11871 NYS Route 12E, and 27651 Water Street. She passed around pictures of these properties. Mr. Millington had a discussion with the property owners from May 9<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>. While he was unable to reach the owner on Water Street, Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald did reach her by phone and inform her of the complaints the Village Office had received regarding her property. Mayor Rust said we should inform Jessman’s trash that there may be some extra bags to pick up at these properties now that they’ve been cited. Deputy Mayor Morrow made a suggestion that Code Enforcement use documentation with an itemized list for these properties. Mayor Rust was in agreement. Upon recommendation of the Board, Clerk Fulton agreed to make a documented list of Mr. Millington’s discussions with the property owners, so they would have specific written expectations as well as giving us documentation to file. It is not necessary to send these by certified mail at this time.

In response to an email by a concerned village resident, the Board discussed reviewing the Town of Lyme’s Short Term Rental Unit Law for the next meeting to determine if the Village of Chaumont should adopt any regulations in regard to Air BNB and Bed & Breakfast ventures, which currently do not require site plan review. Mayor Rust made it clear that we intend to be supportive of individuals who are pursuing this endeavor, referring to the proposed Bed & Breakfast at the former Pawling residence and Cari Greene’s “castle” between the Blue Heron and the Copley House. These home business pursuits will help our economy when visitors who stay in these venues also support our local restaurants and shops. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald asked if “change of use” is required to go before the Village Planning Board for site plan review, whether we have a law for short-term rentals or not. She believes Robin Grovesteen and Hartley Bonisteel (Village Planning Board) will be discussing this. Clerk Fulton will follow up.

Trustee Nichols brought up resident Joan O’Brien, who is requesting we repair the road near her driveway entrance on Madison Street. There is damage and erosion at the street level due to

Village of Chaumont plows using her driveway as a place to turn around, as she lives on a dead-end street. Mayor Rust said she will send DPW crew down to fix it. Trustee Nichols also brought up the various signs around the village that still need repair.

Deputy Mayor Morrow wanted to address the fallen trees at the tennis courts. Clerk Fulton relayed the message from the DPW that the trees have been so uprooted that they unfortunately cannot be stood up and replanted, so must be cut and hauled away. They will also be planning the installation of the playground equipment with Pat Weston. Mayor Rust listed a few other things on their list, including but not limited to, beach cleanup, gazebo and bridge to be painted, & sand delivered. She will also add fence repair to the list.

## **IX. Correspondence**

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- Greg Ingerson talked to Pat Weston regarding Spring Cleanup, and we are all set with the Town of Lyme transfer site for June 4<sup>th</sup>-June 11<sup>th</sup>. Per Board recommendation, residents will be able to use their water bill stub and have use of a special dumpster, which will be hauled out by Pat Weston. The Village of Chaumont will be billed by Jefferson County directly. This information was added to Village of Chaumont water bills, included in the Lyme Light, and can be found on our website & Facebook page.
- Morgan Spencer reached out to offer grant writing services for the Village of Chaumont to potentially get funding for sidewalk repair, tennis court resurfacing, etc. Clerk Fulton responded to her that if any grants would also cover her writing fee, the Board of Trustees may be interested, but she would have to write a proposal to submit before the Board to move forward with approval.

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

Deputy Mayor Morrow reported that the summer programs for the Youth Commission have started. They have a lot of participation this year – 30 kids for t-ball.

Mayor Rust talked to Robin Grovesteen, who is looking into the possibility of getting water to the Bicentennial Park. Possibility a lateral off Wilson Lane, or even a grant for the beach for water, sewer, bathroom facilities, electrical, etc. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald brought up pulling water from the Sharlow line, as Ms. Grovesteen is just looking for a small spigot, but we'd also have to consider freezing in the winter.

Mayor Rust emailed the Town Supervisor, Terry Countryman, about any updates on solar. There currently is no new information.

In regard to small business, Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald called Roxy's on Route 12E as there had been some concern about the number of signs on her property, especially being in the DOT right of way. The owner has since limited the number of advertisements on her property.

In the first week of June, Mayor Rust and Clerk Fulton will be working on the annual report and training on Williamson Law Books. She will call the OSC to see what to do about reporting a balance in the Trust and Agency account. She will also be working with Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald in cleaning and organizing the filing system.

Mayor Rust addressed the beach permit. Stephanie Doney (Beach Director) has almost all CPR certifications for this year's lifeguards for the DOH, but we should still be able to apply for our permit contingent upon receiving the final few.

The Mayor received a message from Pat Jareo of P&T Supply that Don Elzer will be up next week to look at the WWTP's RBC, which is great news as our sand beds continue to deteriorate without it and are getting critically damaged.

She is also working on getting Wilson Lane back onto our highway inventory. We will need to make a resolution stating we will maintain the road and are responsible for it, etc. Then the DOT will determine if it is eligible. Deputy Clerk Fitzgerald said that Wilson Lane may be considered a parcel, not a road, and that she believes the parcel is Town of Lyme property. Clerk Fulton and Fitzgerald will look into this further.

The Church Street project is still not underway, as we are waiting for a telephone pole to be removed by National Grid to begin the project.

Mayor Rust asked about DPW and clerical staff sexual harassment and workplace violence annual training, which is currently underway. Clerk Fulton will be reaching out to Todd Caufield at Jefferson County tomorrow regarding employee progress, as well as questioning DPW attendance requirements for the in-person OSHA training taking place in the Town of Lyme municipal building next week.

The Personnel Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Trustees this month, with revisions being made at our next meeting. That draft will then be brought before the DPW staff for review and negotiation, before being brought back before the Board in July for final approval.

Mayor Rust contacted Bob about the tennis court resurfacing again, and is awaiting a response.

Andy Williams' sister, Dawn, and her late husband Carl, owned and operated a hot dog stand in Onondaga County, which she is hoping to bring up to the Village of Chaumont (as she plans on staying with the Williams' for a while). She is currently filling out all the forms with the DOH, and will be filing a permit with the Village. It was asked whether or not the Village Planning Board would require site plan review for a mobile vendor. Mayor Rust had suggested Memorial Park for a possible location. Most of the hot dog stand's functions require propane, but if Dawn hooked in to power at Memorial Park, and it was significant usage, we could work out a payment plan for that. It would only be during lunch, 3-4 days a week. No Trustees had any objections to this proposal.

Mayor Rust requested that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk have different email addresses going forward, for clarity and organization. It was requested that our technician, Ben Rubacha, make [chaumontdeputyclerk@gmail.com](mailto:chaumontdeputyclerk@gmail.com) if that email is available. The Village Planning Board needs a secretary. The Board of Trustees will be looking into some options for this going forward.

## **XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM by Deputy Mayor Morrow, and seconded by Trustee Sosa.

Respectfully Submitted  
Erin Fulton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer