

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 21, 2024

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Dori Froelich, and Erin Fulton

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order by Mayor Morrow at 6:30 PM on April 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. DPW possibly buying new swim rope; waiting on info from Sundance. They continue to paint picnic tables – there are a few left in the Town of Lyme’s Bicentennial Park area. Wood bridge has been removed, with only the metal frame remaining intact, which will be gone by the end of the week. Installation of draining pipe and stone in the culvert will come next. Curb box repair continues, as well as recycling, mowing, and seasonal water turn-ons. The 350 will need new brakes. Park Drive work is planned. Clerk Fulton reached out to National Grid regarding street lights near the corner of Academy and Washington Street. Jennifer Egeberg sent out a rep to check this area and see if there was an available pole for streetlight, or if a new pole would need to be installed. She believed the school requested the old pole with streetlight in that area be removed due to traffic/parking issues a couple years ago. After inspection, they decided to try a brighter LED light on pole 6, and asked the village give that a few weeks to decide if it’s agreeable. Otherwise, they will have to replace pole 4 to install a new light because the current pole is not in workable shape. Pole 4 is roughly 60 ft. from the intersection, so she is unsure how beneficial it would be, and if it would be worth the cost to the village.

Clerk Fulton presented an update on current Zoning and Code violations in the village. Violation notices were sent by the ZEO to properties with grass above the height limit throughout the village. Mr. Millington has been out of town for a couple weeks, but will have more notices to mail upon his return. A concern has been reported for a property on Mill Street by multiple residents, as well as gone up the line to Jefferson County and the Department of Health. Clerk Fulton will have Jim Millington call Mike Tracy with the DOH tomorrow. There are currently notices of violation levied onto the property by the Village of Chaumont. The board has requested the mandatory attendance of Jim Millington at the next few Board of Trustees’ meetings – there is a disagreement regarding his

classification of a “fence” on the Paladino property, and lack of permit. Betsy Ring is working with Judge Wallace regarding the ticketing for unlicensed animals on that property.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #12 of 2023/2024

Deputy Mayor Nichols said he’d accept a motion to approve Abstract #12, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconding the motion.

IV. Motion(s) to Approve Minutes

Deputy Mayor Nichols said he’d accept a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Trustee Froelich made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion.

Deputy Mayor Nichols said he’d accept a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 Public Hearing for the final budget 2024-2025. Trustee Froelich made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton reported on the Lead Service Line Inventory survey she and Superintendent Ingerson created for Village of Chaumont residents that is due to the NYS Department of Health by October 16, 2024. It includes information on the inventory, Annual Water Quality Report for 2023, and questions regarding service line material and outflow lines (such as sump pumps), linked into the municipal sewer line. She requested the official approval of an incentive of a \$5.00 water credit per household for survey completion. This has already been vetted through legal channels at NYCOM. Trustee Froelich made a motion to approve the incentive of \$5.00 off a water bill, seconded by Trustee Sosa. All in favor.

There was an update given on a fuel spill which was inadvertently discharged into the sewer system on May 2nd. DPW staff responded in a timely manner stopping the contamination at two lift stations before it leaked into the plant. A vacuum truck came from Massena to pump out contamination as DPW laborers flushed the system. The DEC also worked along with Fire Department to help safeguard against further environmental damage in the area of the spill. The homeowner was informed of the necessity to disconnect all inflow lines to the sewer system, with village office staff sending out reminders to all residents that this is against the village’s sewer use law.

A water leak at Brandon Tefft’s was discussed. Mayor Morrow had discussed waiving the disconnect and reconnect fee for the property with Clerk Fulton previously due to the nature of the emergency, and with full financial responsibility being on the resident for this repair. Trustee Sosa made a motion to waive the fees, seconded by Trustee Froelich. All in favor.

The Village of Chaumont received their updated rates from DANC for April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025 at a fixed cost of \$11,506.75 quarterly and \$2.50/Kgal.

utilizing the Town of Lyme transfer site was minimal, the resource was marginally used. In email, the mayor stood by his belief that spring cleanup should be eliminated, with Trustee McIntosh in agreement. Trustee Froelich did not agree, and wanted to go forward with an affordable option. Trustee Nichols believes this is an important service and likes to utilize it himself. Trustee Sosa agreed. He suggested tabling and discussing again with the full board at July's meeting. Perhaps a "fall cleanup" could be implemented in lieu of spring cleanup with different restrictions that make it affordable for the village and convenient for residents.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- Information about AIM appropriation and additional funding from Assemblyman Scott Gray
- PayGov (the village's online payment vendor) is changing to Merchant E as they expand their payment processing services
- AM Best (global credit rating agency) affirms NYMIR's financial strength rating of A-
- Email from Lyme Town Clerk Ariana Henderson regarding the town's interest in pursuing an update to their Comprehensive Plan and Hartley Schweitzer's recommendation of the newly released NYS DOS Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan program and funding. A joint application with the Village of Chaumont would enhance the town's competitiveness by demonstrating regional collaboration
- Letter from Robin Grovesteen, resigning from the Village Planning Board
- An email from NYS Department of Health expanding the eligibility of who can request death certificates from local registrars
- Additional bankruptcy paperwork from opioid manufacturer ENDO International plc, et al., debtors 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
- CHIPS balance, 24-25 apportionment balance, and cumulative rollover balance from NYS Department of Transportation

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Nichols asked Clerk Fulton about the Village Beach. She informed the trustees that she has submitted all documentation for annual permit and is in the process of hiring lifeguards. We have lost a lot of seasoned guards due to moves and other job offers, and the state's pay rate is incredibly difficult to compete with, but she anticipates having a full staff by the next board meeting.

Trustee Sosa reported on the Youth Commission. AED machines have been approved by the Town of Lyme and ordered for use this season, as well as waterproof boxes for AED. Equipment for baseball and first aid kits highlighted. Referee fee will go up \$5.00. Field maintenance the same as last year (Adam) mowing and lining fields. Relocation of playground at Morris Tract field discussed. Also, Town of Lyme Summer Rec crew returning with pay raise of \$1.00 per hour.

Trustee Froelich reported on the Village Planning Board's last meeting. VPB members are working on the village's Land Development Code. The latest discussion centered on a suggested installation of a crosswalk near Veterans' Park. Long-standing member of the Village Planning Board, Robin Grovesteen, has resigned. Her new recommended replacement is village resident Nolan Pitkin. Mr. Pitkin is a former member of the Village of Dexter Planning Board and current attorney. He was interviewed by the Village of Chaumont Planning Board and is endorsed for appointment for the next board meeting. The Board of Trustees tabled his appointment until Mayor Morrow has input at the next meeting.

Clerk Fulton reported on various administrative tasks.

- The Annual Financial Report edits to the 2023 AFR. She has been working with former mayor Val Rust and Jacob Karker, a municipal auditor from the Office of the State Comptroller. All discrepancies and edits will be complete for recertification in the first week of June.
- She updated the trustees on completion of the mandatory NYS Anti-Harassment and Discrimination training of Village of Chaumont staff and officials. She reported that currently there are only five (5) board members (across three boards) who have yet to complete for this calendar year, with one (1) of them previously being granted an extension. It was discovered during the meeting that there was a county clerical error preventing Clerk Fulton from receiving completion certificates, which was immediately rectified, bringing that number down to three (3) board members yet to complete training. She will be reaching out to the remaining officials tomorrow.
- Julie Grieco of the Lyme Free Library is coordinating children's events at the library during the Village of Chaumont 150th Anniversary celebration and is requesting approval for use of Memorial Park next to the Post Office on Main Street for a Ghostbusters themed truck with props for photos to park from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Saturday, July 27th, 2024. They would only need a small footprint for the truck and some tables and would provide props for photo opportunities, including an inflated character and mock ghost fighting apparatus. She is meeting with the representative at the library to assess the space available there. The library space may be adequate for their needs, but would like to be able to offer them another location if they need a larger area. She has been in contact with Mostly British Automotive regarding this option, as well. They agreed to the possible overflow of visitors on their adjoining property. With a motion by Trustee Sosa, seconded by Deputy Mayor Nichols, the library was granted permission to use Memorial Park for this event with a certificate of insurance from the company providing the Ghostbusters truck photo op, as well as contact information to have on hand during the event. All in favor.
- Clerk Fulton reached out to NYMIR loss control and Eastern Shore Insurance Agency regarding guidelines for the village in regards to the celebratory bonfire on the Village Beach for the Sesquicentennial Committee. NYMIR provided a list of expected regulations and our ESA Insurance advisor wished us a happy celebration
- Tom Donovan had stopped in to the clerk's office on behalf of the Chaumont Fire Department, who are trying to procure a "Game of Chance" license through NYS to legally facilitate raffles and 50/50 at the fire department to raise money and help offset costs. He said more info can be

found on this type of license at www.gaming.ny.gov. After they completed all of the necessary steps for application with tax ID, incorporation paperwork, filing with DOS, etc., they applied for their license on May 9, 2024. They have been directed to also file with their local licensing authority (Village Clerk). Clerk Fulton will be researching this further to see if anything else is necessary on the village's end other than simply filing to help facilitate their endeavor. She believes there is a Municipal Clerk Annual Report with the NYS Gaming Commission, and will report on her findings at the next meeting.

- Stephanie Doney asked Mayor Morrow and Clerk Fulton if students who need to complete service hours could help clean up the Village Beach. Clerk Fulton believes it would be a wonderful service to the village and Mayor Morrow also supports it – he would just want the hours coordinated with DPW staff for supervision. This is for village liability and insurance reasons.
- She reported her learnings from the last North Country Assn. of Village Clerks and Treasurers meeting regarding compensation time and overtime, as presented by NYCOM's John Mancini. She said it is imperative for the Village of Chaumont to relook at their Accountable Plan Reimbursement Policy (Federal Mileage Reimbursement Law) as well as incorporate written on-call policies for DPW staff with signed contracts. The way the village is currently operating with hourly on-call status and overtime needs to be upgraded to satisfy federal municipal laws and comptroller standards. Trustees want to table this discussion until the next meeting.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer