

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 19, 2024

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Mike Nichols, Tammy McIntosh, Dori Froelich, Jose Sosa, Erin Fulton and Heather Lipczynski

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 November 19, 2024.

I. Privilege of the Floor

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no privilege of the floor.

II. Operations Report

Mayor Morrow said he would like the Village of Chaumont decal and light installed on the DPW's new truck as soon as possible.

Clerk Fulton reported that the auction with Auctions International for the Elliott Power Systems Propane Generator has ended with a closing bid of \$2,025.00. The 2024 F250 Super Duty has been added to the village's auto coverage with NYMIR, increasing our premium by \$1,035 annually.

Mayor Morrow updated the Board of Trustees on Jim Millington's Zoning and Code Enforcement activities. A court date is being scheduled for 12234 NYS Route 12E. The property at 27405 Washington Street has been given a pass due to an unofficial statute of limitations regarding a fence permit. 12193 NYS Route 12E is still an active case, as is 27605 and 27587 Water Street (both owned by the same resident). "The brush and limbs must be removed on Water Street before winter, to not inhibit plowing," said Trustee McIntosh. Mayor Morrow also mentioned large tarps on the property, which have been laid to deter growth of an invasive species. The Zoning and Code efficiency in the village was once again discussed, with some trustees pointing out the lack of follow-through, and some acknowledging that things take time and we have to balance the relationship with Mr. Millington as ZEO and Town Supervisor. Trustee McIntosh asked if our DPW laborers could help with property maintenance issues and bill the residents directly. Mayor Morrow said they can't, but the Planning Board is currently working on our Land Development Code and Property Maintenance Law. The mayor took responsibility to follow up on violation status and completion, and also to work with DPW on being equitable to all residents across the board when it comes to these items, especially when it involves village services rendered.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #6 of 2024/2025

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve Abstract #6 of 2024/2025, with Trustee Sosa making a motion to approve and Trustee Froelich seconding. All in favor.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024 regular Village Board meeting. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve and Trustee Sosa seconded the motion. All in favor.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Clerk Fulton discussed her conversation with Mark Morina regarding a water leak at his marina by the Chaumont Bridge. The leak happened at an unattended valve, causing a usage of 114,000 gallons. Trustee Froelich made a motion to waive the sewer fees associated with 96K gallons, as the water went directly into the lake. This was seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

Five (5) residents received shutoff notices on their doors and through certified mail for Thursday, November 21, 2024. One (1) has since paid in full, one (1) has set up a payment plan, and three (3) remain outstanding.

The Village of Chaumont received their Annual Comprehensive Inspection report from NYS DEC on October 21, 2024. At the time of inspection, the plant was operating in general compliance with the conditions and requirements of the SPDES permit, giving us a satisfactory rating.

VI. Treasurer's Report

VILLAGE OF CHAUMONT						
OCTOBER RECEIPTS						
YR ENDING						
REAL PROP TAXES	PEN/INTEREST	SALES TAX CO.	GROSS UTILITY TAX	REGISTRAR FEES	UNCLASSIFIED	TOTAL
A1001	A1090	A1120	A1130	A1603	A2770	
2402.15	186.99	1502.57	0.05	10.00	399.54	4501.30
1074.31	87.95	43655.16	0.27		80.58	44898.27
244.46	21.55		19.11		124.92	410.04
			0.23		81.59	81.82
			27.66			27.66
						0.00
3720.92	296.49	45157.73	47.32	10.00	686.63	49919.09
		Mortgage Tax	Google Voice	Montondo	COBRA (Oct.)	
		Sales Tax Q3	Nextiva		Mike Cell Jun + Jul	
			Time Warner Cable		Karen Cell Jun-Sep	
			MCI		Mike Cell Aug + Sep	
			Township			

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
53.80	25.00		78.80	42.00	52.67		50.00	144.67
970.40	320.00	18.36	1308.76	861.00	808.20	10.00	650.00	2329.20
995.60	279.70		1275.30	875.00	638.84		524.63	2038.47
1,348.90	370.00		1718.90	945.00	1,395.77		700.00	3040.77
869.73	280.00		1149.73	434.00	551.86		400.00	1385.86
362.60	180.00		542.60	245.00	292.39		268.00	805.39
590.86	254.77		845.63	579.97	377.35	438.92		1396.24
2,147.98	893.62	25.00	3066.60	1,529.90	2,049.49	26.70	1,787.91	5394.00
401.20	197.19		598.39	405.97	294.70		390.00	1090.67
1,020.33	444.99		1465.32	690.73	819.41		899.98	2410.12
1,257.50	260.00		1517.50	1,036.00	696.06		499.99	2232.05
775.44	304.99	5.00	1085.43	444.14	452.70	5.00	450.00	1351.84
1,866.76	295.00		2161.76	1,346.03	905.92		638.20	2890.15
360.82	209.97	5.00	575.79	313.24	365.14	5.00	430.55	1113.93
394.09	105.00		499.09	126.00	209.92		150.00	485.92
92.27	25.00		117.27	90.93	52.67		49.99	193.59
42.00	25.00		67.00	7.00	57.67		50.00	114.67
112.60	50.00		162.60	70.00	110.34		100.00	280.34
13662.88	4520.23	53.36	18236.47	10041.91	10131.10	485.62	8039.25	28697.88
WEBPAY								

Mayor Morrow asked about Karen’s cell phone reimbursement in the unclassified column. Clerk Fulton explained that she is on the village municipal plan with Verizon, but pays for her own monthly bill. He expressed apprehension with this situation as Karen is no longer an employee with the village, and would like to rectify this in the upcoming organizational year.

VII. Old Business

Mayor Morrow asked Heather Lipczynski about the status of the Fire Department’s Games of Chance license. She said they are holding off on the application for now, but would eventually like to be able to do fundraising raffles.

Mayor Morrow brought up fees at the beach and how our current policies are in need of updating. He reached out to Alexandria Bay and learned that their beach is shared by the village and town, and is free for public use. The rental of their pavilion (with electricity) is \$25.00. After discussion of the pros and cons to this, the mayor made a motion to make the Village of Chaumont beach free for public use, eliminating the lifeguards’ role of money collection and all potential financial liability. Deputy Mayor Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor.

A discussion was had regarding the Town of Lyme’s Summer Recreation program and the implementation of a pavilion or pole barn at Bicentennial Park for rainy days. Mayor Morrow informed the board that the Town of Lyme has a shoreline development grant for Bicentennial Park [next to the beach] for a 12x25 pavilion with access to power. Trustee McIntosh mentioned the Parks & Rec meeting tomorrow night, and said she would like to see a possible new gazebo or pavilion where the village’s current gazebo is located. Heather Lipczynski suggested the use of the Fire Department for Summer Recreation on inclement weather days,

as that has worked great in the past. “Yes, we discussed that at last night’s Tri-Board meeting,” said Deputy Mayor Nichols, “it’s a good idea.”

Trustee McIntosh had an informal discussion with Town Highway Superintendent Pat Weston regarding the tennis courts within the village. He gave her a quote on supplies and labor, with the offer of town labor as a municipal “shared service” if the Village of Chaumont covered the price of supplies – blacktop, paver, roller, paint, etc. It would cost approximately \$40,000. The budget line for tennis courts in 2023-2024 was discussed – that tennis court renovation had been budgeted at \$80,000. Clerk Fulton said the funds were re-appropriated for the 2024-2025 budget with only \$5,000 remaining for courts. Mayor Morrow explained that this was due to increases in labor and supplies quotes, which were upward of \$120,000. Trustee McIntosh would like to move forward (with village approval) on a separate committee with community residents who have expressed interest to raise money for the courts. Mayor Morrow said he would first like to have a discussion with Parks & Recreation at their next meeting.

Clerk Fulton said she will be applying for a shed permit with the Town of Lyme and Jefferson County for the new storage barn/changing shed at the beach. A discussion was held regarding municipal district lines and parcel ownership. She will move forward with permit process and request the Town of Lyme waive the zoning fees.

VIII. New Business

Heather Lipczynski notified the Board of Trustees of a burn ban through the 30th of November. Clerk Fulton said she would share on social media. She also shared that street parking between the Presbyterian Church and the stop sign is becoming congested and causing issues for medical calls. “Coming off of Park Drive with a fire truck or ambulance is very difficult,” she said. She requested possible “No Parking” signs in that stretch of road. Mayor Morrow said he would look into leftover signs from Stone Street and discuss it at the next DPW meeting.

Mayor Morrow highlighted a resident concern regarding sidewalk maintenance going into the winter season. A lengthy discussion was had about municipal options moving forward. Liability issues were discussed. “Let’s look at our Property Maintenance Law to determine the enforcement of sidewalk clearing responsibilities,” said Mayor Morrow, “potentially the DPW could notify the office 24-48 hours after snowfall that there are unplowed sidewalks, and the ZEO could follow up.” A decision on enforcement was tabled until December’s meeting.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence:

- Jefferson County Real Property Tax Services supplied a survey map affidavit and tax search for the Cormier subdivision (27783, 27787, and 27791 County Route 179)
- A letter of support from Mayor Morrow on behalf of Lyme Performing Arts Council’s application for the 2025 Community Arts Grant
- Thank you card from Robin Grovesteen for water and sewer fee waiver of her leak last billing period, and LCSO for Village of Chaumont participation in Lyme’s parade of students on Halloween
- Revised Notice of Renewal and 2025 Premium Rates from Excellus BC/BS
- Notice of loan service transfer for 27783 Co. Route 179 to MOVEMENT MTG, LLC
- Proposed NYSDOT Project for ADA Accessibility Improvements along NYS Route 12E, including maps, plans, and applicable resolutions

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Mayor Morrow reported his discovery of cattle inside the solar field on Co. Rte. 179, which he learned is a pilot program by the groundskeeper to keep the property maintained. He informed a representative that the site is not zoned for agricultural operations, and was told that the cows would be removed in 1-2 weeks.

Deputy Mayor Nichols had no report.

Trustee McIntosh attended the Chaumont Volunteer Fire Department meeting last Monday, where they were taking an Anti-Harassment course and discussing liabilities to the department. As liaison, Trustee McIntosh presented questions to the board on the Fire Department's behalf. The members have requested to store a newly acquired fire truck in the bay of the Village of Chaumont's cold storage building. Mayor Morrow declined this, citing lack of space. He suggested an empty barn at the Town of Lyme Transfer Site instead. Secondly, Chief Lipczynski requested a key to cold storage, as there have been times in the past when generator alarms went off inside and he did not have access. Mayor Morrow confirmed that the alarm he was referencing was outside, as Superintendent Ingerson had handled the issue of the alarm inside the building. He said that Chief Lipczynski can call him, any time of the day or night, if there is an emergency going forward.

Trustee Sosa gave a report on the Youth Commission. Stephanie Doney and Sierra Walker ended their soccer season on Columbus Day. General feedback was that the fields must be mowed and maintained better for next year. Pete Shuler will be coaching 5th and 6th grade basketball, with Jim Morrow, Stephanie Doney and Jennifer Sosa coaching 3rd and 4th grade. All AEDs have been turned in to the Town of Lyme. A hopeful renovation of the concession stand at Morris Tract field is anticipated. New baseball coaches will be needed for next season.

Trustee Froelich reported on last week's Planning Board meeting, where they finished Village of Chaumont Code updates and presented a red line copy to the Board of Trustees. Chairperson Stumpf had a discussion with Cari Greene of the Blue Heron regarding her ideas as business owner for safety at that intersection, by recommendation of Mayor Morrow. Trustees agreed to look at the redline copy for discussion at December's meeting.

Clerk Fulton presented an unemployment claim determination, rendering the Village of Chaumont not chargeable for benefits under Section 581.1e. This was in response to a UI Notice of Protest sent by the village as recommended through email by Mayor Morrow, Trustee McIntosh, Trustee Sosa, and Trustee Froelich. Trustee McIntosh asked about earned comp time extension and accrual limits for village staff. Mayor Morrow said he would be looking at Personnel Policy updates again next month.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Mayor Morrow said he'd accept a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM. Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion, seconded by Trustee McIntosh. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton
Village Clerk/Treasurer