

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
October 17, 2023

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Jim Morrow, Jose Sosa, Mike Nichols, Dori-Ann Froelich, Tammy McIntosh, Erin Fulton, and Karen Fitzgerald

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:35 PM on October 17, 2023.

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 the Board of Trustees a recap from the bi-weekly DPW meeting on Monday, October 16th with Mayor Morrow, Greg Ingerson, and herself in attendance. Beach closeout tasks are almost complete with the removal of the swimming rope, and painting of the ship and sheds almost finished. The bridge removal is still slated for this fall. Trimming has continued at Memorial Park, as well as meter and MXU repairs throughout the village. The final brush pickup of the season will be Thursday, October 26th. Paul Norton's curb stop repair will happen this week when his water is turned off for the season. An update of the Village of Chaumont Personnel Policy was discussed with DPW 4-day work weeks running from May 1st – October 1st. We are waiting on delivery of the WWTP generator with an ETA of the first or second week of November. JL Excavation will begin work on Church Street the week after Thanksgiving. Completions include, but are not limited to: removal of birch tree by tennis courts, dump truck master battery switch installation, fire department's parking lot apron repaired with 59W as a temporary fix for this winter before blacktopping in the spring, and drain pipe installation / repair on side of building at fire department. Trevor Weston has officially completed his Grade D Water Certification course and passed the exam.

Clerk Fulton updated the Board of Trustees on an RBC malfunction at the WWTP yesterday, where generator activation caused enough torque of the RBC to uproot the gear box from the ground – shearing the bolts, ripping out wires, loosening the chain, and causing a complete breakdown of function. Greg Ingerson was on the scene immediately, turning sewer flow over to sand beds, and calling in P&T for help with inspection and repair. They believe they can rebuild the parts and install a VFD for a slower startup of the RBC when the generator turns on.

III. Motion to Approve Abstract #5 of 2023/2024

There was brief discussion surrounding the bill from Kendall, Walton, & Burrows for updating the Property Maintenance Law. Mayor Morrow had asked for a review of our current law and was billed for the creation of (2) two new laws addressing Litter, Clutter, and Debris & Brush, Grass, and Weeds. We've also recently been billed for work on a solar PILOT as well as Outside Water User Agreement work.

Trustee Sosa made a motion to approve Abstract #5 and Deputy Mayor Nichols seconded the motion.

IV. Motion to Approve Minutes of September 19, 2023

Deputy Mayor Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting and Trustee Froelich seconded the motion.

V. Water/Sewer Report

Mayor Morrow inquired on the status of delinquent water and sewer accounts in the Village of Chaumont. There is only (1) one delinquent account in danger of utility shut off.

Clerk Fulton informed the Board of Trustees that on September 27th 2023, from approximately 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM, the water tower in the Village of Chaumont continued to overflow due to a broken pressure transducer. The leak was brought to our attention by a village resident who lives near the water tower. We will keep an eye out for the next quarterly DANC bill, per Greg Ingerson, as the leak should not be village responsibility. The failed equipment belongs to DANC, so theoretically they will absorb the cost of the overflow.

The sewer line extension for the new Town of Lyme barn was briefly discussed. Mayor Morrow reminded the board that the town has plans to build a new town barn on NYS Route 12E by the current bus garages. He explained they will need a sewer hookup in this new location and have approached the Village of Chaumont about a proposed sewer line extension. There was a meeting held discussing logistics between the Town of Lyme Supervisor Countryman and Deputy Bourquin, former Village of Chaumont Mayor Rust and Deputy Mayor Morrow, Fourth Coast engineers, DEC, and town and village highway staff where a verbal agreement was made, but requires changes to the Village of Chaumont's Sewer Use Law. He is currently working on these changes. Approval was also given by Fourth Coast and DEC, with exceptions such as oil traps and the outside washing of municipal trucks and vehicles. The Town of Lyme residents along the proposed extension will not be required to hook into village sewer, but have the option. Clerk Fulton explained that either way, the village would need an easement put in place with each resident this extension affected. Mayor Morrow said we will need to install a new pump station at the proposed location. When asked about the new joint municipal office building, Mayor Morrow updated the board that the town is considering moving forward with a new build at the current location. This would be a good fit for the village staff, as they would remain within the village. He also stated that these plans are still in the discussion stage and nothing has been finalized.

Mayor Morrow gave an update on the solar field on County Route 179. Convergent reviewed a proposal for a decommissioning bond (without scrap) and agreed to post a security in the amount of \$692,599. He believes today was the first time the state went out to begin their investigation into what happened with the battery fire. The batteries will eventually be removed out of state for inspection and investigation into the cause.

VIII. New Business

Trustee Froelich presented a request by resident Jim Price, asking for extended seasonal pickup of leaves after the village's final official brush pickup date of October 26th 2023. The board agreed that the DPW staff will continue to pick up bags of leaves put out by residents past this date.

There will be a "Meet the Candidates" night at the Copley House in Chaumont on Monday the 23rd. This will be an evening designed for residents to learn about the platforms of officials up for election/re-election. Mayor Morrow will be attending, and recommended Trustees Froelich and Sosa attend, as well. There will be a Tri-Board meeting between the Town of Lyme, Village of Chaumont, and Lyme Central School district on Wednesday, November 1st 2023. All trustees and clerks plan to attend. Clerk Fulton informed the board that she has yet to receive a response from Superintendent Gibbons to her email requesting the school cover crossing guard duties at the corner of Church Street and Route 12E on Fridays when the DPW crew is not working. From April – October, village DPW laborers are scheduled for 10 hour days, Monday through Thursday. This leaves approximately 20 school Friday mornings and afternoons uncovered.

IX. Correspondence

Clerk Fulton presented monthly correspondence.

- The Village of Chaumont's broker for Excellus BCBS Health Insurance was transferred from Fuller Insurance to United Professional Benefits, LLC
- While the Secure Act 2.0 made changes to the contribution rules of retirement plans, including NYSDCP, requiring participating employers to offer Roth contributions – this doesn't affect the Village of Chaumont at this time as no village employees are actively contributing to NYSDCP
- Eastern Shore Associates sent the Village of Chaumont's new insurance binders, auto ID cards, copies of renewal certificate, and renewal invoice
- A resident email disagreeing with Mr. Norton's statements from the September 19th 2023 meeting. They believe the harvesting machine only collects a small portion of the weeds cut – the majority remains and causes many challenges for boaters. They are interested to see what happens next summer
- A letter from the combined residents of Hart Road in the Town of Lyme and legal opinion from their representative at Harris Beach PLLC to both Supervisor Countryman and Mayor Morrow seeking from the Town and the Village a) acknowledgement of the creation in 1997 of Water District No. 1 Extension along Hart Road on Independence Point, and b) clarification as to which municipality is responsible for the operation and maintenance of municipal water infrastructure on Hart Road

- A new law sent by Kathy Bellinger along with the request to once again look at lowering the speed on the west side of the bridge.
 - Legislation (A.1007-A/S.2021-A) now allows municipalities to reduce speed limits to 25 miles per hour. Under current law, the default maximum speed limit throughout a city, town, or village may not be set lower than 30 mph. Unfortunately, this law does not help facilitate the Board of Trustees' changing the speed limit on Route 12E as it is a state highway and they do not have jurisdiction over this road

X. Mayor's Report/Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Nichols gave a report on the Village Beach. He is very pleased with the work that has been done to close out the season – everything looks great! The picnic tables are still out at Bicentennial Park. He questioned who owned them and where they are stored. Mayor Morrow said he will talk to Supervisor Countryman about the picnic tables and LPAC tables to determine together how these can be stored for the winter months. Deputy Mayor Nichols also asked Clerk Fulton to remind Town Clerk Henderson that the port-o-john is still active at Morris Tract field.

Trustee Sosa reported that the youth commission is currently honing in on the summer recreation program. They had over 70 students in attendance this summer, and would like to be able to do more field trips going forward. They also discussed options for rainy days in lieu of cancellations or last-minute decisions to hold rec at the fire hall. Mindy Kaplan will be stepping away from the commission. The soccer season is now over and basketball will be starting November 4th or 5th. The new scoreboard has been installed and is being used.

Trustee Froelich gave a brief committee report on the Village Planning Board. She said Mayor Morrow visited the last meeting and asked the VPB to table Property Maintenance Law and start discussing revisions to Land Development Code. She is hopeful there will be a good strategy in how it is dissected; VPB Chair Bryan Stumpf requested that board members read it before the next meeting and be ready with their suggestions in November.

Mayor Morrow updated the Board of Trustees about his recent projects, including the village's current standing with the Hart Road outside water users. He informed the board that a potential PILOT with the solar field is still on the table, and that he continues to work on the Village of Chaumont Sewer Use Law.

XI. Motion to Adjourn Meeting

Trustee McIntosh made a motion to adjourn at 8:14 PM, which was seconded by Trustee Sosa.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton

Village Clerk/Treasurer