

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of Budget Work Session
March 13, 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, and Erin Fulton

The Budget Work Session of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:00 PM on March 13, 2025 at the Village Office by Mayor James Morrow.

Budget Work Session Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The Board of Trustees went through the proposed 2025-2026 budget, discussing the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Wages & Benefits. Clerk Fulton introduced the official Tax Cap from the Office of the State Comptroller for 2025-2026 as \$193,137. She also offered the preliminary taxable value of the Village of Chaumont from Jefferson County Real Property as \$39,089,175. The Board felt confident that they would not need to exceed the tax cap for this year, although there was much discussion to the contrary. Village revenues have not been meeting expenditures, especially with the major operational repairs at the sewer plant in 2023-2024 that cut into financial reserves – and the implementation of capital funds are a necessity for the growth and success of the village in the future.

The procurement of a tiller for sand beds at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and repair of the dump box and frame on recycling truck was discussed, as previously proposed by DPW Supervisor Greg Ingerson. Clerk Fulton reminded the board about a SWIMS grant she applied for with Jefferson County to help supplement account A7140.1, but is still waiting on NYS's decision. Unfortunately, the Northern New York Community Foundation (NNYCF) declined the Lyme Improvement League's request for a grant match for donations for village tennis courts at this time. The board discussed calling NYCOM in regards to what most village's do to secure grant funding. Payroll lines were adjusted to reflect a 3% increase in salaries for operational staff, and 2% for the Board of Trustees members and ZEO.

A slight increase (\$5.00 bi-monthly) in DCC fees paid directly to Development Authority of the North County (DANC) was discussed for water billing, as DANC's fees continue to increase each year. A usage rate increase of \$.40 per 1000 gallons was also discussed. This would raise the average user's water bill (approx. 6k gallons) by \$37.20 year – or \$6.20 each billing period. Sewer billing would remain the same.

A second Budget Work Session was scheduled for March 18, 2025 at 6:00 PM. The tentative budget can be found at the Village Clerk's office for perusal by any interested parties. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM by Mayor Morrow.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

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Village Clerk/Treasurer