

Regular Meeting of the Chaumont Board of Trustees
Village of Chaumont/Town of Lyme Municipal Office
Located at 12175 NYS Route 12E
Chaumont, New York 13622

Held on the 20th Day of October, 2020

Board Members Present:

Village Mayor: Valerie Rust
Deputy Mayor: Michael Nichols
Trustee: James Morrow
Trustee: Patricia Reome
Trustee: Dori-ann Froelich

Also Present:

Village Clerk: Karen Fitzgerald

Regular Board meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees

Mayor Rust opened the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees October 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Rust requested that the minutes reflect that all members are present this evening.

Privilege of the Floor

No one was present for the privilege of the floor.

DPW Updates

No DPW updates were given tonight.

Dissolution Vote

At the September regular Village Board meeting, a motion was made to hire the Jefferson County Board of Elections to oversee the Village Dissolution vote at a date to be determined by them. Since that time, and as more information was gathered, the trustees revisited the idea of holding a Village held election. More review determined that the Board of Elections (BOE) would not be involved in the absentee ballot process and the projected expense would be approximately \$2,000.00. Discussions with the State Attorney General's office, NYCOM attorneys and the Village attorney determined that holding the vote on Election Day although not encouraged, it is not illegal. The consensus of the trustees was that holding the vote that day would result in more residents voting than on another date. In order to have a Village held vote, the Village will need to hire Village residents to act as vote inspectors. The inspectors must also attend training provided by the BOE. The Village would also monitor absentee requests and votes. Karen reported that she has found six individuals who have been trained to act as inspectors and would be willing to work. Two inspectors would be responsible to make the final vote count. Upon a motion by Trustee Reome, second by Trustee Froelich and unanimously approved, it was resolved that the Village hold the Dissolution vote themselves on Election Day, Nov. 3, 2020

Zoning Board of Appeals

Karen informed the board that a ZBA hearing will need to be scheduled to address two variance requests:

Richard Wallace: The purpose for this variance request is to allow for subdivision of his waterfront property that will result in a non-conforming lot. His survey has now been completed and is ready to review.

Dsvid & Donna Malinowski: The purpose for this variance request is to allow for the placement of a shed close to the property line and will not meet set back requirements.

ZBA--- Continued

Karen also requested the Board's consideration of hiring a secretary to the ZBA. The secretary would advertise, schedule, prepare paperwork and record minutes for all future hearings. The secretary would also help organize the CEO property files. Upon a motion by Trustee Reome, second by Trustee Froelich and unanimously approved, it was resolved to hire a ZBA Secretary at an hourly rate of \$13.00 per hour.

River Crossing/Water Street Improvement project

Mayor Rust reported that all the watermain on the south side of Water St. is installed. The meter pit at the Village limits for the outside users will be installed in about 2-3 weeks, after the water service installations have been completed. Binder will be placed in the asphalt areas for the winter with the final paving to be completed in the spring. Gravel will be placed for the sidewalk areas and new sidewalks poured in the spring. A hydrant has been added to the end of the new watermain on the Cape Vincent side of the bridge.

A hydrant is scheduled to be installed in front of Diane Strader's home in the Village's right of way. She has asked if the hydrant can be moved approximately 40 feet further down the street and away from her residence. She cites the fear of flooding in her crawlspace when hydrants are flushed and parking restrictions as the main reason for the relocation. The relocation of the hydrant will result in additional costs to the project. She has offered to pay for the hydrant relocation and has requested a proposal of the costs. BCA is currently working on an estimate of costs which will be presented to Mrs. Strader when available. Additional watermain, labor, engineering costs, a sewer sleeve and legal expenses will need to be considered. EFC & Rural Development will also have to approve Mrs. Strader's request.

River Crossing Legal expense

Mayor Rust informed the Board that she has sent an email to Atty. Burrows to open communication to discuss an amendment to the legal agreement. The amendment will require approval by EFC and Rural Development.

Village Liability and Property Insurance

Insurance quotes received for the 2020-2021 Village property and liability insurance are as follows: NYMIR \$26,332.09 with a \$10,000 equipment breakdown deductible. Fuller Ins \$24,998.62 with a \$5,000.00 equipment breakdown deductible. Upon a motion by Trustee Nichols, second by Trustee Froelich, and unanimously approved, it was resolved to renew the 2020-2021 Liability & Property Insurance with Fuller Insurance.

Pandemic Operations Plan

Gov. Cuomo signed into law new legislation that requires all public employers to develop a Pandemic Operations Plan in the event of another public health emergency. The plan must be finalized by April 1, 2021. Plans must include protocol for essential and non-essential employees, PPE, work locations, testing and contact tracing. Information must be added to employee handbooks and assessable on the Village's website. The discussion was tabled awaiting more direction from the State.

Sexual Harassment Training

Karen reminded the trustees that it is necessary that all employees, board members and vendors attend sexual harassment training annually. The training is available online through the NYS Dept of Labor. Individuals can watch the videos and provide feedback forms indicating they have taken the training. Once feedback forms are reviewed, Fuller Insurance will provide certificates of training. Karen will provide the necessary links to everyone.

September 2020 Accounts Receivables

General Fund

Real Property Tax	A1001:	\$	1,498.38
Lieu of Taxes	A1081:	\$	-0-
Jeff. County Sales Tax	A1120:	\$	6 -0-
Penalty/Interest:	A1090:	\$	89.90
Gross Utility Tax:	A1130:	\$	65.89
Franchise Fees:	A1170:	\$	2,850.74
Clerk Fees: -	A1255:	\$	10.00
Registrar Fees:	A1603:	\$	40.00
Building Permits:	A2555:	\$	25.00
<u>Unclassified</u>	A2770:	\$	-0-
Beach fees:	A7140:	\$	-0-
Chips	A3501	\$	-0-
State Aid: Aid & Incentives	A3001	\$	1,769.20
Total:		\$	6,349.11

Water Fund

Metered Water Sales	F2140-1:	\$	6,969.05
O&M/DCC FEES:	F2140-2:	\$	4,211.07
Unmetered Water:	F2142:	\$	0.00
Interest & Penalty Fee:	F2148:	\$	81.25
Water Meter Fees	F2144:	\$	0.00
Service Connection fees:	F2145:	\$	0.00
Total:		\$	11,261.37

Sewer Fund

Debt Service:	G2122:	\$	3,244.92
Usage Fee Sewer Rent:	G2120:	\$	6,284.64
Interest & Penalty Fees:	G2128:	\$	81.28
O&M Fees:	G2770:	\$	1,536.40
Trans from General Fund:		\$	20,000.00
Trans from Sewer Savings:		\$	61,650.00
		\$	92,797.24

Motion to Approve Minutes of the September 17, 2020 board meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Nichols, and unanimously passed, it was **“Resolved** to Approve the Minutes of the September 17, 2020 Village of Chaumont Regular Board Meeting.

Motion to Approve Payment of Abstract #5 of the October 20, 2020 Board Meeting:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Nichols, and unanimously passed, It was **“Resolved”** to Approve Payment for Abstract #5 of the October 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting in the amounts of \$8,836.05 General Fund Vouchers 1304-1322, \$21,552.76 Water Fund, Vouchers 382-386, \$2,706.60 Waste Water Fund, Vouchers 631-636 Trust & Agency: \$2,016.55 Voucher #72-73, River Crossing Project \$25,268.01, voucher 23.

Water/ Sewer Report

Mayor Rust stated she has an extended list of properties to discuss with Greg and John: Priscilla Audo’s shut off, Charlie Richardson’s shut off, 2” line at Rte 179, Wilson’s line. Karen informed the board that the meter install at Petroske’s storage building has been scheduled. Mayor Rust stated that the cost of the meter is the Village’s responsibility since one should have been installed originally.

Richard Wallace has approached the Village about the possibility of tapping into the sewer main on Co. Rte 125 to service three parcels. The hookup will require boring under the road.

Mayor Rust stated that an application should be submitted to the Village Board with plans of the proposed hookup.

Moratorium on Utilities

Karen informed the trustees of new state legislation that municipalities may not terminate water service to residential customers for non-payment during the COVID state of the emergency plus an additional 180 days. All water suppliers must inform their customers of the protections afforded them under this law. Customers who have experienced financial hardship must be provided the opportunity to enter a deferred payment agreement without penalties or late fees. Mayor Rust commented that we will table the discussion of the specifics of a payment plan in order to research the new legislation to develop a fair and uniform agreement for affected customers. Upon a motion by Trustee Morrow, second by Trustee Nichols and unanimously approved, it was resolved to waive all late fees to customer water bills until the end of the state of emergency.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rust informed the trustees of a complaint from a resident concerned that the hardware store is using the sidewalk for display of products for sale. She informed that resident that it will be addressed and requested CEO Millington to contact the store owners and request that the products be removed from that area. The owners complied with the request.

Committee Reports

Trustee Nichols: The Youth Committee has nothing to report at this time. They will be meeting again in November. Trustee Nichols also commented that he will not be available for the November VBT meeting as he will be out of town.

Trustee Reome: Nothing to report.

Trustee Froelich: The Planning Board has tabled their consideration of rezoning of manufactured homes. Wise Guys site plan was reviewed regarding parking lot lines, noise concerns and landscape buffering. The Planning Board is also reviewing the law regarding commercial signs and advertising flags.

Trustee Morrow: The Emergency Management & Disaster Preparedness meeting was held on Sept 24th. The plan was reviewed and contacts were updated.

New Business

Mayor Rust recommended that the trustees consider a raise for DPW employee Alfred Netto. With the resignation of John Duvall, Al is now in charge and is taking on more responsibilities. Upon a motion by Trustee Reome, second by Trustee Morrow, and unanimously approved, it was resolved to grant a \$1,000.00 pay increase to become effective immediately. The raise increases his base pay to \$33,000.00 annually.

Old Business

No old business was discussed

Correspondence

Kennedy & Madonna, LLP: Correspondence indicating that their firm will represent municipalities with water operations if contaminant levels of PFOA & PFOS are found in our water system. Their claim is that manufacturers of the products used in the system should be held responsible.

Motion to Adjourn:

Upon a Motion by Trustee Morrow, Seconded by Trustee Nichols, and unanimously passed, It was “ **Resolved** to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Village of Chaumont Board of Trustees October 20, 2020 meeting at 8:34p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Fitzgerald, Village Clerk/Treas.