

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
April 8, 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

Present: Mayor Burnett, Trustee Matthews, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Simonds, Village Attorney Nathan VanWhy, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla, Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler and Officer in Charge Q. Wright.

Visitors: Patricia Stafford, Laura Grover, Kathy Ryan, Susan & John Weibel, Marge Petrie, Edward Jones III, John & Judy Hinman and John Lawrence.

- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 288 - 315, Totaling \$19,203.09.
Water Fund Vouchers # 108 – 116, Totaling \$2,352.46.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with one correction was made by Trustee Simonds. Visitors Susan & John Dougherty oppose the adoption of Local Law # 1 of 2019 – 2% Tax Cap. Seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7:04 PM to inform public of the tentative water & general budgets for 2019 -2020.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report Distributed. Mr. Acla gave a verbal account of what his written report.
- Police Department. Report Distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Jeffrey Butler welcomed Sally & Deanna to the Village Board on their newly elected positions. Mr. Butler gave a verbal report. He stated that he had Binghamton appraisal company reach out to him about a property located on Evergreen Ave. He explained that this is a residentially zoned area, which their questions would need to address with the Planning Board. He plans on attending a meeting at the County along with some Planning Board Members. He spoke with Mr. Steve Fox the County Code Officer, about the property located on Spring Street. The paperwork is in the process. He had some follow up complaints on trash removal. He was able to have a car removed on Caswell Street. While out walking his own dog, he gave a verbal warning to another dog walker about properly disposing of its dog feces.

- Planning Board: Trustee Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that no meeting was held this month. On May 2, 2019 the Planning Board will be attending a training seminar at the County.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- Grant Committee: Remains the same.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds will be holding a Chili Cook off Challenge / Vender Sale on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 10 am at the New Town Hall, public participation is welcomed. Trustee Muller explained that there would be chili for sale that was made in a kitchen setting, inspected by the County health guild lines. Trustee Simonds stated that vender tables were available for \$15 each. Anyone wishes to obtain a space can contact her for more details.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

Old Business:

- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Acla about the playground equipment being placed this year. Mr. Acla stated that he has already spoken with Sally about this. He has spoken with the Insurance presentative about the remove of some of the equipment. Plus there is some landscaping that needs to be extended along with the swing set needing to be moved about 10 feet back.
- Trustee Lawrence asked what would happen if it was not feasible to place the old playground equipment back in its current place.
- Trustee Muller stated that if possible we will place old playground equipment at Davy's field.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Acla if the old wooded swing was still at the premises. Mr. Acla stated yes, but it could use a coat of paint. Trustee Simonds asked if this could all be done this year. Mr. Acla stated that he's hoping to obtain a County worker through the County program.

New Business:

- Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler asked the Village Board of Trustees if he would need board approval to place signs up for the public reminding them that they must clean up after their dogs.
- Trustee Muller explained to Mr. Butler that if he needs signs for the public parks then he should speak with Mr. Acla. That there is a line in the budget to pay for these things.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to purchase signs to be placed in public areas to remind / enforce dog owners that they must comply with cleaning up after their pets. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Butler what type of business was someone looking to place on Evergreen Ave. Mr. Butler stated that the type of business was not mentioned.
- The Village Board of Trustees received a letter of request for the Afton Fire Department. The Fire Department will be holding an informational meeting addressing fire protection concerns pertaining to our Town / Village. This meeting will take place on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 8:30 pm. They would appreciate the Village Board to be in attendance.
- The Village Board of Trustees received a Resolution #39 – 19P – Resolution enactment of local right to farm laws from Chenango County Board of Supervisors. Attorney VanWhy stated that this law pertains to the large farming equipment traveling on the Village roadways.
- The Village Board of Trustees received information for 911 addressing pertaining to a number of properties located at 126 Main Street. The 911 Addressing Coordinator asked that the Village rename this location for this purpose, due to inadequate number systems. It would better suited if this location was given an Avenue or a Drive along with a name usage. Attorney VanWhy said that the Village does not have to do this. It up to the property owners.
- Village received the permit application from American Fireworks. This information is submitted yearly. It is required in order to have fireworks display at the Afton Fair. This permit requires the Mayors signature.
- Village received a Municipal Report of Special Franchise Activity – RP-7114 from the Department of Taxation & Finance. This requires the Mayor signature.
- The Village received a billing from Spectrum. The Village Clerk / Treasurer explained that the Village receives free internet services. When a call was made about the billing it was stated that the billing was for 2 cable TV boxes. Trustee Muller stated that historically the Police Department has had a cable box. Officer in Charge Q. Wright confirmed that they use the box for training proposes. DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla asked if this could be tabled until next meeting. He'll call and speak with them, as he was told that the seconded box was free. Trustee Lawrence asked if the box is not free will you return it until next year. Mr. Acla said yes.
- Village received email notification from Southern Tier 8 regional Board – Announcing of 20FY Funding Opportunities.
- Village received email request from Melissa Matthews asking for numinous vending waivers being held in the Village.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to table this request until further information can be gathered. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Village received a seconded request from Melissa Matthews for a vending permit waiver for an event taking place at the Afton United Methodist Church. This will be a fund

raising event by held on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Tabitha's Closet will be hosting a crafts and vending sale and servicing food and refreshments from the kitchen.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to wave the vending permit for the Tabitha's Closet event being held on Saturday, April 20, 2019. Taking place at the United Methodist Church. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A verbal request was made by Carol Bushaw, Afton Youth Sports Origination Member. Asking for her own set of keys to the Susquehanna Room. She is the one who does the sign ups and the pick up's for fundraisers. Ernest Cutting the Present is not always readily available to let her into the building.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to allow for Carol Bushaw to receive a set of keys to the Susquehanna Room. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to conduct our organizational meeting during our May 2019 regular scheduled Board Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Simonds informed visitor John Lawrence that she and Trustee Muller discussed the Memorial Day Parade. Trustee Simonds suggested that Mr. Lawrence think about what it is he'd like to talk about. Trustee Simonds also stated that Brenda James will be taking over the Memorial Day Parade.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds and Seconded by Trustee Matthews to close the public hearing on the tentative water and general budgets for 2019-2020. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds and Seconded by Trustee Muller to approve the water budget for 2019-2020. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller and Seconded by Trustee Simonds to approve the general budget for 2019-2020. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Patricia Stafford presented the Village Board of Trustees with a letter of complaint. She wants to know why the Village has allowed a camping trailer on a village lot for over a year. She questioned the electrical service and waste water disposal. This affects all property value in this area. She also stated that the street lamp across the street has been out for some time. Mrs. Stafford asked the Village Board of Trustees what ever happened to the trailer law that she help create and past when she was Mayor. There are laws in place pertaining to these situations. Trustee Matthews thanked Mrs. Stafford, said that we will look into these matters. Mrs. Stafford stated that this indivial also has a pit bull that charges across the street. She said that she wasn't afraid, but that she feared for her 2 littles dogs.

- Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler stated that he has talked to Mr. Steve Fox about the camping trailer. Mr. Butler stated that he was informed that there is no law against the camping trail within the Village limits. Mrs. Safford said that these type of trailers are not to use for everyday living. It was determined that this is indeed a law.
- Visitor John Lawrence pointed out that he had forwarded the email that the Village received from Southern Tier 8 regional Board – Announcing of 20FY Funding Opportunities. Because he thought that this would a great opportunity for the Village to hopefully receive some funding help on their water tower. This type of funding is out there to help Village and Municipality with water projects and infrastructures. Trustee Muller thanked Mr. Lawrence, stated that maybe the Mayor will have more information for us at next month's meeting.
- Visitor John Lawrence expressed to the Board of Trustees that AYSO keeps their equipment in the Town Building. Per Mr. Ernest Cutting the President, he had specifically asked that no keys be giving to anyone other than himself. Trustee Muller express that was do ownership of property, i.e... Sporting Equipment. To allow to use of keys so that she has excess for parents to sign their kids up for sports is understandable. Trustee Muller explained that very few people have keys to the building.
- Visitor Marge Petrie asked if the budget has remained under the 2% tax cap. Trustee Simonds stated that yes we are.
- Visitor Patricia Safford asked what happened to the balance on the Police Department Salary base line, its missing \$20,000.00. Trustee Simonds explained that we are in the process of revamping our police force. That we may be able to place more money back into the budget next year. Mrs. Stafford then asked how many allowable hours are available for the Police Force. Because that too have been cut, they use to have 107 hours. Historically they have been cutting those hours, that's not right. We need to Police Force in our Village. Mr. Stafford asked Officer in Charge Q. Wright how many officers are on the force. Mr. Wright stated that there are 5 part time officers in total.
- Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler asked the Village Board of Trustees if the Police Force salary budget was cut due to the Teamsters increase for the DPW. Trustee Simonds state that the Police Force has not expensed a large amount of money in this fiscal year so they scaled it back. But they may increase it again next year.
- Visitor Patricia Stafford asked if the Village has a surplus fund. Trustee Muller said yes page 8 of the budget, balance on hand.
- Visitor Kathy Ryan stated that she is new to the Village. She asked Mr. Acla what the policies are for leaves & debris pick up. Mr. Acla stated that she can find that information on the Town/ Village shared web page. Mr. Acla said that they are picking them up as fast as we can.
- Visitor Patricia Stafford asked what happened at the first of fall when all the leaves were falling. No one came to pick them up. I had to hire someone to take care of my leaves. I know that I was not the only village resident that had to do this. Mr. Acla said that the first snowfall froze all the leaves making it hard to suck them up.

- Visitor John Lawrence asked about the balance on hand in the budget. He stated that it's his understanding that the amount is the left over money in the budget. Trustee Muller explained that we are still working on the budget. That this dollar amount is just a guess until we close out the budget. That we still have 3 months before we start collecting revenues again. We still need to pay the abstracts from tonight's meeting.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 8:10 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to exit executive session at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn regular meeting at 9:10 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier

Clerk / Treasurer