

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
April 13, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 13, 2020 on Zoom.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Janice Nickerson.

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla.

Visitors: Charles Torres, Pamela Wylubski, Kathy Ryan and Kelly Lawrence.

- Mayor Nickerson asked Trustee Humphrey if he had previously audited the vouchers. Trustee Humphrey stated yes, Mayor Nickerson asked for a motion to pay the vouchers.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 289 - 311, Totaling \$14,616.79.
Water Fund Vouchers # 84 – 91, Totaling \$1,116.23.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections was made by Trustee Lawrence, seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7:05 pm for the purpose of informing the public of the tentative water and general budgets for the 2020 -2021.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed prior to zoom meeting. Report read aloud by Trustee Lawrence.
- Police Department. Report distributed prior to zoom meeting. Report read aloud by Mayor Nickerson.
- Code Enforcement: No Report.
- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board did not hold a meeting last week. Trustee Humphrey stated that the Planning Board will not be conducting any meeting until the social distancing guide lines are lifted.
- Finance/Insurance: Mayor Nickerson needs to go over the Villages current years' policy with the insurance representative. As soon as current situations allow.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.

- Parks Committee: Trustee Muller informed everyone that the Parks Committee has canceled their 4th Annual Chili Cook off Vendor Event, due to the Coronavirus. It was to take place at the Town Hall on April 18, 2020.
- Historian Report: Report distributed prior to zoom meeting. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report was available at the Village office if anyone wants a copy.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

Old Business:

- Fire Hydrants – Trustee Simonds asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla when the Hydrants will be installed. Mr. Alca stated that once the weather breaks they will have them delivered for installment. It was expressed to Mr. Acla that this needs to be done as soon as possible.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that she had met with a few members of the Algerine Street Water Association and the Village Attorney Mr. Nathan VanWhy to discuss the possible solutions for the Association. Their concern is that most of them are older and unable to continue with the necessary upkeep with the water lines. There were many options discussed. The Mayor will need to speak with the Town Supervisor John Lawrence before any further discussions are made.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has signed the LED Streetlight Conversion Agreement and Cobra Head Inventory for the replacement of the Streetlights within the Village.
- Discussions of the installation of the Playground Equipment were made. Mr. Acla was asked by the Village Board of Trustees for a start date to begin. Mr. Acla expressed that the department was avoiding the public to reduce the risk of exposure. Trustee Muller asked if the Department was wearing face masks and gloves. Trustee Lawrence stated that she contacted Matt Beckwith at the County to ensure that the DPW had hand sanitizer. We have inquired about face mask, but currently there are none. Mr. Acla stated that he has inquired at Auto Parts, there are no masks at all. Mayor Nickerson asked Mr. Acla if the Department was using the masks that she brought to them. Mr. Acla stated we have our own. Trustee Lawrence expressed that the most exposure that the Department is current under is the exposure to one another. Trustee Lawrence expressed that each of the 3 men could be doing different job duties for the placement of the playground equipment.

New Business:

- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Acla about a purchase that was made at Horton Hardware. There was purchase of stain varnish and wiping cloths. Trustee Lawrence asked what these items were used for. Mr. Alca stated for office furniture. Trustee Lawrence stated, like what a desk. Mr. Acla stated yes, a workers desk.
- Trustee Lawrence stated to Mr. Acla that the Fire Hydrant at the Fire House is broken and needs fixing.

- Trustee Humphrey asked Mr. Acla about a company he was informed of that will turn water off right at the hydrants. This way it does not interrupt water flow to the residents, while repairs are being made. Mr. Acla stated that this will cost money, that he feels the Village will not want to pay. Trustee Humphrey stated that it does not matter the cost, that this is something that should be looked into for the benefit of the Village. We need to look at all the options avail. Trustee Lawrence expressed to Mr. Acla that the Village Board never stated that they were not willing to spend money. She stated that Mr. Acla was being presumptuous by insinuating such.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Acla as to when the brush pick up is done, once a week. Trustee Lawrence read the policy in regards to the days of the week. The policy states April to May as need or Monday's every day.
- Mayor Nickerson informed Mr. Acla that she received a phone call from a resident inquiring about the blue X on his tree. Mayor Nickerson stated that this is an indication that the tree is on the list for removal. Mr. Acla stated not since I've been here. Mr. Acla stated that he feels as though the trees are a Code Enforcement issue.
- Trustee Muller stated that the DPW does not cut the trees down, it's hired out. Trustee Humphrey stated that he did a walk through with Andrew to pin point the worst of the trees in need of removal. Mayor Nickerson asked Mr. Acla if he had a list avail. Mr. Acla stated yes, Mayor Nickerson asked for him make it avail to her.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Alca.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Alca if we could set a date as to when the fire hydrants could be placed. Mr. Acla stated that we have order them, the company is holding them. We have not paid for them yet. Trustee Simonds asked if we could have them here by May for placement.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Acla about the mark outs on the streets. It was stated that Lamont Engineering is mapping out the water lines.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Acla about his report. She stated that your report indicates that you did milling on Spring Street. Where exactly did you mill. Mr. Acla stated at the end of High Street in front of Mr. Cuthbertson driveway, to make it an easier transition.
- Trustee Humphrey asked Mr. Acla about the sidewalks, do we have forms. Mr. Acla stated that they can only do about 50 feet as a time. Trustee Humphrey asked if we are able to get concrete. Mr. Acla stated that they are waiting for the colder weather to past, so that there is no snow or frost. Trustee Humphrey stated that we have sidewalks that have to be or must be repaired that need mediate attention. Trustee Humphrey stated that we have already discussed the possible use of black top or epoxy. This maybe a quick fix until we are able to do a better repair to keep hazards from happening. Trustee Humphrey expressed to Mr. Acla that we need to look into the epoxy to found out if it will stick to the surface of the sidewalks.
- Mayor Nickerson stated to Mr. Acla that this is a temporary fix, not a long term solution. Trustee Humphrey state that we need to concentrate on Main Street as this is where everyone is walking through the most. Trustee Humphrey also stated the tree roots are a big part of the problem. He stated that the trees should be removed before the sidewalks

are done, because the roots are causing the sidewalks to heave. Trustee Humphrey stated that there are many trees that are in need of removal. He's not sure if there is enough money in the budget to get to all of them currently. Trustee Humphrey told Mr. Acala that he needs to make a list. Mr. Acala stated that he has and that he'll send it out to everyone tomorrow.

- Trustee Lawrence asked about the playground. Trustee Humphrey stated that we may have to put it on hold. He stated that the kids cannot use it right now. Mayor Nickerson stated all the more reason to install it now. Trustee Muller stated that 1 man can put the drainage in and do the digging at this time. Trustee Muller stated that drainage needs to be put into place so the playground area does not fill up with water. Mr. Acala stated that he does not feel as though drainage will be an issue. Trustee Muller stated that it needs to be done, that Mr. Acala could speak with the Josh Sweeney a previous DPW Superintendent if need be.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that the new cross walks that were installed by DOT are nice. She stated that we have had 2 days of dry weather we need to keep working.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that it's been 6 months, we have not heard a word on the new truck that you insisted that we needed to get through for winter. Mr. Acala stated that he's made calls to Robert Greens Trucking with no reply. He also stated that the DPW has been using the Skid Steer on the roads.
- Trustee Lawrence told Mr. Acala that there is grass growing on the drainage ditch by the school, this needs to be cleared.
- Mayor Nickerson told Mr. Acala to send her the information on the new truck and she will call them.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Acala if the time clock has been fixed to show the proper time, day of the week and date. Mr. Acala stated yes.
- Trustee Humphrey asked Mr. Acala about the past due cell phone billing for the DPW. It was stated the Clerk had no access to the billing. The billing information has since been changed.
- Health Insurance – Discussions were tabled under further information is obtained.
- Mayor Nickerson informed everyone that this year's Memorial Day Parade will be canceled due the Coronavirus.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to conduct an organizational meeting during our May 2020 regular scheduled meeting. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to purchase a lap top for the Police Department at no more than \$500.00. As required by Chenango County for virtual arraignment purposes, due to the coronavirus. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

- Discussions of the 30 bags of debris that were picked up at one residences were made. It was asked where this yard waste was placed. Mr. Acla stated that the debris items were placed at the Village property located on Mill Street.
- The Village Board of Trustees asked Mr. Acla if the debris was removed from the trash bags. Mr. Acla stated no. Trustee Muller stated that those bags must be opened and emptied as plastic bags do not decompose.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Acla if the DPW is just dumping the bags off at this location. Mr. Acla stated yes.
- Trustee Muller stated that they are not supposed to be doing this. That all bags must be emptied.
- Mayor Nickerson stated that the waste debris must be turned into mulch.
- Trustee Humphrey stated paper bags will decompose, but plastic will not.
- Trustee Lawrence expressed that the tops of the bags could be cut open for dumping purposes.
- Mayor Nickerson expressed to Mr. Acla that the DPW could wear masks and gloves to rectify this situation. She stated that this needs to be corrected, we can't leave the plastic bags laying there. Mr. Acla thought that this was humorous. Mayor Nickerson asked him what was so funny. Mr. Acla response was that they would need Tyvek suits. He stated that they are concerned about the possible dog waste as well as ticks. Mr. Acla stated that the easiest thing to do would be to have residents use paper bags instead. Mayor Nickerson stated that the majority of resident are older, not everyone can afford to purchase paper bags.
- Trustee Lawrence suggested that trash cans be used. She stated that they can be dumped on to the back of the dump truck for disposal. This would be environmental friendly. We cannot keep dumping plastic bags, knowingly.
- It was said that the Village will need to readdress the protocol in which yard debris should be handled.
- Trustee Muller stated that there are laws in place that must be followed.
- Trustee Lawrence spoke of the Village Election postponement. As per Governor Cuomo Village Election will be pushed out until June 1, 2020, or until further directive is giving.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if anyone has any questions pertaining to the tentative water and general budgets for the 2020 -2021 fiscal year.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to close the Public Hearing on the tentative budgets. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to approve the general budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to approve the water budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Charles Torres asked what happens to the leaves and brush once it's pick up. What happens to the plastic bags that hold the yard waste?
- Visitor Kelly Lawrence expressed dissatisfaction with plastic bags being left without proper disposal.
- Visitor Charles Torres expressed that these bags must be opened and disposed of correctly. There are not organic, they will not decompose.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to enter into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to exit executive session at 8:54 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer