

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
March 9, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees March 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

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, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Visitors: Donald Ouimet, Judy Hinman, Charles Torres, Maryann Palmetier, Patricia Stafford, Ronda & Bill Barriger, John Lawrence and Brendon Becker.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 262 - 288, Totaling \$8,318.27.
Water Fund Vouchers # 76 – 83, Totaling \$531.12.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with the following corrections was made by Trustee Simonds. General fund voucher delete check # 20773 to TDS in the amount of \$349.02, leaving balance of \$8,577.06 for the total for general fund voucher payable for February 10, 2020. Also delete check # 10653 to TDS in the amount of \$104.04 in the water fund vouchers, leaving a balance of \$1,552.78 for the total for water fund vouchers payable for February 10, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed. Report read aloud by DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla.
- Police Department. Report and schedule were distributed. Report read aloud by Mayor Nickerson.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed and read aloud by Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.
- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that there were 2 visitors at the Planning Board Meeting last week. He stated that William Hosier had attended and April Leggett had brought a guest as well. Trustee Humphrey stated that we are in need of a new member for the Planning Board. Trustee Humphrey stated that the Board discussed the use of solar power within village limits. They discussed the idea of the street light replacement of newer LED lights within the village. Trustee Humphrey stated that Ms. Leggett would be reaching out to Greene as they have already done a LED light conversion on their street lights. Trustee Humphrey stated that there were some questions

as to whether or not those that are running small businesses out of their homes needed to address the Planning Board with their intent of starting a home business. Trustee Muller stated that yes typically they do. Visitor Patricia Stafford stated that the Village still needs to be notified as there are sign size limitations.

- Finance/Insurance: Up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- Grant Committee: Remains the same.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Muller informed everyone that the Parks Committee had hosted a Valentine Dinner Dance on Friday, February 14, 2020. She stated that it was successful. The Parks Committee is now working on their 4th Annual Chili Cook off Vendor Event, to take place at the Town Hall on April 18, 2020.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.
- Dog Control Officer: - January 2020 report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.

Old Business:

- Fire Hydrants - DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla informed the Village Board of Trustees that he spoke with F. W. Webb Company about holding the 3 fire hydrants until such time that the Village needs them, they have agreed to do so. Once the weather breaks they will be delivered for installment.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to appoint William Hosier as a Planning Board Member. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor motion pass.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has received a letter from The Algerine Street Water Association. She will be meeting with Attorney VanWhy and Mrs. Marvin to discuss this request. This is will be tabled until discussions are complete.
- Mayor Nickerson expressed that she feels as though the current Village Code Book is obsolete. She stated that it is not meeting the issues that we are facing today. We need to look at rewriting it. Trustee Humphrey stated that is the Planning Board's job, which they have been working on it. Mayor Nickerson stated that Village Code Enforcement Office Mr. Jeffrey Butler should be included. Trustee Humphrey stated that he is. Trustee Humphrey stated that they have not had a full working board in a while. But with Mr. Hosier now appointed, they will now need a chair person.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees of a program that NYSEG is offering, replacing conventional street lights with energy efficient LED technology. She stated that she has spoken with a representative who has informed her that the Village has

a total of 139 street lights. To begin the project it will cost the village an estimated \$2,000.00. But in the long run the village will save an average of \$10,000.00 yearly. This program consist of the replacement of the head / fixture, with the increased luminous lights and kilowatt voltage per light. Mayor Nickerson stated that we'd need to decide which type of light conversion we'd like to go with. It was stated that Greene, Walton and Oxford have all done the street light conversion. That perhaps if anyone is in those areas they should take notice of the street light color.

- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees of a program that a few of the other local Mayors are forming. This Mayors group is call Small Town Connects. The idea is to start a weekly events paper to inform all areas residents of the events happening in and around all local communities. The cost to patriciate is \$100.00 monthly, currently they are looking at sending this information out to the heavier mail routes. Which would at this time only include the outer edges of Afton. Mayor Nickerson stated that she would need to look into the program a little more to see how beneficial it would be for Afton.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to hold a Budget Work Shop on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm. In the Jack D. Bolster Community Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY. for the propose of continuig work on the tentative General & Water Budgets for the 2020 -2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to hold a Tentative Special Budget Meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:00pm. For the propose of informing the public of the tentative General & Water Budgets for the 2020 -2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- Discusses of the NYCOM Letter Opposing Proposed Small Cells Siting Mandate were made. At this time no action will be taken.
- A motion was made to allow for the Mayor Nickerson to enter into a water study proposal agreement with Lamont Engineers by Trustee Muller. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- This will allow for Mr. Becker to begin the design agreement and place construction bids to begin the water tank replacement process. Mr. Becker stated that he'd need to confer with Andrew on an ariel flight mapping and elevation.
- Trustee Humphrey expressed that the Village is looking at a concrete tank. Mr. Becker agreed he said that it would be a better use of Village funds as they last longer. Trustee Simonds expressed that there needs to be some type of security put into place, Mr. Becker stated yes, Chenango County requires it.
- A motion was made by Trustee Humphrey to accept the State Lead RCAP Solutions for grant funding with the assistance of Candace Balmer. For the undertaking of upgrades to the municipal drinking water system. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor John Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson if she could look into whether the Town and Village could work together with the program that NYSEG is offering. Mr. Lawrence stated that the Town has a light district in North Afton and Nineveh. Mayor Nickerson stated that she'd call tomorrow to see if it's possible.
- Visitor John Lawrence asked what the plans are for the installment of the playground equipment. The Board of Trustees asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla for a time line of installation. Mr. Acla stated that once the weather turned they will begin digging the footers. Mr. Lawrence asked how long it will take to finish the installation. Mr. Acla stated that we was not sure, but it should be within 30 days. Mr. Lawrence asked if this would include the handicap accessible sidewalk. Mayor Nickerson stated no it would not. She explained that she had to rewrite the grant, due to the amount requested being such a small amount.
- Trustee Simonds asked if the Village would be willing to except a donation from Cathy Decker of a gaga pit, to be placed within a Village Park. She stated that Cathy Decker purchased the equipment for \$3,000.00 with fundraising done by the class of 2025. It was donated to the school, but the school does not use it. Trustee Simonds asked visitor Maryann Palmetier if this could be done. Ms. Palmetier expressed that she could pass the word along to Mr. McNamara to contact the Mayor.
- Visitor Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineers explained the income survey process that Candace Balmer would be helping the Village carry out through the RCAP Services Community Services Agreement. He stated that the Village would more than likely need a return of about 50% of the surveys in order to help receive funding. He assured that no personal informations collected. But that a Village Board Member would need to help Candace once she's ready to go door to door.
- Visitor Judy Hinman as a representative from the Afton Greater Chamber of Commerce asked the Village Board of Trustees for a waiver on a series of events they are planning on hosting at the Afton Fair Grounds. They would like to host a Spring Celebration on April 25, 2020. They will have Chenango County Soil and Water present to distribute trees that have already been purchased. They may have leftovers available for sale at that time. They are hoping to have Enchanted Gardens and Frog Pond on site as well. The Chamber has currently united with the 4 other Chambers within our surrounding Community's. They are calling themselves the "4 Towns Forward ". They are thinking of hosting what you would call junk in your trunk. It would consist of small yard sale items, being sold out of the trunk of your car. They plan on hosting the Afton Sidewalk Day on August 22, 2020. They are also looking at hosting 3 concert series at the fairgrounds.
- Trustee Muller asked if any of these events would be of any monetary benefit to the Chamber. Mrs. Hinman stated no, it would not. Trustee Muller stated that the Village would need her request in writing. Trustee Muller asked Mrs. Hinman to submit a letter of request to the Village Board of Trustees.
- Visitor Judy Hinman as a representative from the Afton Greater Chamber of Commerce informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Chamber has been able to purchase 3 electric bulletin boards. They consist of a T.V. monitor and a yodeck. They are planning on

placing one at the NBT Bank. They would like to place one here at the Village Office, in the front vestibule, where the current bulletin board is. Trustee Lawrence asked what the time frame would be to install and if anyone can use the services. Mrs. Hinman stated not long, and yes. Trustee Muller asked if it would be installed at the Chambers expense. Mrs. Hinman stated, yes.

- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to accept the Chambers offer of placing an electric bulletin board in the Village vestibule, stating that we must still have room on our current bulletin board for legal notice. Seconded by Trustee Simonds.

Voters is as follows: Trustee Lawrence - Yes
 Trustee Simonds – Yes
 Trustee Muller - Abstain
 Trustee Humphrey – Yes

- Visitor Ronda Barriger presented a letter of request from the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association. They are requesting a waiver of permits and fees for various events to be held from July 9 – 12, 2020 at the Afton Fair Grounds. A motion was made by Trustee Simonds and Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Ronda Barriger from the Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association requested the use of the Village Parking Area across from the Fairgrounds during the week of the Fair. The Village Board of Trustees agreed to grant the request providing they don't allow parking in the area in which the DPW mark off, due to safety precautions. They are also requesting an extension of 1 hour curfew for the events be held on Friday, July 10, 2020 and Saturday, July 11, 2020 at the Afton Fair. A motion was made by Trustee Simonds and Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Humphrey asked Mrs. Judy Hinman about the meeting minutes that she took for the Variance Board Meetings that were held on November 14, 2019 and December 12, 2019. Trustee Humphrey stated that the Village has received the minutes for the November 14, 2019, but not the December 12, 2019. Trustee Humphrey stated that the Village Board has not paid her for those services, due to not having received the minutes. Mrs. Hinman stated that she gave the minutes to the Village Attorney Beth Westfall.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer

