

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
April 11, 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 11, 2022 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 Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee Komorowski, Trustee Winans, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Visitors: Maryann Palmetier, Donald Ouimet and Patricia Wenner.

- **No motion was made to pay the following Vouchers:**
- **General Fund Vouchers # 262 - 291, Totaling \$31,454.98.**
Water Fund Vouchers # 96 – 104, Totaling \$12,169.30.
- Motion to accept previous minutes from the following board meetings with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Humphrey.

March 14, 2022 – March 24, 2022 – April 7, 2022.

Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. 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 2022 -2023.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta. DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that he would be attending a Highway Training Course being offered by Cornell Local Roads Program in Ithaca, NY. The cost of the class is \$150.00, with a 3 night stay of \$130.00 per night.
- Police Department. Report distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed. Read aloud by Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.
- Planning Board: Report distributed.
- Finance/Insurance: up to date.

- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same. Mayor Nickerson stated that Trustee Komorowski will be taking over as the liaison for the Christmas Parade and Parks Committee.
- Parks Committee: Remains the same.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- Afton Central School – Maryann Palmetier, School Board President stated that the consulting firm the school has hired to help assist with finding a new school Superintendent has four candidates ready to begin the interviewing process, with a few more to screen. Information will be sent out to the public to begin forming committees to start the interviewing process. The school has received a total of ninety three returned surveys from the public on their input on the hiring process of a new school Superintendent. Mr. Daniels interim Superintendent continues to do a great job. Currently school is out for spring break, all students will be required to take covid tests before returning.

Old Business:

- Mayor Nickerson updated the Village Board of Trustees with information she gathered on the possible placement of electric at Leggett Park. If a solar light were to be placed the cost would be \$20,000.00. NYSEG would charge a monthly fee of \$12.69 for the use of the pole plus the cost of the added light. There were many discussion as to, if it was necessary to have the added cost of electrical service in the park. Mayor Nickerson asked the Village Board to think about what they would like to do.
- There were many discussions on the animal control, chicken code fines. Mayor Nickerson asked the Village Board of Trustees to come back with their ideas to be discussed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to move the \$30,000.00 received from the American Rescue Fund Act from the General Checking Account to the Capital Reserves Water Improvement Fund, to be used towards the water tank replacement project. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

- There were many discussions about raising the current water rates, as these rates have not been updated since 2008. Mayor Nickerson stated that rate changes would not take effect until the 2023 billing year. A decision needs to be made as to what the increases will be, plus a public hearing will need to be held. All residents should be notified by letter. Mayor Nickerson asked the Village Board of Trustees to think about what the new rates should be.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to move a total of \$4,963.85 from (1990.40 – Contingency Fund) out of General Budget for the following Budget Appropriations: (A1640.45 – Office Equipment – for \$81.87). (A1920.40 – Municipal Dues – for \$699.00). (A5010.40 – Street Administration Supervisor Dues - for \$50.00).

(A5110.43 – Fuel – for \$2,335.08).

(A8160.40 – Refuse/Garbage/Contractual – for \$266.68).

(A9030.80 – Social Security – for \$1,531.22).

Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to move a total of \$987.24 from (1990.40 – Contingency) in our Water Budget for the following Budget Appropriations:
(F8310.43 – Association Dues – for \$19.00).
(F8330.41 – Chemicals – for \$968.24).
Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to conduct the organizational meeting during our May 2022 regular scheduled meeting. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Resignation of Ann Palmatier as Village Clerk/ Treasurer tabled for executive session.
- Mayor Nickerson asked the attending public if there were any question on the proposed tentative water and general budgets for 2022-2023. Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler asked if there was a budget line created for the Cemetery Association. This has been done at the March 24, 2022 budget workshop.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the public hearing on the tentative water and general budgets for 2022-2023. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to accept the tentative water and general budgets for 2022- 2023 as the village of Afton operating budgets. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to enter into executive session at 7: 50 pm for personnel matters. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to exit out of executive session at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence not to accept the resignation of Ann Palmatier as the Village Clerk / Treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Komorowski to increase the Village Clerks wages by an additional \$ 6.00 per hour. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier, Clerk / Treasurer