

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
April 14, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held April 14, 2025, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Dedman, who welcomed those in attendance.

Present: Mayor Dedman, Trustee D. Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence, Trustee L. Matthews, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Absent: Code Enforcement Officer Butler.

Visitors: Ronnie Ford, Todd Stanton, Joyce Humphrey, Patricia Wenner, April Leggett, Becky Komorowski, Ann Norby, Marge Petrie, Darren Sperbeck, Norman Amoe, Jason Wicks, Joseph Snel, Tekakwitha Snel, Samantha Sickler, Mel Hager and Al Prentice.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor motion passed.

General Fund Voucher's # 235 - 266, totaling \$24,260.24.
Water Fund Voucher's # 91 – 100, totaling \$20,089.64.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections, along with the minutes from the budget workshops held on March 20, 2025 and April 8, 2025, made by Trustee L. Matthews. Seconded by Trustee T. 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 2025 -2026.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta.
- Police Department. Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura.
- Code Enforcement: No report.
- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she'd like to see alternative energy, either by solar, wind or even hydro-electric, to help with population and growth of the community.
- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees that the new insurance policy is being updated. Our representative Terri Schunk will be reaching out to Mayor Dedman to go over the policy.

- Parade Committee: Trustee D. Lawrence informed those in attendance that they are working on the Memorial Day Parade events.
- 4 Towns Forward: Report distributed for the February 25, 2025 monthly meeting.
- Historian Report: Report distributed, read aloud by Town/ Village Historian Melanie Hager.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 7:43 pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

The Village Board of Trustees stepped into the Village Clerks office for a brief discussion.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to exit executive session at 7:51 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Old Business:

- Water Meter project update. – There was a meeting today with Brendon and the contractors to ask questions about the bidding process. We will be making a motion for a resolution for water meter bids.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. They were discussions among the Village Board of Trustees that the proposed contract needs to be worded to protect the village if the buyer fails to meet the terms of the contract. Mayor Dedman will reach out to the buyers for discussions and send the necessary paperwork over to the village attorney.
- Norfolk Southern Corporation. – Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustee she had finally receive confirmation on the amount that will be refunded to the village. The total refund to the village will be \$1,665.12. This refund amount will reflect the 2023 invoice # 93611935 in the amount of \$300 along with the 2024 invoice # 93611936 in the amount of \$304.88. We will also charge a \$30 processing fee for all refunds.
- Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has reached out to Mr. Gerry Harris to inform him that we now have enough Zoning Board of Appeals Members to move forward on the variance request that was submitted by Mr. Kenneth Vail.
- Trustee T. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that he had met with Mrs. Joyce Humphrey and the station developer for the eclectic car charging station. After looking over the deed to the property all parties agree to the location of supply of the power drop. It is estimated that 90% of the design will be done by winter.

New Business:

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey for a Resolution authorizing soliciting bids for the supply for the equipment supply and installation for the water meters for the Village of Afton water district, as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF
STANDARDIZED EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, for reasons of efficiency and economy and pursuant to the authority conferred by subdivision 5 of section 103 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton, New York has determined that in order to have consistent equipment related to water line maintenance and repair, there is a need for standardization of certain items for use within the Village, and

WHEREAS, the Village is currently preparing to commence a water supply and distribution upgrade and will need the items named set forth below for that project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village determines that for the purposes of efficiency and constancy, it shall only purchase:

1. NEPTUNE water meter with encoder register w/ Cellular meter interface unit.

This Resolution must be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board for passage.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SOLICITING BIDS FOR SUPPLY FOR EQUIPMENT SUPPLY AND
INSTALLATION OF WATER METERS FOR THE AFTON WATER DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Afton Water District, Village of Afton, is pursuing upgrades to the water system subject to section 103 of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, the Village Board of the Village of Afton, New York,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village authorizes the solicitation of bids for the supply and installation of water meters and pit setters for the Afton Water District.

This Resolution must be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board for passage.

Seconded by Trustee L Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

- A letter of request was received from the Greater Afton Area Chamber of Commerce asked for a waiver of vending fees for the Afton Arts and Crafts Festival to be held on August 23rd & 24th, 2025. Along with the use of the sidewalks on both sides of Main Street from the corner of Spring Street to Pleasant Ave.
- A motion made by Trustee L Matthews to waive the vending permits and fees for the Afton Arts and Crafts Festival hosted by the Greater Afton Area Chamber of Commerce on August 23rd & 24th, 2025, along with the request of the use of village property. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Lawrence to conduct an organizational meeting during our May 2025 regular scheduled meeting. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Public Comments – on Tentative Budgets. Mayor Dedman asked the attending public if there were any question on the proposed tentative water and general budgets for 2025-2026. There were none.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the public hearing on the tentative water and general budgets for 2025-2026, at 7:25 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to accept the tentative water and general budgets for 2025-2026 as the village of Afton operating budgets. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Patrice Wenner wants to know what is happening with the 2 yellow houses, as she thought that that village received a grant to take them down. It was explained that the village has not obtain any grant funding for that purpose. That the village has purchased the properties from Chenango County with an offer of \$1,000.00 for each parcel, along with a closing cost fee for each parcel at \$205.00 each. At this time the Village has been in negotiations with an interested party to purchase the properties at the same costs as the village has invested, including property taxes that were paid.
- Visitors Becky Komorowski informed the Village Board of Trustees that the electric car charging station developer will be placing a sign on both side of I-88 traffic to inform people of the stations whereabouts.
- Visitor Jason Wicks expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that he would like to start hosting a Sunday Farmers Market at the fairgrounds. He'd like to begin hosting the markets starting the first weekend in May, and run through September, from 9: am to 3: pm. He would like to have local vendors to come attend as well. Mr. Wicks was informed that as long as the event that is held is benefitting the fair directly it should not be an issue. However the Village Board of Trustees would like a blanket letter outline this request by the next meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Humphrey to allow for the fair to host a Farmers Market Event at the fairgrounds contingent on receiving a letter from the fair board to hold events that benefit the fair directly. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Wicks inform that board that the fair board is discussing hosting a music concert. They would like to sell about 4500 tickets, have a beer tent, along with concessions, at this time they do not have a date set. The Village Board of Trustees informed Mr. Wicks that he would need to submit a letter of intent the village board.

Mr. Wicks expressed that he would be willing to join the Village of Afton Planning Board, the Village Board of Trustees asked Mr. Wicks to speak with April Leggett.

Mr. Wicks inform the village board that he has his demolition derby promoter here tonight. The Derby promoter indicated that they would like to host an event on May 25 for Memorial Day. They would like to include a car show, along with 10 -15 venders, they expect around 1400 people at this event. It was stated that any outside venders are required to get a vending permits ahead of time. The village board again asked for a letter of intent for this event.

- Visitor Marge Petrie asked about the water meters estimated cost per house hold. Do property owners need to ripe up their sewers and water lines, if so how much is it going to cost. DPW Supervisor DeBetta expressed that there were a lot of questions at January 2025 meeting, he has asked our Engineer, Brendon Becker to attend the following meeting in February 2025 to explain. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that these projects are two different projects, the village has received grant funds for the placement of the water meters at the time. We will be accepting bids for those placements next week. At this time the sewer project is not in full swing until we receive more funding, until that time we don't

have any information to share, as we are not aware of the accumulated costs for the project. The water installation is projected to be around \$800.00, there are grant funds available to homeowners.

- Visitor Samantha Sickler informed the Village Board of Trustees that she is a member of the Afton Youth Sports Organization (AYSO). It was brought to her attention that the village has funds set aside for their organization. It was explained that the village cannot hand out the funds that instead items need to be purchased for the group. Unfortunately at this time due to this line item not being use historically the village board had lowered the amount to \$100.00, in which these funds are spent on paint for the field. Ms. Sickler did ask that some repairs and maintenance be done at the field, such as new locks and some tree branches be cut or removed, along with the placement of the spectator's benches.
- Visitor Joseph Snel who is a member of the VFW informed the village board that he was asked to help assist with the placement of the hero's banner within the village. The VFW will be trying to obtain funds from those who are interested in placement of flags honoring their loved ones, along with community donations. They are working towards May of 2026 to have the banners for placement.
- Visitor Ronnie Ford informed the Village Board of Trustees that he will be taking over the race track along with his promoters. He presented the board with the Afton Motor Sports Park 2025 Race Schedule. The Village Board of Trustees reminded Mr. Ford that he needs to get his weekly required permits, perhaps he could get monthly permits to make earlier to remember. Mr. Ford expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that he'd like to host a parade in October through the village with the stock cars, as they have done in the past. Mr. Ford stated that they have held the parade in the past with and without Police presence, as they have the equipment and personal to do so. Mr. Ford was informed that the parade would be fine, and that if he requires assistance that he can talk to Office in Charge, Frank Ventura. Mr. Ford inquired about the possibility of having the curfew at 11:30 pm instead of 11:00 pm. Mr. Ford was asked by the Village Board of Trustees to see how things start out, before they agree to such.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 9:30 pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- DPW Supervisor DeBetta was asked to stay for executive session. Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier was informed that she did not need to stay, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier left the meeting.

At 9:40 pm, DPW Supervisor DeBetta enter executive session.

At 9:50 pm, DPW Supervisor DeBetta exit executive session.

- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to exit executive session at 10:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to adjourn our regular meeting at 10:41 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer