

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
August 13, 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Burnett, Trustee Harvey, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Matthews, Trustee Zablocki and DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla.

Visitors: Daniel Fugnani, April Leggett, Sara Weeks, Timothy McNamara, Joan Pallatier, Janice Nickerson, Thomas O'Donnell, Richard Cuthbertson, Jeffrey & Shirley Butler, Susan & John Weibel, Pamela & David Wylubski, Marge Petrie, Bailey DeBetta, David Dodge and Robert Granger.

- A motion was made by Trustee Zablocki authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 58 - 99, Totaling \$35,621.92.
Water Fund Vouchers # 22 – 36, Totaling \$5,663.19.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections was made by Trustee Simonds, seconded by Trustee Zablocki. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: No written report.
- Police Department. Reports for June & July were distributed.
- Code Enforcement: No reports or representative.
- Planning Board: Trustee Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees of a request from Mr. Dale Grover. Mr. Grover requested to have to the property located at 37 Maple Street subdivided. His request has been granted by the Planning Board. Visitor April Leggett who is a Planning Board Member informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held discussions with a property owner on the East Side, in regards to placement of a new stairway. A pleasant resolution was made with the property owner and those who live on the East Side. The stairway will now be placed on the side of the house. The Planning Board have discussed the plans of the rewriting of the Village Codes. It's been 42 years since they have been updated. Ms. Leggett stated that the Planning Board has reached out to Department of State for information on the research process of updating the Village Codes. It will be a long process once started.
- Finance/Insurance: The purchase of the New Lawn Mower has been added to the Village Policy.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- Grant Committee: The Clerk / Treasurer has finished and submitted the finally paperwork on the closing of the Strategic Plan with both ESD and DOS. We will be expecting reimbursement towards the grant funded project.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Committee has held a garage and vender's sale.

- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - Reports for June/ July and July/ August were distributed.

Old Business:

- Weiss Cleanup – Remains the same.
- Sidewalk- Strong - Needs to be checked on – Per DPW Andrew Acla there was no answer to the door of this residence to discuss if the sidewalk issues were taken care of. The DPW will continue to reach out to the Strong residence.
- Trespassing posting – Vallonia Springs property posted according to the law – Mr. Andrew Acla informed the Village Board of Trustees that the DPW Department has started the land posting process. They will continue to do so until all Village property is properly posted.
- Hydrant Flushing - Time Plan – Needs to be done while school is out for the summer. – Mr. Andrew Acla informed the Village Board of Trustees that the DPW Department has started the hydrant flushing as of today. There are 52 hydrants in the Village. Mr. Acla stated that they may need to continue flushing into Wednesday morning to finish the flushing process, due to the amount of time each hydrant has taken to clear up.

New Business:

- Superintendent of Public Works Andrew Acla gave a verbal report to the Village Board of Trustees. He stated that he has received an estimate from AT & T for the purchase of 3 new cell phones at a cost of \$157.00 monthly. The DPW have filled in the pot holes behind the municipal parking lot. The Village has taken possession of the new lawn mower as of July 20, 2018. Mr. Acla has spoken with Mr. Jerry Harris about the ditching on the East Side. Ditching will begin late August early September. Mr. Edward Jones has completed the grade C water treatment operator's course. Mr. Lockwood has completed the grade D water treatment operator's course. Mr. Acla has also received a price on 3 hand held radio's to be used by the DPW. He stated that the cost would be \$1442.00, plus this would require a FCC license. These radios would help the crew while directing traffic or plowing street ways. Mr. Acla also presented the Village of Board of Trustees with 2 estimates on a purchase of a dump truck. These estimates both coincide with the required state bid process. Mr. Acla stated that the DPW had fixed some playground equipment currently located at Leggett Park.
- Mr. Acla reminded village residents in attendance that the DPW only picks up storm debris. He stated that this time the DPW is trucking all debris to Brisben for disposal. He also asked that village residents refrain from blowing grass clipping into the Village Streets. This causes the street drains to clog.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell asked Mr. Acla if the Village picks up grass clippings. Mr. Acla stated that it's his understanding that it's only storm debris.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Acla about the playground equipment that was purchased by the Village Parks Committee. Trustee Simonds expressed that the equipment was very expensive, that the Committee would like to see it installed as soon as possible. Mr. Acla

stated that the blueprints for footing have no direct information for installation. He's unsure if the DPW will have time to install the equipment. Trustee Simonds expressed that if the Department is unable to install it at this time could they possibly find a place indoors to store it. Mr. Acla suggested that perhaps the Park Committee may want to think about placing the playground equipment over across from the fairgrounds. This may entice residents to put to use the pavilion at that location. Trustee Simonds stated that she'd bring it to the Parks Committee's attention.

- Visitor Janice Nickerson asked Mr. Acla if there is other playground equipment located at Leggett Park that may be able to be repaired. Mr. Acla stated that if there is salvageable equipment they will see that it is repaired.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell asked Mr. Acla to explain his understanding of the tree removal responsibility. Mr. Acla read allowed the Village Code pertaining to his question. Mr. Acla express that the tree on the East Side is in need of removal to allow for the ditching process to begin.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell asked Mr. Acla if the village marks an X a tree who is responsible? Mr. O'Donnell stated that there is a tree near him that is going to fall down. He stated that you can hear it snapping or branches fall off. We have kids that walk under these trees it's very dangerous. Mr. Acla stated that it's easier for NYSEG to repair down power lines verses remove possible downed trees.
- Visitor Marge Petrie said that is cost her \$600.00 to have a tree person and NYSEG to access a tree that fell next to her house properly evaluated. Mrs. Petrie feels as though this should be a Village responsibility to remove dead trees.
- Visitor David Dodge expressed that it's his understanding that if a tree falls up to the curb it's the land owner's responsibility. He stated that if branches fall down the land owner better be covered by Insurance.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that they may want to have the Village Attorney review their laws to give a better legal clarification. He feels as though some liability should fall onto the Village.
- Visitor Joan Pallatier suggested that perhaps the Village should identify the trees that's are in need of removal. Notify the home owner to pay the 50% of removal cost. If they don't pay the Village should relevy it onto their tax billing.
- Visitor David Dodge stated that his church, St. Agnes Catholic located at 14 Spring Street had written a letter of request 3 years ago in regards to having the sidewalk repaired. Mr. Dodge was looking to bring this to the attention of the Village Board of Trustees. Along with the assurance that this sidewalk will be fixed.
- Visitor Richard Cuthbertson expressed his total dissatisfaction of the conditions of High Street. He stated that most of the road is totally dug up. He acknowledged that the DPW had filled in the pot holes on the corner of Pleasant Ave & High Street, but what about the rest of the street. He stated that unless we fix the conditions of our roadways we will have no one bring any businesses into our Village. (e.g. A Grocery Store)

- Mr. Acla told Mr. Cuthbertson that he is limited to what he could use at this time until next year. But that he'd take a look at it, maybe he could cold patch it this year to get through.
- Trustee Harvey thanked Mr. Acla for the faucet change out at Foster Park.
- Visitor Sara Weeks asked about our Police Department, she asked do we have them. She stated that she has only seen them 3 times in the last month.
- Visitor David Wylubski stated that he never sees anyone.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell asked if the Police Department brings any revenue into the Village.
- Visitor Pam Wylubski explained that it is dependent upon how the tickets are written. Mrs. Wylubski stated that it's not about funding & revenue, but rather about the safety of our community.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell expressed his dislike of the budget appropriation set forth for the Police Department.
- Visitor Sara Weeks explained that doesn't mean that the total appropriated amount is spent.
- Visitor April Leggett stated that she was informed that the Village force is not needed. That we can use the County Sheriff or the State Police.
- Visitor Pam Wylubski stated again it's not about the money. She explained that the County Sheriff's office has only 2 cars in the entire County and at night it's only 1 car. They too are strapped for Officers. She stated that the County has a substation located at the Town Hall, but that it goes unused. The Town was supposed to be supplied with an Officer during Monday night Court Night, so far this has not happened.
- Visitor Timothy McNamara the Afton Central School Superintendent was in attendance to speak with the Village Board of Trustees about the possible shared services of Village Police Force for an SRO (School Resource Officer). As well as inquiring about the possibility of purchasing a section of Village owned property next to the current bus garage. Mr. McNamara informed the Village Board that the School has held Public Safety Meetings. He has been made aware that the State Police are very shorthanded, leaving them unable to accommodate the School's needs.
- Trustee Matthews expressed to Mr. McNamara that the current Patrolman have full time jobs working outside of the Village. They are given an allowable 20 hours, which may be required to split.
- There were many discussions about the Police Force.
- Visitor Pam Wylubski informed the Village Board of Trustees that due to the Planning Boards plans to rewrite the Village Codes, she will not be accepting the position of Planning Board Member for the Village. In doing so this would interfere with her position as the Town Justice. She Thanked the Board for the considered position.

- Visitor April Leggett stated that we had 2 other people who were considered candidates for Planning Board. One was Casey Conover. April has spoken with him, he has stated that he coached Field Hockey extensively and does not have the time. The other candidate was Sara Weeks.
- Trustee Simonds asked Sara Weeks if she'd be interested in the Planning Board position. Ms. Weeks first stated that she'd think about it. She then stated that she felt that a younger or more text savvy individual would be better suited for the position. Ms. Weeks said that she would fill in until the position is filled.
- Trustee Simonds then asked visitor Bailey DeBetta if he'd be interested in the Planning Board position. Mr. DeBetta stated that he has applied for the Code Enforcement Officer position, he's not sure if it would be a conflict of interest.
- Trustee Simonds informed the Village Board of Trustees that Vincent's Restaurant has relocated their dumpsters, but that they are not fenced in as previously told.
- The Village of Afton is currently accepting application for the Village of Afton Code Enforcement Officer. An ad has been placed in the Village of Afton's official newspaper, The Tri-Town New. To date we have received 4 applications.
- Trustees Simonds stated that we need to start setting up interviews to hire a Code Enforcement Officer.
- Visitor Sara Weeks stated that she had phoned the Animal Control Officer Amy Cross. Someone was feeding cats at the Great American location.
- Visitor Pamela Wylubski expressed her opinion about the SRO hire. She stated that it does not require someone already in the system. That a person coming out of retirement can be placed in the position or even someone sent to the academy sponsored by the Village.
- Visitor Timothy McNamara the Afton Central School Superintendent stated that school is in session for 180 days of the year.
- Trustee Simonds stated that the Village does not offer any benefits to its employees. If they were to hire a full time Officer it would require them to offer benefits to all full time employees.
- The Village Board of Trustees were informed that Mr. Richard Metzger, the Village's previous Code Enforcement Officer has returned the Village Code Book and Flood Plan, along with the keys to the building.
- The Village Board of Trustees were informed that Mr. Richard Metzger suggested that the Village may want to send our flood plans over to Chenango County. He stated that in order to do so the Village must vote to allow for the County Code Enforcement to be appointed the Flood Plans Administrator. That way the County can handle the flooding issues that may arise within the Village.
- The Village Board of Trustees were informed that the New Water Rules & Regulations were mailed to all water customers on July 26, 2018.

- The Village Board of Trustees were informed that the Village Clerk/ Treasurer has completed and submitted the Fiscal Year Annual Audit for 5/31/18 and submitted it to the New York State Comptroller's Office.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to allow for the Clerk / Treasurer to close the Village Office on Wednesday,, August 22, 2018, due to medical reasons. Seconded by Trustee Harvey. All in favor motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- The Village Board of Trustees received an email request from Melissa Matthews. Ms. Matthews had a series of questions. At this time the Village Board discussed only the first question. That question consisted of the purchase of a large light up sign. She was hoping to place this sign in Burnett Park as well as the corners of Route 7 & Route 41. For advertisement of upcoming events to be held within the Village.
- Trustee Matthews stated that all 3 locations that Ms. Matthews is looking at placing this said sign are State owned properties. Ms. Matthews will need to seek their permission to place the said sign in those locations.
- Visitor Robert Granger who owns Eastern Energy Solutions spoke with the Village Board of Trustees about a Community Power Partners Company that he is currently contracting with to help bring a Solar Power Company to the Village of Afton to assist village residents with their energy needs. According to Mr. Granger NYSEG will still be the main source supplier in our area. This program will allow for Village Residents to save up to 12% reduction on their energy billing. If the Village participates in this program along with Village Residents wishing to sign up the Village will receive a \$25.00 sign-up fee refund of everyone person who becomes a customer. In order for this program to succeed there will need to be a certain number amount of Village Residents willing to become customers.
- Visitor April Leggett asked Mr. Granger if he plans on speaking with the Town about this program as well. Mr. Granger sated that he would.
- Mr. Granger also stated that there would be no consulting fees for the Village. He will volunteer his time.
- Visitor Jeffrey Butler asked how big of a property use would be needed to house this project. Mr. Granger stated that 2 – 3 acres of village land would meet the requirement.
- Trustee Simonds asked Mr. Granger about the agreement with Eastern Energy to update the electrical lights within the entire Village Office Building. This project was to have a start day of August 1 thru 3, 2018. Mr. Granger stated that he'd have to check into it.
- DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla asked the Village Board of Trustees if they would be willing to take a vote to place a bid on the 2018 Dodge Ram 3500 Dump Truck. Trustee Simonds asked if it was on the State Bid List. Mr. Acla stated that it is.
- Trustee Matthews stated that we don't have the bank account knowledge at this time. We will look into that factor.

- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to review funds for the 2018 Dodge Ram 3500 Dump Truck purchase. Seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Daniel Fagnani from Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. spoke with the Village Board of Trustees about the water tank replacement process. He informed the Board that the deadline for grant application submittal is September 7th, 2018. Mr. Fagnani spoke to the Village residents in attendance about the expected process of the tank grant, as well as the tank placement process. He explained the difference between a concrete tank and a ribbitted steel tank. He said during the change out period the Village will be using water from the well house across from the fairgrounds.
- A motion was made by Trustee Zablocki to allow for Mayor Burnett to sign the grant application for the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act as well as the Sate Revolving Fund. Also authorizing Delaware Engineering to submit these forms to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation on behalf of the Village. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Matthews to enter into executive session at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed. 4-0
- A motion as made by Trustee Matthews to close executive session at 9:47 pm. Seconded by Trustee Harvey. All in favor, motion passed. 4-0
- A motion was made by Trustee Matthews to purchase a 2018 Dodge Ram 3500 Dump Truck (complete package) from Robert Green Trucking Division not to exceed the dollar amount of \$62,583.50, no more than bid price. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed. 4-0
- A motion was made by Trustee Zablocki to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:55 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer

