

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
August 12, 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held August 12, 2024, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

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

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

Absent: Code Enforcement Officer Butler and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Visitors: Darren Schultes, April Leggett and Amy Schoelier.

- 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 # 43 - 72, totaling \$32,586.72.

Water Fund Voucher's # 18 – 26, totaling \$15,944.41.

- Motion to accept previous minutes along with the Public Hearing minutes from July 18, 2024, with no additions or correction made by Trustee T. Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. Supervisor DeBetta supplied the Village Board of Trustees with a quote on a CAT 2024 255 CTL skid steer at a cost of \$76,765.00. The Village would trade in the current CAT 2015 246D SSL S/N BYF01861 skid steer for \$32,000.00, bring the purchase price to \$44,765.00. DPW Supervisor DeBetta inform the Village Board of Trustees that this equipment purchase is eligible for reimbursement through the New York State Department of Transportation CHIPS fund program. The allowable amount through the CHIPS program is \$40,487.35, bring the total balance of the purchase to \$ 4,277.65. DPW Supervisor DeBetta expressed that this newer skid steer is on a track, which means there would be no yearly, additional costs for replacement tires.
- A motion was made by Trustee D. Lawrence to purchase a new Cat 2024 255 CTL from Milton CAT with the funds used from the CHIPS program though the New York State Department of Transportation in the amount of \$40,487.35. The remaining balance of \$4,277.65 will be paid by the village though the Equipment Reserve Fund (A955.90), in the general fund budget. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the 2018 White Ram Dump 350 received a total bid of \$34,300.00 on the Auction International Web Site. There were discussions among the board about this offer price.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to accept the bid made on the 2018 White Ram Dump 350, for \$34,300.00 on the Auction International Web Site. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor motion passed.
- As discussed at that last month's meeting DPW Supervisor DeBetta supplied the village Board of Trustees with a price for a 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab, through Robert Green Trucking Division for a total \$68,743.27. However, Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the estimate includes a plow along with the extra lights that can be removed, making the total \$56,445.27. As he has spoken with Trux Outfitters who can install a bigger plow for \$7,500.00. There many discussions among the Village Board of Trustees on the pros and cons of purchasing a gas verses a diesel truck.
- A motion was made by Trustee D. Lawrence to purchase a diesel 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab, through Robert Green Trucking Division at cost of \$67,445.27, minus the sale of the 2018 White Ram Dump 350, of \$34,300.00, making the total cost of the diesel 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab, \$33,145.27. The balance of \$33,145.27 will be paid out the General Fund Saving Account # 2. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- DPW Supervisor DeBetta asked the Village Board of Trustees if you could use the remaining fund balance of \$8222.35 in the general fund budget under Equipment Reserve Fund (A955.900, to purchase a new plow and lights from Trux Outfitters.
- A motion was made by Trustee D. Lawrence to allow Supervisor DeBetta to use the remaining balance, not to exceed \$8222.35 in Equipment Reserve Fund (A955.90), in the general fund budget, to purchase a plow and lights for the diesel 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Police Department. Report distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed.
- Planning Board: Report distributed. Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that Code Enforcement Officer Butler was questioning if he could have authorization to remove some of the junk and debris or hire someone to do so on some of the properties within the village that are in need of cleaning up. If so, if the property owner did not pay for the services, then the amount for the cleanup would be placed on their taxes. The village board of Trustees indicated to Ms. Leggett that it's a slipper slop and that there fines and fees for such already in place, which are required to go through the courts. Ms. Leggett expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that if there was a quorum once again at the Planning Board meeting this month, making it difficult to conduct business. She would like to have a few more members join the Planning Board, she would like to see the community more involved. Trustee D. Lawrence informed Ms. Leggett that she had a name of a person who showed interest in possibly helping within community. Ms. Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she would like to begin on the areas of solar regulations, sign laws, unsafe buildings, junk and junk vehicles along with subdivision of land. Ms. Leggett expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that she feels as though the village should honor Mr. Girard Matthews for his years of community service. As he has done decades of work by being a Village Trustees, the Mayor, twice and a Planning Board Member.

- Finance/Insurance: The Clerk/ Treasurer informed the Village Board of Trustees that we had just received the yearly insurance policies, in which there was a slight increase. The New York State Comptrollers Audit for the 2023/2024 fiscal year was submitted on July 18, 2024.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Darren Schultes and Amy Schoelier informed the Village Board of Trustees that after conducting a Facebook poll they have come up with a theme for this year's Christmas Parade. The theme will be a Dickens Christmas, in which they will ask the local businesses to decorate their store fronts to reflect this theme. They discussed that they would like to present a community resident with the honor of being the Grand Marshall. There were discussions of the Village of Afton having a logo to be used for fliers and mailers to be sent to potential sponsors. The village does have a village seal on our web page, that will be used for this propose. Mr. Schultes and Mrs. Schoelier asked if advertisements for the Village Christmas Parade could be billed directly to the village. There were discussions as to this request, as the village cannot make any monetary donation. However, the parade is umbrella under the village. Mr. Schultes asked if the village has a speaker system that could be used during the parade. There is no speaker system within the village, this is something that they will need to investigate. They will be having a DJ present during the parade, who as agreed to donate his time. Mrs. Schoelier stated that she has spoken with Mr. Phillips about the number of Christmas trees that are available for this year, he thinks that the number will be limited as is his supply. The plan is to have the sponsors who purchase the trees be responsible for the decorating them as well. They plan on hosting a series of events to include crafts for kids and vendors within the community during the day. Mr. Schultes stated that this year's parade will begin at 6 pm. They will be meeting here at the Susquehanna Room on August 21, 2024.
- 4 Towns Forward: Trustees L. Matthews stated that she would attend the 4 Towns Forward meeting tomorrow, where the topic of discussion will be on affordable housing and the homeless
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No report.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

- Railroad discussion. – Remains the same. Trustee D. Lawrence stated that she would continue to reach a representative, as the village has not received a refund on the over payment as indicated by the company.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Trustee T. Lawrence stated that the person wanting to purchase both the lots that the yellow houses sit on, with the intent to take them down and place a home back on the two sites is very interested. Trustee Lawrence indicated that he is stepping back from moving forward on the properties as he feels as though he's done what he can. Trustee T. Lawrence will send all information that he has gathered into the village office for review to be sent to the village attorney to form a contract for a possible sale of these property.
- Water Meter Project Progress. – No updated information remains the same. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that he will reach out to Mr. Becker to see where we are on the purchase of the water meters to begin the project.

- Proposed boat ramp discussion. – Trustee Humphrey stated that there is no reason why the Town of Afton could not assist the village with the grading and clearing of the gravel that has settled, making more accessible to enter the current boat ramp, as well all pay taxes to the town as well. It was decided that the town would be approached about helping with this project.
- Discussion on ATV and UTV and Golf Carts. – There were on going discussions of the misuse of the village streets and sidewalks by those riding their ATV and UTV along with Golf Carts throughout the village. Anyone who is witness to such is asked to call the Village Police.
- Discussion on Public Electric Car Charging Stations. - Before making a decision, the village would like to know what the annual cost would be for them to consider this contracted agreement. The village's insurance representative will be contacted to receive a quote.
- Discussion on Grover Contract. – In order for Mr. Grover to enter into contract for the use of village owned property for farm crop planting, the village must first receive permission from FEMA. The mayor will sign the letter to be presented to FEMA for approval before moving forward.
- Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has spoken with the Town Assessor on the 2 yellow houses, they are listed as tax exempt.

New Business:

- McDowell & Walker letter. – Trustee T. Lawrence and DPW Supervisor DeBetta went and checked on the number of water sources supplied to the feed mill properties. There are only 3 services as indicated by Mr. James, as there is also an independent water well on the premises. Mayor Dedman will reach out to Mr. James.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$781.42 in the water budget from Contingency (1990.40) to Unallocated Insurance (1910.40), for payment of increased insurance policies. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor motion, passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer