

**Village of Afton**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY**  
**December 14, 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 14, 2020 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

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

Mayor Nickerson thanked those in attendance; she asked that all visitors kindly hold all comments during the meeting until we reach the point in our agenda for public recognition.

**Present:** Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta

**Absent:** Trustee Simonds.

**Visitors:** Maryann Palmetier, Timothy McNamara, Kathy Ryan and April Leggett.

- **No motion was made to pay the following Vouchers:**
- **General Fund Vouchers # 212 - 245, Totaling \$62,684.18.**  
**Water Fund Vouchers # 58 – 68, Totaling \$2,554.17.**
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

**Monthly Report:**

- **DPW/ Water:** DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta read the report aloud. He stated that the department has been busy with the following: They have continued with brush pick up and daily water checks. They have responded to nine - 811 dig safety calls. The Vallonia Springs property was, reposted for no trespassing. The storage building has been cleaned and organized. The department has conducted six webinars, pertaining to different aspects for the DPW Department. They have currently finished the leaf pickup for the season. The leaf box has been removed from the truck and stored for the winter. New Split rail fencing was placed at Leggett Park. The plow on the F450 has been repaired. A number of pot poles were filled. Monthly water samples were conducted. They have built new shelving for storage space, office space, for records retention.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed, read aloud by Mayor Nickerson. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office, for anyone wishing to read it.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed. Trustee Lawrence read the report aloud. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office, for anyone wishing to view it.
- **Planning Board:** Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held a meeting. Planning Board Member April Leggett has been working

on the Chicken laws to be presented to the Village Board of Trustees. April is currently looking for another Planning Board Member to join the Revitalization Committee. This committee is looking at way to spruce up the business district. The Planning Board is continuing the updating of the codes. Planning Board Member, Girard Matthews will be attending a few NYCOM webinars.

- Finance/Insurance: Mayor Nickerson stated that we are in the process of closing out a grant that was done through the Empire State Development. This grant was done during Trustee Muller's time as Mayor. It was part of the Strategic Plan for the Village of Afton, conducted by GeoEco Design. April Leggett assisted the village with obtaining this grant funding.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Trustee Simonds is absent. There is no new information, remains the same.
- Parks Committee: Remains the same. Trustee Muller stated that the Parks Committee is on hold until Covid – 19 is no long a threat to the public.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. The report is available if anyone wishes to view it or wants a copy.
- Dog Control Officer: - Reports distributed for October & November 2020.
- Afton Central School – Afton Central School Superintendent Timothy McNamara addressed the Village Board of Trustees with what has been happening at the School, since the closing in March, due to covid-19. Mr. McNamara stated that it has been a nice experience getting back to school with the entire school staff, from the bus drivers taking the temperatures of the students, to the parents, to the aides to the cafeteria workers. Everyone has come together as a community. The custodial workers do a fantastic job. The school is cleaner than most hospitals. He explained that all doorknobs are washed down after every touch, walls are washed, and bathrooms are cleaned after every use. Mr. McNamara stated that there are no longer tables in the cafeteria, there are desks, each child has their name on the assigned desk for the, purpose of making the task of contact tracing easier if necessary. He said that all students are attending 5 days a week, whether half the week in person the other half by virtual. The Senior Class is attending 5 days a week, making it a more exciting time for them, compared to last year. Mr. McNamara stated that the school is very excited about the vaccination for Covid- 19. He stated that the school did have a few staff members and students who did come down with Covid -19, some are still experiencing side effects, he stated that we all must do our part and take it very seriously.

### **Old Business:**

- Truck Discussions - DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the bids on the trucks have officially closed. He stated that he has not received any email notification but that the closing bid on the Chevy was \$10,000.00 and the Ford was \$6,800.00. He said that he should have more information tomorrow.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to accept the bids for the Chevy Truck at \$10,000.00 and the Ford Truck at \$6,800.00 providing these are the current bids in place. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

- NYSEG – Street Lights – Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that NYSEG’S intended date for the street light head replacement lamps to LED will begin on December 19, 2020, both weather and emergency permitting.
- Lamont Engineers – Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that Brendon Becker our project engineer for the water tank replacement would be attending our January / February Board Meeting to address the bidding process. Mr. Becker feels as though this would be the best period to obtain bids for the project.
- Police Department – Policy updates – The Policy have been completed and reviewed by the police committee and submitted to the Village Board of Trustees for review.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to accept the Police Department policy’s as the village’s current policies. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor motion, passed. Mayor Nickerson stated that she wanted to check to be sure that there were no further requirements needed on behalf of the policies adoption.
- NYS Emergency Pandemic Plan - Mayor Nickerson stated that we are still in the process of forming our plan. She stated that she had begun the written process to be added with the Trustees ideas to form a workable plan. Mayor Nickerson stated that she feels as though the Village should work together with the Town and School to share ideas with one another, as this would benefit everyone.
- Chicken Discussions – Mayor Nickerson stated the Village Board of Trustees was given a new recommendation by the Planning Board. After discussions, it was asked that this be tabled until next month. The paperwork needs to in correct form before review and setting a date for a public hearing.

**New Business:**

- Trustee Lawrence expressed that it is a huge deal that our school district has the elementary students attending 5 days a week, as most school are not doing so.
- Mayor Nickerson expressed thanks to Mr. McNamara and Ms. Palmetier for attending the Village Board Meeting. She stated that she feels as though it important that we work together to better the community. Mayor Nickerson shared that she was told by an individual that the school is cleaner now than when it first opened.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that it is great that the Village and the School worked together to supply toys for 41 local families and 97 students through the Toys for Tots Program.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to accept the resignation of Richard Cuthbertson as a Zoning Board Member. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Mayor Nickerson stated that the Village is in need of Zoning Board Members if anyone is interested.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to sign the warrant for unpaid taxes to be returned to the County for collections. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- Email Addresses – Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that Officer Stanko approached her with the idea of the Police Department receiving their own individual email addresses. Mayor Nickerson stated that this is something she has been, wanting to do for the entire Village Board, as well as other Department heads that may need Village issued email addresses. Officer Stanko gave the Mayor information on a company that is used by both the Greene and Oxford Police Departments. Mayor Nickerson has spoken with our web page supplier; he can create the desired email addresses. Currently Mayor Nickerson was, given a yearly fee of \$15.00, after that if would be an additional \$1.00 per email address after the initial email address numbers have been, created. Mayor Nickerson said that she would know more once we have an idea as to how many email addresses we need. In the meantime, Mayor Nickerson has asked that the Board Members and DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta decide on email address names. Trustee Humphrey suggested that the Code Enforcement Officer, Jeff Butler be given an email address as well. After discussions it was decided that titles and last names be used for the creation of new email addresses.
- Garden Boxes – Mayor Nickerson stated that she has posted on the Villages Web Page that the village has a total, of 10 garden boxes. They are available on a first come first serve basis. However, one must call or come to the village office to obtain one. It is one box per family, only, as there were people that claimed more than one box. By doing this, we are trying to make these boxes available to everyone. The boxes are numbered 1 -10, you must place your name on the box once you have registered with the village office.
- Garden Club – Mayor Nickerson stated that the Friends of Afton take care of the planters within the village. She would like to see a garden club formed to help maintain the flowers and shrubbery that is, placed throughout the village, to help with the upkeep such as the watering and weeding. If anyone is interested, please call the village office.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that she attended a Town Board Meeting on November 12, 2020. She said that Matt Beckwith, from Chenango County Emergency Management was in attendance. He had expressed to the Town Board the dire need for an ambulance service within our community. There were many discussions of the different paid services within the nearby communities. Mayor Nickerson suggested that perhaps the Town of Sidney should be contacted, to gather information on their services. Trustee Lawrence stated that she was aware that the Town would be reaching out to the Town of Greene.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

- A motion made by Trustee Muller to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier  
Clerk / Treasurer