

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
December 11, 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 11, 2023, 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 Winans, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Visitors: Donald Ouimet, Rhonda Barriger, Sara Spoonhower, Karl Spoonhower, Stephen Willes, Karl J Spoonhower, Kyle Short, Charles Torres, Brendon Becker, Maryann Palmetier, Linda Matthews, Becky Sims, Frank Ventura, Brendan Clapper, Joyce Humphrey, Melanie Mueller, April Leggett and Daron Schultes.

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

General Fund Voucher's # 158 - 172, totaling \$38,333.14.

Water Fund Voucher's # 63 – 70, totaling \$3,811.30.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Winans. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed, after initially being tabled.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to Open Public Hearing at 7:15 pm for Local Law #1 of 2023, entitled "A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED 'FENCES. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence.
- Mayor Dedman stated that the Local Law #1 of 2023, entitled "A LOCAL LAW ENTITLED 'FENCES will remain open until our next board meeting, as we are waiting for 239 review plan form the County.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. Supervisor DeBetta received 3 estimates for tires as discussed at last month's meeting. He expressed that he'd like to get a total of 6 tires, this way he'll have tires for both the skid steer and the backhoe. He stated that the best price that he received was \$185.99 for each tire from McCarthy Tire Service. He indicated that the total cost should be around \$1116.00, without mounting. He asked that the Village Board of Trustees make a motion allowing for him the purchase the needed tires out of the DPW Equipment Capital Reserves Saving Fund.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey allowing for the purchase of 6 new tires for the skid steer and backhoe from McCarthy Tire Service with the funds to purchase the tires coming from the DPW Equipment Capital Reserves Saving Fund Account # 9725. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- **Police Department.** No report.

- Code Enforcement: Report read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler.
- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board has continually been working on forming Solar Field Guidelines.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date, remains the same.
- 4 Towns Forward: No representative.
- Historian Report: Verbal report given by Town Historian Melanie Mueller.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

- Discussion of election poll watchers remains the same.
- Progress on the 2 yellow houses, Trustee T. Lawrence expressed that he's close to having a written long-term plan for these properties. He is hopeful to have a written plan within the next few weeks to move forward by the first of the year.

New Business:

- Visitor Brendon Becker with Lamont Engineers gave the Village Board of Trustees an update on the purposed wastewater system cost and funding project for areas 1 only and areas 1 and 3 combined. He explained that the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) Grant has awarded the village with \$5,328,463.00. The village has also received grant funding through The New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) and The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), in the amount of \$3,035,768.50. Mr. Becker indicated that there is more funding available, we should be notified within the next few weeks if the village will be receiving any further funding. Mr. Becker informed the Village Board of Trustees that the remaining balance on the project could be funded by the village obtaining a loan through The New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) at 0% interest for 30 years. There were discussions among the Village Board of Trustees and Mr. Becker and as to the use of the funds for water meters, a possible boat ramp and demolition of the two yellow houses. Mr. Becker indicated that the funds could be used for the water meters, in fact he needs to get with DPW Supervisor DeBetta to discuss the best meter options for the village, before placing out bids. Mr. Becker said that next spring perhaps the boat ramp is something that could be looked at under parks and recreations. Mr. Becker said it would be best to look for funds under a land bank or a green space for the yellow houses. Mr. Becker informed the Village Board of Trustees that he and the Mayor would need to meet to finalize the grant application online.
- Visitor Brendon Becker with Lamont Engineers informed the Village of Trustees that he and DPW Supervisor DeBetta met and discussed the finalization of the water tank replacement project that was contracted through DN Tanks. All finishing requirements have been met, DN tank will be submitting for their final payment.
- Visitor Becky Sims with RCAP Solutions introduced herself to the Village Board of Trustees. She explained that RCAP Solutions is a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive, on-site

technical assistance and training to help small rural communities address their drinking water, wastewater and other community development needs. She reminded the Village Board of Trustees that they have already received assistance with RCAP Solutions, when they conducted their income survey to help gather a medium income from the village residents, to assist the village with obtaining funds through grants. Ms. Sims expressed that she feels as though she could help assist the village with obtaining grant funds through the Rural Development Loan and Grant Assistance program (USDA), at no costs to the village. She expressed that the application does take some time to gather and process.

- Mayor Dedman asked the Village Board of Trustees to assist with the Memorial Day Parade. He expressed that there needs to someone who can organize the parade, he'd do his part. But he cannot do it alone. He asked the board to come up with some suggestions by the January or February Board Meeting.
- Motion made by Trustee Humphrey to appoint the new Town Historian, Melanie Mueller as the new Village Historian. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$987.84 in the water budget from Building Maintenance (8340.44) to Lab Tests (8330.43), for payment of additional water tests. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees as well as those in attendance that on Saturday she picked up 10 bags of toys through the Toys for Tots program that was submitted through the Village by the Village Clerk / Treasurer to be used at the School for their Angel Tree Program. This year the train was able to be the pickup location for the toys. It was nice to see the train come back into the local area, as it been a few years since that has happened. This program helps many families in our community.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Rhonda Barriger informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has the new promoters of the Afton Races here with her tonight. The new promoters were asked how many classes they intend on running, they indicated that they would be running 4 classes. The Village Board of Trustees expressed that the last race for the evening must start by 11:00 pm in order to comply with the curfew. The promoters indicated that their intentions are to be finished sometime between 9:00 pm and 10: 00 pm. The Village Board of Trustees explained the permit policy, they have asked that the promoters come to the village office to obtain their required weekly permits no later than Wednesdays. It was explained that the race permit is a set weekly fee, where the food concessions can be purchased on a monthly basis. It was asked by the promoters, what if there is rain date and how does that work. It was explained that as long as they are submitting a raincheck to their spectators, they can then carry over their permits for that race week. The promoters indicated that they are currently working on a schedule, once they are available they will see that the village has a copy. The promoters stated that they are currently looking for help with concession and other matters pertaining to the running of the races. They would gladly welcome anyone who may have previously worked at the race track prior, please reach out to them. They indicated that they may host 1 or 2 special midway events. They asked about hosting a mid-week race event. They were informed that they would need village board approval before doing so.
- Visitor Daron Schultes Thank the Village Board of Trustees and DPW DeBetta for their help with the Christmas Parade. Mr. Schultes stated that this has been the biggest parade yet, we had 40 floats in total, a band and horses. Mr. Schultes stated that there was no candy throwing as asked, to help keep the little ones safe. Mr. Schultes said that he wanted to thank Quentin Lewis with his help on the traffic control,

he did a great job. Mr. Schultes said with all the donations that were collected by the Chamber they were able to receive \$400.00 in donations. Mr. Schultes did indicate that they did have some expenses, as they gave out trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place prizes, they also had 6 radio advertising spots that were given to them at half price from WCDO Radio as well as a Pennysaver advertisements.

- Trustee D. Lawrence asked Mr. Daron Schultes if he'd be interested in taking over the Memorial Day Parade. Trustee D. Lawrence expressed to Mr. Schultes that she could help him with the school end of things pertaining to the parade. Mr. Schultes indicated that he may have to work, that he'd have to get back to her. He stated that he wouldn't want to be in charge if he's unable to be there in the moment of the parade.
- Visitor Linda Matthews asked Mr. Daron Schultes if next year he'd consider blocking off the "Y" (the intersection that flows Main St / NYS Route 7 into and out of Caswell St. / NYS Route 41) in the intersection. She stated that it should be from Sand Street to Caswell Street up to the "Y". As people were continually trying to turn around in the "Y", making it difficult for the viewing of the parade. Mrs. Matthews stated that once the parade starts all roadways should be blocked off.
- Visitor Rhonda Barriger from the Afton Driving Park, Fair Board asked the Village Board of Trustees if there would be any stipulations if the Fair Board were to place a Go Cart Track on the Fair Grounds. She asked if they would be required to hold a public hearing. She expressed that the Fair Board has not seen a proposal yet. She's just looking to gather any and all information. Trustee Humphrey expressed that the Village Board would need to look into gathering more information. He expressed that perhaps Mrs. Barriger should attend a Planning Board Meeting. He said with the Holiday, the next meeting will be held on January 3, 2024 at 7 pm, in the Susquehanna Room.
- Visitor Charles Torres expressed his many grievances to the Village Board of Trustees, those grievances consisted of the following:
 - The Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2023 entitled Fences
 - The untreated water sample
 - The 2 yellow houses
 - Transparencies of the Village Board of Trustees
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into executive session at 8:25 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.
- Prior to the exiting of visitors and the Village Board of Trustees entering into executive session visitor Charles Torres asked why the Village Board of Trustee were going into executive session. He stated that the motion that was given was to wide spread of a reason. Trustee D. Lawrence stated that the topic matter pertained to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion.
- This motion, as it reads is the example given by the New York State of Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM), pertaining to such matters.
- At 8:30 pm the Village Board of Trustee invited Mr. Frank Ventura to join them in executive session.

- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to exit executive session at 9:03 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to hire Frank Ventura as Officer in Charge with an effective start date of December 18, 2023, working up to 20 hours a week, with a starting rate of \$27.50/hour. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:12 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Palmatier, Clerk / Treasurer