

**Village of Afton  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY  
February 13, 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 13, 2023 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Acting Mayor, Trustees Lawrence.

**Present:** Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee Komorowski, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

**Absent:** Trustee Winans and Officer in Charge, Stanko

**Visitors:** Maryann Palmetier, Linda Matthews, Cynthia Hervochoon, Donald Ouimet, Tyler Lawrence, Brenda James and Elizabeth Briggs.

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

**General Fund Voucher's # 238 - 265, totaling \$109,118.90.**

**Water Fund Voucher's # 100 – 112, totaling \$116,651.31.**

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Humphrey. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.

**Monthly Report:**

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed, read aloud by DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta. In addition to his report DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustee that the new truck has been delivered. It's been insured and is road ready. At this time DPW Supervisor is asking the Village Board of Trustees make a motion to surplus the 2012 Ford – F250 at a minimal bid of \$15,000.00 to be sent through Auction International. DPW DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the new water tank is up and running normally. The radio for the new truck has been installed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to surplus the 2012 Ford - F250 pickup truck at a minimal bid of \$15,000.00 through Auction International. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- Acting Mayor Trustees Lawrence asked DPW Supervisor DeBetta If there has been any word on the Chip's money, as she has been working on the current budget. DPW DeBetta stated that we have already received the money, he expressed that it wouldn't hurt to increase the amount that we anticipate receiving, as we have already received more than originally thought for this year.

- Police Department. Report distributed, read aloud by Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence. Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence stated that this report along with all others will be placed on the Village web page for public viewing.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed, read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler. Mr. Butler asked if there were any plans for the municipal parking lot as he's been asked about it. Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence stated that this has come up before. That the Village owns just a small strip of this parking lot. She stated that the majority of the parking lot is owned by the area business owners whose businesses are abutting the parking lot. Trustee Komorowski states that she was part of a revitalization committee who had come up with a drawing to help revamp the parking lot, it was very nice. The plan was to obtain grant funds to continue with the project, however no grant was received. Mr. Butler informed the Village Board of Trustees that had spoken with representatives from Bainbridge and Cooperstown in regards to the solar radar speed signs in their communities. Each has informed Mr. Butler that they were able to get financial assistance from other organizations within their communities. Mr. Butler gave the paperwork that he obtained to the Village Board of Trustees for their review.
- Planning Board: Trustees Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held a short meeting where they are continuing to work on the write-up of the laws pertaining to fencing. He was hopeful that he would have a rough draft to present.
- Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence reminded everyone that the village is still looking for Zoning Board of Appeals Member if anyone is interested. They do not meet on a regular basis, it's as needed when an appeal is submitted for review.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date, remain the same.
- 4 Towns Forward: Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence asked Trustee Komorowski if she had anything to report. Trustee Komorowski expressed that the meetings are in the morning, it's difficult for her to get to them. Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence stated that she would reach out to Judy & John Hinman, perhaps they could supply the village with minutes or a report of the meetings.
- Trustee Komorowski informed everyone that there will be a free blood pressure screening on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 10:00 am to noon at the Hub, 146 Main Street, Afton, NY. The snow date for this screening will be Saturday, February 25, 2023. The Hub will continue to offer screens on a monthly basis.
- Code Officer, Jeff Butler stated that the Senior Ladies will be offering a narcan training on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 9:00 am to 11:30 am.
- Clerks Report: The Village Clerk /Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees, that the new truck has increased the insurance policy. The billing was received today, it will be presented in next month's bill pay. The insurance on the 2012 Ford – F250 was removed from the insurance policy.
- Historian Report: No report at time of meeting, was received after meeting. Report will be posted to the Village web page for viewing.
- Dog Control Officer: - No report.

- Afton Central School – No representative. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Lawrence asked visitor Brenda James if she would like to speak on behalf of the school. Mrs. James stated, no.

### **Old Business:**

- Bond Resolution on the prior bond resolution, authorizing the increase in the maximum estimate cost of the village sewer project (the project) to increase up to \$16,600,000.00. At this time it was decided that this resolution will be tabled until all Trustees are present.

### **New Business:**

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to accept email vote on 1/25/23, allowing Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence to sign a grant submittal on behalf of the Village of Afton, NY through Lamont Engineers, Brendon Becker. This grant is would allow for the village to obtain pit meters that would cover 75 % of the installation cost. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- Water billing discussions. Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence informed those in attendance that the Village Board of Trustees has already decided to increase the water rates by 10%, starting with the next billing cycle. Now the Board needs to look at what some of the services look like for residential, business and commercial. Trustee Humphrey has come up with some new rates for the village to look over pertaining to some area businesses that may have just 1 and up to 3 employee's verses businesses who may more than 3 employees. Some examples of these types of businesses that would fall under the 1 – 3 employee range are: The Book Store and Hickory & Doc. Others that may fall under the 3 or more would include: Horton Hardware and Rinker's Insurance. Trustee Komorowski stated that the Coffee Shop does not have a dish washer so they should fall under this category. Trustee Humphrey states no, they are serving food as well as coffee, their considered a restaurant. The discussion of the grant meters were talked about, if the village receives the grant funds for the meters they will be installed with 75 % of the cost by the grant. Visitor Elizabeth Briggs asked if the Village would be informing the public of the possible grant, it was stated that once the village is aware that they will be the recipient of the grant they will inform the residents. As this process could take up to two years, once the grant is awarded. There were many discussion among those in attendance about the water rate categories. Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence expressed that everyone's input is appreciated as they work on the updating and restructure of the water rates and categories.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey set a budget workshop date for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Jack D. Bolster Communities Center, 105 Main Street. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close # 1 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund – Account ending # 9191, current balance of \$ 5.77, which consist of interest. The balance remaining of \$5.77 to be transferred to # 2 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund- Account ending # 9248 for continuation of payment balance of the water tank capital reserves project. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$69,880.52, from# 2 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for payment of Invoice # 9 - to DN Tanks of New York, LLC for the Capital Reserves Water Storage Tank replacement, to the following: (9950.90 – Transfer to Capital Projects Funds – for \$69,880.52). Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$42,865.20, from# 2 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for payment of Invoice # 10 - to DN Tanks of New York, LLC for the Capital Reserves Water Storage Tank replacement, to the following: (9950.90 – Transfer to Capital Projects Funds – for \$42,865.20).Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence stated that she would be out of town from February 15th thru 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. She expressed that if there were any issues, that Trustee Humphrey should be the point of contacted while she's away.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

- Acting Mayor, Trustee Lawrence reminded everyone that the Village is continually looking for new Police Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals Members. We will be posting this information on our web page as well.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier  
Clerk / Treasurer