

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
February 10, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 10, 2025, 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, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Absent: Trustee L. Matthews and Code Enforcement Officer Butler and Officer.

Visitors: Dale Dewey, April Leggett, John & Judy Hinman, David Dodge, Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers and Christopher Kehoe.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, with the exception of voucher number # 210 payable to RailPros Field Services, Inc. in the amount of \$ 305.00. The village would like look into the refund that is expected from Norfolk Southern Railroad. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor motion passed.

General Fund Voucher's # 199 - 217, totaling \$10,231.49.

Water Fund Voucher's # 79 – 84, totaling \$2,360.16.

Christmas Fund Voucher's # 6, totaling \$100.00.

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

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the water meter at the well house needs replacing. He has already obtained one quote for replacement for around \$4,000.00 for the meter and another \$4,000.00 for the installation. Supervisor DeBetta stated that he will replace the meter himself. He is asking that the board make a motion to allow him to purchase a new water meter at no more than \$5,000.00.
- A motion was made by Trustee D. Lawrence to purchase a new water meter for the well house at a cost of no more than, \$5,000.00, with the funds for the purchase to be used from the General Savings Account # 2 – (A3042). Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed.

- Planning Board: Report distributed. Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that Mr. Ernest Cutting Jr. has resigned from the Planning Board, leaving the board with 3 vacant seats. She asked the board if they had considered allowing her to work with the Town /Village of Oxford, NY, with them redoing their laws and codes. There were many discussions on this, along with the possibility of what a shared service agreement would look like. Ms. Leggett was asked to reach out to Oxford to gather more details to see if indeed they are working on any updates or if they are even willing to work together before moving forward. The Village Board of Trustees again expressed that we need only focus on those codes that need changing currently.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date, remains the same.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- 4 Towns Forward: No information at this time, as the last meeting was canceled.
- Historian Report: Report distributed for January 2025.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed for January 2025.

Old Business:

- Visitor Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers gave an update on the waste water project. Mr. Becker indicated that Lamont Engineers has been working with the village on this project since 2011. Currently the village has been able to secure grant funds for 85% of the proposed project. Through the New York States Water Infrastructure Bank (EFC) the village can apply for low-cost financing and grants at 0% interest for 30 years to offset the cost of the balance on funds needed. There were many discussions as to the need for the waste water system for the many older failing systems that may or may not be kept up to date by property owners, as there has been testing that has found run off in catch basins. Mr. Becker stated that eventually the state will require a placement of a system, as time goes by the costs will continue to rise.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Mayor Dedman stated that the party's interested in purchasing both properties are seeking more information.
- Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has heard from Len Carson from DC Marketing. He is still waiting for the DOT permit, he is hopefully to hear back within the next few weeks. At that time he will then begin the design process.
- Trustee T. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has been in contact with a representative for the New York Power Authority in regard to the placement of 4 public electric car charging stations within the village. They are having some issues with the connection process for the electricity. The village may have to see if they can obtain an easement with either one or two property owners before moving forward.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$1,277.70 in general budget from contingency fund (A1999.40), for budget overages to the following:
 - A. Electricity for Buildings (A1620.42), for \$880.11.

- B. Police Uniforms (A3120.45), for \$155.59.
- C. Police Office Supplies (A3120.46), for \$69.34
- D. Electricity for Parks (A7110.42), for \$172.66.

Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$587.89 in the water budget from contingency fund (1990.40), for budget overages to the following:

- A. Electric (F8340.41), for \$587.89.

Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence set a budget workshop date for Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Jack D. Bolster Communities Center, 105 Main Street. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor David Dodge expressed his concerns over the proposed placement of a wastewater sewer system along with water meters within the village. He feels as though it's not necessary and too costly to maintain. Mr. Dodge was informed by Mr. Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers that there are grants available for homeowners who need assistance with the connection process to the wastewater sewer system.
- Visitors Christopher Kehoe expressed that he is all for the placement of a wastewater sewer system along with water meters for the village. He is aware of the costs to place a signal use septic system on one's property. Besides the fact that most local businesses do not have adequate room required for the placement of the leitchfield. Mr. Kehoe stated that he knows that he does not use the amount of water that he's being billed for. Therefore, meters will make water use fair for all, as you will only be billed for the water you consume, the same would be true for the wastewater sewer system.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 8:21 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.
- DPW Supervisor DeBetta, Officer in Charge Frank Ventura and Planning Board Chairperson, April Leggett were asked to stay for executive session. Ms. Leggett was asked to wait outside the Susquehanna Room until called.

At 8:35pm DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura left executive session.

At 8:40 pm April Leggett, Planning Board Chair, entered executive session.

At 8:55 pm April Leggett, Planning Board Chair, left executive session.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to exit executive session at 9:02 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:03 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer