

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
January 13, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Janice Nickerson. Mayor Nickerson introduced herself to everyone in attendance. She stated that the board would discuss all items on the agenda in order. After all business is handled then the board will address public comments.

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla, Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler and Officer Stanko.

Absent: Trustee Simonds and Officer in Charge Quanison Wright.

Visitors: Maryann Palmetier, Donald Ouimet, Charles Torres, Richard Cuthbertson, Lori Petzack, Timothy McNamara, Joyce Humphrey, John Lawrence, John & Judy Hinman and James Guerriere.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 208 - 238, Totaling \$12,896.66.
Water Fund Vouchers # 62 – 67, Totaling \$1,908.18.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections was made by Trustee Muller, seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Report Distributed.
- **Police Department.** Report and schedule were distributed. Trustee Lawrence introduced Mr. James Guerriere to all Village Board Members. She explained that Mr. Guerriere works at the School as the SRO, that he's also been hired by the Village as a Part Time Police Officer.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report read aloud by Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler. Mr. Butler made a suggestion to the Village Board of Trustees to consider placing a law in effect that would make those who have unregistered vehicles on their properties to be covered with a proper vehicle tarp.
- **Planning Board:** Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that yesterday was the last day that the property owner at 222 Main Street could file an appeal in the decision that was made to deny his variance request. Trustee Humphrey stated that no one can live in the recreational vehicle. But that it can be stored on the property. Trustee

Humphrey stated that we need to obtain a clearer definition of the property classification for vacant land. Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler stated that he had phoned the County. The County stated that they should speak with the Town Assessor Caitlyn Brown.

- Finance/Insurance: Up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Mayor Nickerson stated that the Christmas Committee sent the Board a Thank you for the purchase of the vests. The letter is available for anyone wishing to view it.
- Grant Committee: Trustee Muller stated that the Parks Committee should know this spring if they will receive the grant funds that they have submitted to place a sidewalk in Leggett Park.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Muller informed everyone that the Parks Committee will be hosting a Valentine Dinner Dance on Friday, February 14, 2020. Cash bar starts at 6 pm. A prime rib buffet dinner will be served starting at 7 pm., dancing to begin at 8 pm until midnight. The cost is \$40.00 per person, the Band Sundown will be the night's entertainment. Tickets can be purchased at The NBT bank of Afton, The River Club or by a Committee Member. All proceeds to benefit the Afton Community Parks Fund.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.

Old Business:

- An interview was conducted by the Village of Afton Police Committee with Mr. Kyle Hinman.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to hire Kyle Hinman as a part time Police Officer. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to sign the warrant for unpaid taxes before returning to the county for collections. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to approve Shirley Butler & Diane Whipple as election inspectors for the Village of Afton, Special Election on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to accept the resignation from Mr. Charles Torres as a Village of Afton Police Committee member as well as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Muller stated that the Village Board of Trustees were asked to inspect the Schools Bus Garage and consider a building swap for the Villages current Department of Public Works Building. Trustee Muller explained that the cost to the village to update the bus garage for their needs is too great.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to end further preliminary discussions regarding a potential exchange of buildings with the Afton Central School District, as not being in the best interests of the Village of Afton. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to send a letter to the School Board along with a copy of our minutes on the decision not to go forward with the building swap. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that she had received some information from Mr. John Lawrence pertaining to the rain event that took place in October 2019. She stated that Mr. Matthew Beckwith the Chenango County Director of Emergency Management, had indicated that he had secured funding assistance from FEMA. To be used towards what was called rain event to be used to restore the damages to “Pre Disaster Condition”. Trustee Lawrence asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla if the Village has any damages that would qualify for these services. Mr. Acla stated, no.
- Trustee Lawrence presented the Village Board of Trustees with grant information she received from Mrs. Judy Hinman. The grant is with the USDA Rural Development through Congressman Anthony Brindisi’s Office. She stated that there is a wide criteria of grants that may be helpful to the Village.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Richard Cuthbertson stated that last year the Zoning Board of Appeals needed to have a person to take notes for their meeting. He stated that Judy Hinman did the job very well. He asked if the Village Board would be willing to reimburse her for her time. Trustee Muller asked Mr. Cuthbertson if he had a time sheet available for the length of time Mrs. Hinman committed to. Mr. Cuthbertson stated that he’d drop it off at the Village Office.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked if there was any news on the water grant application. Ms. Petzack was informed that there steps that are required to be taken and we have to wait for the next steps.
- Visitor Charles Torres Thanked the Village Board of Trustees for allowing him to serve his community. He then stated that as a private citizen, he’s requesting that the Village allow for him to continue with his prior FOIL request that has not been fulfilled. He asked if he could come into the Village Office with his own copy machine to scan the foiled documents that were requested. Mayor Nickerson informed Mr. Torres that he could.

- Visitor Joyce Humphrey along with Judy & John Hinman informed the Village Board of Trustees stated that they are the Organization HALos. HALos is a grief recovery center to help assist children and family that my experience loss or crisis. Together they have purchased the Great American Building. Mrs. Humphrey stated that they are in the process of applying for grant funding to assist with the renovation process. Mrs. Humphrey asked if the Village would be willing to write a letter of support for them to submit with the grant writing process. Trustee Muller asked if they had any printed material on their organization. Mayor Nickerson asked that they come into the office with their printed material she stated that she didn't see why the Village could not write a letter of support. But that the Village would need to know who they are and what they represent.
- Visitor Richard Cuthbertson asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla if High Street would be on his list to repave this spring. Mr. Acla stated that it is his goal.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to enter into executive session at 7:25 pm, to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee Lawrence to leave executive session at 8:20 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:25 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer