

**Village of Afton**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY**  
**January 13, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held January 13, 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, Trustee L. Matthews, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta, Code Enforcement Officer Butler and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

**Visitors:** Dale Dewey, Christina Arnold, Andrew Baugle, David Dodge, Becky Komorowski, Joyce Humphrey, Anthony Kilgallon, Gail Goldsten, Kenneth Vail Jr., Darren Schultes, Kyle Roe, April Leggett, David Adams and James Parkinson.

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

**General Fund Voucher's # 171 - 198, totaling \$21,467.90.**

**Water Fund Voucher's # 70 – 78, totaling \$3,817.35.**

**Christmas Fund Voucher's # 5, totaling \$134.86.**

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

**Monthly Report:**

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta.
- Police Department. Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed, read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler.
- Planning Board: Report distributed for January 6 , 2025. Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that Mr. Bruce Bosket has decided to resign from the Planning Board after 15 years of service, leaving the board with 2 vacant seats. She informed the board that the Town /Village of Oxford, NY will be redoing their laws and codes. When the Planning Board was writing the fencing code, we used 90% of their wording, as our own. Ms. Leggett would like permission from the Village Board of Trustees to work together with Oxford to redo the code book for the village of Afton, NY, by splitting the cost with them. There were many discussions as to what the village code book consists of and what the priorities are in updating at this time. The Village Board of Trustees feels as though the laws and codes that need changing currently to date are what need to be focused on, not the code book in its entirety. As far as a shared payment arrangement with Oxford for attorney fees this is something that would need to be looked into.

- Finance/Insurance: Up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Darren Schultes stated that they had their post parade meeting last week. The treasurer, Amy Schoelier informed the Christmas Parade Committee that they have just over \$2,000.00 to start with when they begin to plan of the 2025 Christmas Parade. They discussed scaling back a bit on the activities for the day, perhaps starting at 2:00 pm, instead of earlier in the morning. All the vendors that took part did well with sales. They are going to looking at the possibility of the use of another building for the meet and greet with Santa after the parade. As the bank is not big enough to accommodate the crowd that they receive. Visitor Becky Komorowski offered if necessary for next year, the HUB building for the meeting and greet with Santa. Next year they are going to try to get smaller Christmas Trees for placement within the village, as this year's trees were just too big for the tree stands and continually fell over. They will continue with the pre-parade activities, as they received positive feedback.
- 4 Towns Forward: No information at this time.
- Historian Report: Report distributed for December 2024 and for the NYS year end.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed for December 2024. Along with a letter from the SPCA in regard to the unhousing of any dogs that come from Afton, NY.

**Old Business:**

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Mayor Dedman stated that a preliminary offer has been made to the party's interested in purchasing both properties, talks are still in process.
- Norfolk Southern Corporation Letter. – A letter has been received informing the village that going forward they will be having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party handling their lease properties.
- Len Carson from DC Marketing. – Trustee D. Lawrence asked Planning Board Chairperson, April Leggett if she has spoken with Mr. Carson. As she herself has emailed him, and has not heard back. Ms. Leggett stated that she has given Mr. Carson all contact information for the Village Board. Visitor Dale Dewey stated that he has spoken with Mr. Carson, he is waiting on the DOT permit.

**New Business:**

- A motion was made by Trustee Humphrey to adopt Resolution # 1 of 2025, for Meter Installation Bids. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Resolution No.1 of 2025  
Meter Installation Bid Resolution

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton has secured the SRBC grant for the installation of water meters in the Village, and;

WHEREAS, the Village has secured Lamont Engineers to develop bidding specifications for the installation of the

water meters;

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED by the village board of trustees of the Village of Afton authorizes the solicitation of bids for Contract 1 – Installation of Water Meters.

By (unanimous/majority) vote of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton at its meeting of January 13, 2025.

- Teamsters Contract Discussion. – Mayor Dedman read the letter received from the Teamsters regarding the renewal for the DPW Department to the village board of Trustees. A meeting will need to be setup for further discussions.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to move \$70.36 in general budget from General Contractual Expense (A1620.40) to Supplies/Equipment (A1620.44), for budget overages. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to sign the affidavit of returned unpaid 2024 village taxes to Chenango County to be relieved. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Recognition of Visitors:**

- Visitor's David Dodge, Andrew Baugrle, Kenneth Vail Jr and David Adams all expressed their concerns over the proposed placement of a wastewater sewer system along with water meters within the village. They feel as though it's not necessary and too costly to maintain. A statement was made that this discussion was placed on Facebook, but it's not on the village's agenda. The village does not maintain a Facebook page. The topic of discussion for a wastewater sewer system for the village was not placed on the night's agenda, as this has been an ongoing project since 2019. The village has passed bonding resolutions for this proposed project on September 9, 2019, October 11, 2021, and March 7, 2023, to help with the offset of cost for this project, along with the grant funds that have been awarded to the village. Most recently the village updated their bonding resolution at their November 11, 2024, board meeting. Once the notice of the bonding resolution had reached its 30 days, there had been no petition for referendum made by any village resident. There were discussions about the different zones that the village intends on placing the lines for a wastewater sewer system within the village. As well as at some point the State will eventually make the village place a system for wastewater sewer. As far as the water meter placement this will make billing of usage fair for each residential and commercial location.
- Visitors Kyle Roe, James Parkinson and Anthony Kilgallon all of whom are members of the Afton Fire District expressed their concerns of un-operational fire hydrants within the village. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that there are only 2 fire hydrants that do not currently work within the village. One of which was just recently broke by the Afton Fire District. Mr. DeBetta stated that there is only so much funds available each year for replacement. As of last year, the DPW Crew replaced 3 fire hydrants. The Fire Department Members indicated that due to the sizing of the lines within the fire hydrants they are unable to run certain equipment as there is not enough room for the pressure for the water to draw out of the hydrant. DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed everyone in attendance that the fire hydrants are tested year, and no problems are noted currently.
- Visitor Kenneth Vail Jr. expressed his dissatisfaction over a variance for chickens that he filed over a year ago. Mr. Vail was informed by the Village Trustees that they are aware and understand his frustration, as they too are frustrated that no one wants to step up to become a Zoning Board of Appeals Member to move forward. They have continually posted that the village needs of Planning Board

Members and Zoning Board of Appeals Members. After much discussion on the lack of members, visitor Rebecca Komorowski agreed to become a Zoning Board of Appeals Member.

- A motion was made by Trustee D. Lawrence to appoint Rebecca Komorowski as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 8:40 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 L. Matthews. All in Favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to exit executive session at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee T. Lawrence suggested that all department heads, which includes, DPW Supervisor DeBetta, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, Code Enforcement Officer Butler, Officer in Charge Frank Ventura and Planning Board Chairperson, April Leggett meet with the Mayor and a Committee Member every 6 months for discussions or grievances.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:18 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,  
Clerk / Treasurer