

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
July 15, 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 15, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Girard Matthews. Mayor Matthews thanked everyone in attendance for coming.

Present: Trustee Matthews, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla, Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler and Officer in Charge Q. Wright.

Visitors: Charles Torres, Kathy & Ken Ryan, Richard Cuthbertson, John Lawrence, Nancy Harris, Joyce Humphrey, Shirley Butler, Brendon Becker, Jon Matthews, Linda Matthews, Lila Harris, Judy & John Hinman.

- A motion was made by Trustee Muller authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed. **General Fund Vouchers # 30 - 56, Totaling \$31,022.62.**
Water Fund Vouchers # 10 – 20, Totaling \$9,006.66.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with one corrections. The check to be written to Koch's Auto LLC was listed as \$270.00, tax was added to this billing. The check was written for the correct amount of \$250.00 a tax exempt certificate was sent to Koch's Auto LLC. The total balance pay out for the month of June 2019 was \$26,555.59. Made by Trustee Muller, seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7:26 pm for the purpose of the Consolidated Funds Application, (CFA) for the Office of Community Renewal, to submit for funding from the (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant Program Funds.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Report Distributed. Mr. Acla gave a verbal account of his written report. DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla answered several questions made by village residents in attendance. The question as to when East Main Street will be paved was asked. Mr. Acla stated that they will be paving as of tomorrow. Visitor Mr. Cuthbertson asked when High Street will be finished, He pointed out to Mr. Acla that they were there the first week of July to cole patch. They had run out of material and have not been back since. Mr. Acla stated that the company in Norwich, where they receive their cold patch product from has shut down. It was asked if product could be bought elsewhere. Mr. Cuthbertson stated that no trimming along the streets are taking place. That in past the Village men have trimmed the growth along the streetway. Mr. Cuthbertson state that he had taken the liberty to finish

the opposite side of the roadway that was left unfinished. Mr. Cuthbertson stated that there is a catch basin on the west side of high street that typically is cleaned out by the DPW crew as well, this too has not been done. Due to this all the run off silt has settled in the bottom of his pond killing his fish. Visitor Charles Torres asked what the paving process would consist of. Mr. Acla stated that the Suit Kote would mix the cold patch, shun the areas where there are pot holes and level out the low spots. Visitor Kenneth Ryan stated that the roadway is already crowned. Visitor Kathy Ryan asked as to when they were expected to be done, as she needs to be able to get out of her driveway by 3 pm. Mr. Acla stated that she should be able to get out at that time. Mrs. Ryan asked if the expected rain would have an effect on the progress of the paving. Mr. Acla stated no that just as soon as they start mixing it will be laid down.

- Police Department. Report Distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Jeffrey Butler congratulated Robert Humphrey Jr. on his new appointment as Trustees. Mr. Butler gave a verbal report. He stated that he and the Planning Board along with the Village Attorney met with the owner of the property located at 222 Main Street. He stated that he'd let Trustee Humphrey explain the details of that meeting. He had a list of a total of 8 street lights that are out throughout the Village, all but one light has been fixed by NYSEG. Notices were handed out to a few people for unregistered vehicles. He has a few complaints about grass over growth along sidewalks on the Main Street. Mr. Butler asked Mr. Acla about keeping these properties trimmed back along the sidewalk. Mr. Acla stated that they would try to mow these areas at least 2 times a month. Mr. Butler stated that a home owner was digging up his foundation to place a french drain in. He's not sure if this action requires a permit. He has alerted County Code Officer Steve Fox. He has also spoken with Mr. Fox about the property on Spring Street. Mr. Fox has states that this home has good structure.
- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Panning Board met with the property owner at 222 Main Street. The Village Attorney was also present to assist with the explanation of the requirements of the dwelling manufactured homes law. Trustee Humphrey states that the property owner must apply of a variance to be granted permission to allow for the current camping trailer to be present on the property. He stated that there are a number of requirements needing to be met before presented to the Village Board of Appeals. Visitor Charles Torres asked if there would be a public hearing on this discussion when the time comes. It was stated that yes the public will be made aware once the criteria is met.
- Finance/Insurance: New Policy and billing just received.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- Grant Committee: Trustee Muller stated that the Parks Community is working on a grant. With placement of the new playground equipment it is required by the disability law that a sidewalk be put into place. Since there is a blacktopped basketball court in place the sidewalk should be run from the basketball court to the playground equipment making is assessable to all.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds informed those in attendance that the Parks Committee will be holding a yard sale on August 24th during the Sidewalk Day Sale. If anyone has any items that they wish to donate, she can pick them up. Also the Parks Committee will be

hosting a Halloween Party on October 26th and the 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Dance on February 14th. Both events will take place at the River Club, more information will follow as we approach these dates.

- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No report distributed.

Old Business:

- Trustee Lawrence presented the Village Board of Trustees with her rough draft of the lawn debris and brush pickup. She stated that she reached out to 5 different surrounding communities to see what protocols they use. She asked that the DPW stray away from leaving notices on door steps. Mayor Matthews stated that he feels as though we should discontinue from use of plastic bags. Mayor Matthews states that he had the opportunity to take a ride throughout the Village with Andrew to see the amount of piles that had accumulated over the 2 day weekend. Visitor Linda Matthews asked if there it feasible to come up with a dumping location where residents can dispose of their yard waste. Visitor Charles Torres expressed that this idea would not be a good thing if left unsupervised, as this would only encourage unauthorized and possible toxic dumping. He stated that you'd be surprised to see what people dump into the DPW scrap metal dumpster. Visitor John Lawrence stated that he could speak with the Town to see if they could assist with the wood waste disposal to be dumped in a central area for future disposal. Mrs. Matthews suggested that perhaps the Village should consider putting out some type of an information flyer to residents, just like Bainbridge does. It's full of useful information as to when & where & what is taking place throughout the community for the entire year. It was suggested that June White be the person to contact for more information. Visitor Nancy Harris stated that the DPW used to chip the wood waste, then place it across from the fairgrounds for residents to use as free mulch.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to audit the Clerk / Treasurers fiscal year 2018 / 2019 records. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

New Business:

- Mayor Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that there has been an accidental falling on a sidewalk in front of the house above the Methodist Church. The Villages Insurance Company has been made aware of the incident.
- Visitor The Mr. Brenden Becker, an Engineer with Lamont Engineers, P.C. Discussed possible grant funding that may be available to the Village. Mr. Becker explained that there are now more funding opportunities and options that would be beneficially for the village. Mr. Becker stated that he was aware that the Village was considering a location of a possible brown field for possible water sewer plant. Trustee Muller stated that her concern with that would be the tax burden that a project like that may place on the residents. Trustee Muller stated that yes this would be very beneficial for our business district. But that she feels

strongly that it should up to the village residents if a septic system would be a need for them. There were many discussions and concerns made by those in attendance as to the need and cost that would be inflicted if a sewer system was to be placed in the village on its residents. Visitor Charles Torres expressed his concern about the cost to connect to the lines would be that of the responsibility to the home owner. Many felt that most cannot afford the entire expense of replacing and rerouting all the plumbing in their homes to connect to the system. Mr. Becker stated that were individual grants available to the public to assist with the financial hardship. Visitor Lila Harris asked if the village decides to move forward with a septic system how long before a resident would be required to hook in the system, it would be a 5 year period. Ms. Harris asked if there would be vote for the Village residents to see if this is something they are wanting. Trustee Muller explained that the village can apply for the grant funding but they don't have to accept the funds if the village residents are not on board with this decision. Trustee Muller stated that if the village should be granted both funding opportunities the decision to move forward will need to be made. Trustee Muller asked what the cost would be to the village to move forward with the grant submittal. Mr. Becker stated that it should be between \$2,000.00 to 2,500.00 to finish the paperwork for the submission process. Mr. Becker explained that 8 years ago the village applied for the same type of grant funding at that time they was an estimated cost of 10 million with the awarded amount of 2 million, Currently the award amounts are 10 to 20 million, the Village of Afton is a perfect candidate for this grant. Trustee Muller stated that we want to continue to move forward on our goals for the water system. Mr. Torres asked if most of our septic system are ok, why fix it. Mr. Cuthbertson stated that there are leak fields that run off into the Susquehanna River. Mayor Matthews stated that there are systems in the Village that we know are failing. Mr. Becker stated that in the original report there is documentation of systems failure by the County Health Department. Trustee Muller stated that our business district is in dire need of help for their sewer concerns. Mr. Lawrence stated that the Chesapeake Bay Coalition are changing requirements for pollutions. The Susquehanna is a major contributor. Eventually it will be a requirement that all municipalities put into place a sewer plant.

- A motion was made Trustee Simonds to allow Lamont Engineers, P. C. to update the current standard grant application for the Village of Afton with a cap of no more than \$2,500.00. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor motion passed.
- A motion was made at 8:12 pm to close the Public Hearing for the purpose of the Consolidated Funds Application, (CFA) for the Office of Community Renewal, to submit for funding from the (CDBG) Community Development Block Grant Program Funds. Made by Trustee Simonds. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- The Village of Afton received an email notation for Melisa Matthews in regards to the small Business Saturday that the Greater Afton Area Chamber of Commerce plans on hosting. Trustee Muller explained to Mrs. Hinman that this letter was just informational. If the Chamber plans on hosting this event that there must be a letter submitted to the Village Board of Trustees for a permit fee waivers as well a date as when the event will take place.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to remove the previous Mayor from all the Village Bank Accounts and add the newly appointed Mayor, Girard Matthews. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Lila Harris asked about the playground equipment for Leggett Park. She stated that it's her understanding that the Village Parks Community has purchased this equipment over 2 years ago. Why has it not been installed. She stated that she runs a daycare center. She could be taking her children to this park, but instead she's driving to Bainbridge or Sidney to use their facilities. DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla stated that they don't have the manpower for the required installation. Ms. Harris asked if there was a plan or a layout as to where the equipment is to be placed. That perhaps we could get locals to help by volunteering their time to help with the placement. Trustee Lawrence asked if this would pose a liability issue for the Village to allow for the general public to help with the installation of the equipment. Mr. Acla stated that to start the process that 16 footers need to be put into place first. It was asked that he start his process as so that the equipment can be put into place by next month. .
- Mayor Matthews introduced the new owners of the old Great American Store. Visitor Joyce Humphrey along with Judy & John Hinman stated that they have pulled together to create as space for the Organization HALos. HALos is a grief recovery center to help assist children and family that my experience loss or crisis. Mrs. Humphrey handed out an informational flyer to all board members. She stated that they currently have an interest for a small discount grocery store. They plan on creating space available for other small businesses.
- Visitor Kathy Ryan asked about the speed limits at the end of East Main Street. Her concern is that almost all traffic speeds though this area. Visitor John Lawrence stated that there is a radar sign that is solar operated that could be placed in that location to try and slow people down. If you're going the correct speed the sign with flash green if not then is will flash red, these signs are costly. He stated that the Town has placed one up by Afton Lake Road.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Officer in Charge Q. Wright if he had anything to add to his monthly report. Officer Wright stated that he's been writing speeding tickets.
- Visitor John Lawrence stated in closing that this current Board of Trustees has been much more responsive and respectful than past administration, those in attendance agreed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 9:00 pm, as requested by Trustee Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to exit executive session at 10:15 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to adjourn regular meeting at 10:20 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
 Ann Palmatier
 Clerk / Treasurer

