

**Village of Afton**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY**  
**July 10, 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 10, 2023 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 Winans, Trustee T. Lawrence, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

**Absent:** Officer in Charge Stanko.

**Visitors:** Linda Matthews, Donald Ouimet, Maryann Palmetier, John Lawrence, Jerry & Nancy Harris, Joyce Humphrey and Brendon Becker. Lamont Engineers.

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

**General Fund Voucher's # 31 - 50, totaling \$8,747.44.**

**Water Fund Voucher's # 12 – 17, totaling \$1,211.85.**

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

**Monthly Report:**

- **DPW/ Water:** DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the new mower has been delivered. The crew has been continually working on updating sidewalks on Spring Street. A fire hydrant was replaced on Spring Street. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that he was contacted by the Afton School Athletic Director. The school would like to have the village supply water to the school fields on Caswell Street. DPW DeBetta was not sure how the school was planning on watering the fields, either by a sprinkling system or by a water tank placement. The tank placement would require that it be filled at the well house as to not cause a disruptions to the area resident's water supply. There was also the discussion of what the fees for the use of water would be. It was decided that more information would be needed at this time, as there has been a number of rain storms in our area, therefore they may not need the water at this time. Trustee T. Lawrence asked DPW DeBetta to check with other communities to see what their rate is per gallon on water.
- **Police Department.** No report.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed, read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler. Mr. Butler informed the Village Board of Trustees that he had used the door tags that he received from the Code

Enforcement Officer in Sidney for a violations. He stated that in doing so, he was able to get results. The Village Board of Trustees agreed to order door tags for code violations for the Village of Afton.

- Planning Board: Trustees Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board did not have much for discussion this month. They did have discussions with the Village Code Enforcement Officer, Jeffrey Butler about the many residents leaving unwanted furniture out in front of their houses, along the curb.
- Finance/Insurance: Remains the same.
- 4 Towns Forward: Mayor Dedman informed the Village Board of Trustees that he had attended his first 4 Towns Forward meeting last month. Their meeting are held on the last Tuesday of the month at Bob's Diner in Bainbridge, NY. At the meeting Mayor Dedman was asked to help out at the music festival that was being held at the Great Sidney Airport to benefit all 4 communities. He stated that it was a successful event that there were a lot of people in attendance. Trustee T. Lawrence stated that since this was an event that was for all 4 communities that it would be appreciated if Judy could please inform every one of any volunteer services needed as so everyone is aware.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.

Mayor Dedman read aloud the resignation letter of Kathy Ouimet the Town / Village Historian.

A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to accept the resignation of Kathy Ouimet as the Town / Village Historian effective August 1, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

There were discussions as to who may be a good candidate to replace Mrs. Ouimet.

- Dog Control Officer: - No report.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

#### **Old Business:**

- Discussion of meeting procedures has been on going. Trustee D. Lawrence handed out information pertaining to the Roberts Rules of Order for the Village Board of Trustees to review to come up with some guidelines for the village to move forward.
- Discussion of election poll watchers has been on ongoing. There were discussions that no candidate can attend the closing polls of an election, However, they can appointment 3 people to attend to represent them. In doing so there is a process that all must comply with, there must be a signed form filled out stating as such to be received at the clerk's office beforehand. There will be no disruptions, no having phones in hand during the process and no walking in and out of the polling place. Those who have been chosen to represent a candidate for an office must be respectful and obey the rules that will be set forth. It was decided that this information will be posted at the time a village election information is made public.
- Discussion of Norfolk Southern Corporation Lease Agreement, is ongoing as communications continue.
- Discussion of proposed fence code, has been sent to the attorney for review before moving forward.

## **New Business:**

- Visitor Brendon Becker with Lamont Engineers gave the Village Board of Trustees an update on the current grants available for resubmission. He explained that since the last round of grant proposals were submitted the village has since mapped out the entire village along with performing an inventory on the water lines throughout the village. He stated that the water project grants available were a very competitive round, there were other water municipal districts that were applying who had contamination issues where the Village of Afton was just looking at updating their current system. He expressed that the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) Grant can award up to 60% of the net eligible project costs. Last year the village had updated their bonding resolutions to move forward with the grant application for this next round of grant funding opportunities. Mr. Becker said that last year the village applied for a grant through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, they were awarded a grantee of \$400,000.00 to move forward with a water meter project. Mr. Becker asked the Village Board of Trustees if at this time they would rather scope back on the proposed project of placement of water meters throughout the village and just concentrate on the business district for placement on commercial buildings. The Village Board of Trustees agreed that they would like to move forward with the water metered placement within the business district.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to allow Mayor Dedman to sign the Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant Program for placement of water meters with the business district of the Village of Afton. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to resubmit for the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) Grant. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Brendon Becker with Lamont Engineers informed the Village Board of Trustees, that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will be opening back up for resubmission for block grants to help with revitalization projects within the community. If the village chooses to resubmit a public hearing will need to be held.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment on the Village of Afton community developments needs to be held on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Jack D. Bolster Community center, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to accept the audit of the Clerk / Treasurers fiscal year 2022 /2023. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the village office on Thursday, August 10, 2023. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee D. Lawrence expressed her gratitude towards those who help make our small town fair a success. We are one of the few small towns who have continued to host our fair for over 134 years.
- Trustee D. Lawrence informed that Village Board of Trustees that she has been discussion with DPW, DeBetta about the possible closing of the roadway on Spring Street and Pleasant Ave. during the Arts &

Crafts Festival in August. At this time were not sure if it will be possible, due to the bigger trucks coming through the area.

- Trustee T. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that he attended a Cemetery Association meeting to discuss with the possible placement of a 275 gallon tank that could be used to hold water for the purpose of watering the plant vegetation. Trustee T. Lawrence expressed that the Cemetery Association seemed to lean more towards having a water line placed, to be ran from Park Ave, up to the cemetery with a curb box placement. Trustee T. Lawrence expressed that they were unsure of the spring loaded tank placement, as he thought that perhaps they did not understand how it would work, as there seemed to be concern over vandalism of a tank placement. There were many discussion among the village board about the possibility of running a new water line from Park Ave that included whether there would be any water pressure as well as the cost to run the line.

### **Recognition of Visitors:**

- Visitor John Lawrence expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that they could contact he County Board of Elections for information on the poll watchers. It was expressed to Mr. Lawrence that the County Board of Elections is not accommodating as the village runs their own elections.
- Visitor Linda Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that she and Mr. Gerry Matthews can supply the village board with information from the County regarding poll watchers, as they have the up to date information.
- Trustee D. Lawrence expressed that the village is still look for members for the Zone Board of Appeals. She asked visitor Jerry Harris if he'd be interested in the position. Mr. Harris expressed that he does go to Florida, during the winter months. Mr. Harris was informed that the committee meets only when there is a variance request, which is not very often. Mr. Harris agreed to become a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to appoint Mr. Jerry Harris as a Zone Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Jerry Harris expressed his concern over the eroding boat ramp access, he feels as though the village should place a new ramp at the property located across from the fairgrounds. There were many discussion with those in attendance on the proposed placement and the process to have the boat ramp relocated. Trustee T. Lawrence expressed to Mr. Harris that he'd need to get in writing from DEC and the Army Corps of Engineers the outline of their approved, proposed plan to even consider moving forward. Trustee Humphrey stated that he'd talk to Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers to see if he had any suggestions.
- Visitor John Lawrence expressed that the DPW has been doing such a nice job on the sidewalks.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into executive session at 8:15 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. As well as the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities or sale or exchange or securities held by the public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to exit executive session at 8:55 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:56 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier  
Clerk / Treasurer