

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
July 8, 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 8, 2024, 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 and DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Absent: Code Enforcement Officer Butler.

Visitors: Patricia Wenner, Benjamin Watson, Amy & Samantha Schoelier, April Leggett and Darren Schultes.

- 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 # 22 - 42, totaling \$19,403.95.

Water Fund Voucher's # 9 – 17, totaling \$2,621.34.

- 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:** Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. Supervisor DeBetta supplied the Village Board of Trustees with a quote on a 2024 Dodge Ram 2500 Crew Cab as requested. There were discussions among the Village Board of Trustees to place the 2018 White Ram Dump 350 on the Auction International Web Site for sale.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to allow for DPW Supervisor DeBetta to place the 2018 White Ram Dump 350 on the Auction International Web Site for sale for a maxim of 30 days, with the sale of the 2018 White Ram Dump 350 pending Village Board approval. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge, Ventura. Trustee T. Lawrence asked Mr. Ventura what can be done to get our officers to work. Mr. Ventura stated that the bottom line is that there needs to be a sustainable pay. The Village Board of Trustees stated that further discussions would need to take place.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed.

- Planning Board: Planning Board Member, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board has held their Organizational Meeting. In which they have elected her as the Chairperson. The planning board received the 239 plan results for the Chenango County Planning Board, in regard to the proposed electric vehicle charging station. If this proposal were to move forward, the New York Power Authority would be required to apply for a PERM 32, permit for utility connections within the State right-of-way. Ms. Leggett stated that the planning board is in favor of this proposal. Ms. Leggett asked if the Planning Board Members could get 5 copies of the following: The Local Law # 1 of 2018, the chicken law and the fence law for their records. Ms. Leggett stated that the variance request that was received a while ago needs to be handled by the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Village Board of Trustees informed Ms. Leggett that it's taken awhile due to the lack of members needed to hold a meeting. Ms. Leggett asked the Village Board of Trustees if it were possible for her to place information on social media to recruit new planning board members. The Village Board of Trustees informed Ms. Leggett that she is the Chairperson, which it would be up to her control what is placed in the public. Ms. Leggett asked if the planning board members needed could be placed on the village web page. Trustee D. Lawrence expressed to Planning Board Chairperson, April Leggett that the Village Board of Trustees would like to see the laws and code for the village to be brought up to date. Ms. Leggett stated that she too would like to see this done as well. However, it will be a lengthy process that will need to be done in sections. Ms. Leggett indicated that she'd like to start a new book, however the first decisions needed would be to decide what you want or need in the booklet. Ms. Leggett states that anything any one of the village board members can come up with would be helpful.
- Finance/Insurance: The Clerk/ Treasurer informed the Village Board of Trustees that the New York State Comptrollers Audit for the 2023/2024 fiscal year is still in process and will be submitted by the end of the month.
- 4 Towns Forward: Officer in Charge Frank Ventura informed the Village Board of Trustees that he had attended the last 4 Towns Forward meeting. The topic of discussion were of affordable housing and the homelessness.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

- Railroad discussion. – Remains the same.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Trustee T. Lawrence has spoken with an interested person wanting to purchase both the lots that the yellow houses sit on, with the intent to take them down and place a home back on the two sites.
- Water Meter Project Progress. – No updated information remains the same.
- Proposed boat ramp discussion. – Planning Board Member April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has reached out to the person who helped the village with a feasibility study for waterfront revitalization to see if there are any grants available. Trustees D. Lawrence and Trustee

Humphrey informed Ms. Leggett there needs to be a grant avail or obtained just to do the mussel survey, as it's a costly process.

- Discussion on ATV and UTV and Golf Carts. – Mayor Dedman stated that there seems to be a lot of golf carts, side by sides and 4 wheelers in use on village roadways. Mayor Dedman obtained a copy of the City of Binghamton's codes on this subject matter for the village board to review. Mayor Dedman stated that he would gather more information from, other surrounding areas for review.
- Discussion on Public Eclectic Car Charging Stations. - Visitor Benjamin Watson handed out information on the proposal to the Village Board of Trustees for their review. Trustee T. Lawrence asked about the construction portion of the electric. Mr. Watson stated that they dig a trench and go underground, they then pave it over. Trustee Humphrey asked what the annual maintenance fee would consist of on behalf of the village. Mr. Watson stated that a base line fee starts at \$6,000.000 annually. There were many discussions among the Village Board of Trustees on this proposal, which included the location as well as the amount of space needed for the units, along with the terms of the lease. Mr. Watson indicated that they would require a signed contract before moving forward. That the entire project would take at least a year to a year and a half to complete. Trustee T. Lawrence stated that the primary cost to the village would be to insurance, as the village would be required per the contract to have the units insured.
- Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has spoken with the Town Assessor on the 2 yellow houses.
- Trustee D. Lawrence asked DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura if either one of them know if a stop sign could be placed by the school on the intersection of Academy Street. As there is concern that perhaps a 3 way stop sign should be placed. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that a traffic study would need to be done first.

New Business:

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to appoint Linda Matthews as a Village Trustee to fill the remainder of the vacant seat. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to accept the audit of the Clerk/ Treasurers fiscal year 2023/2024. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to allow the Clerk/Treasurer to create a tax-exempt Amazon business account for the village to order supplies as needed. Seconded by Trustees D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Patricia Wenner asked if something could be done about the sidewalk in front of the Presbyterian Church, as it may be a trip hazard for some of the members. DPW Supervisor DeBetta will look at the sidewalk in question. Mrs. Wenner also inquired about the flags that had been displayed in recent years. Mrs. Wenner was informed that the flag is not of good quality, as most of the flags have been destroyed or blown away by wind. The DPW Supervisor DeBetta had placed 3 of the flags that were still useable within the circle of State Route 7 and Rt. 41.

- Visitor Darren Schultes discussed with the Village Board of Trustees that he is willing to plan this year's Christmas Parade. However, in years past the Christmas Parade has been umbrella under the village. Mr. Schultes stated that he'd like this to be the case, to bring it back to basics. He also with visitors Amy & Samantha Schoelier have a lot of great ideas. They would like to make the parade centered on a theme and involve the business owners to participate.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into executive session at 9:17 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 Humphrey. All in Favor, motion passed. Office in Charge Ventura was asked to stay for the executive session.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to exit executive session at 10:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to increase the hourly wage for the part time Police Officers to \$25.00 hourly, with each Officer expected to work no more than 18 hours in a pay period. Seconded by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 10:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer