

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
July 14, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 14, 2025, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm, by Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence, who welcomed everyone.

Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that Mayor Dedman and Trustee L. Matthews had other obligations tonight and that DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura would not be here.

Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated, “We are short two board members tonight”. “However, we do have a quorum”. We will be recording votes made tonight individually.

Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated the meeting with the reading of the Guidelines for Public Comments for the Village of Afton, NY. She reminded everyone that these guidelines are next to the agenda for anyone to view.

Guidelines for Public Comments for the Village of Afton, NY

Public Comment is an opportunity for the Village Board to hear public opinion. Prior notice or request to, or approval from the village in order to speak is not required. The public shall be allowed to speak only once during the Public Comment period of the meeting or at such other time as the presiding officer shall allow. Public comment shall be listed on the agenda immediately prior to adjournment. During each public comment session, everyone who wishes to speak shall be allowed to speak. Each individual wishing to make a public comment shall have a total of three minutes to present their comments. Speakers must state their name and address before they speak. Speakers must address their comments and or questions to the full board and not to any individual person or Board Member. Board members may not interrupt a speaker except for clarification or informational reasons and any time used for those purposes shall not be counted as part of the speaker’s time. When the three minutes has elapsed, the meeting chair will ask that the comment be concluded. Board members may, but are not required to, make comment(s), answer a question(s) and/ or ask the speaker a question(s). Any additional written correspondence or letters may be submitted to the Village Clerk for distribution to the Village board of Trustees. Speakers must observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity and good taste.

These are the set guidelines for Public Comments adopted by the Village Board of Trustees on October 9, 2023.

Present: Trustee D. Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence and Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier.

Absent: Mayor Dedman, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Visitors: Donald Ouimet, Ina Marvin, Jim Parkinson, Patricia Wenner, April Leggett, Mayann Palmetier, Jason Wicks, Becky Komorowski, Brenda Philpott, Harold Wicks, Sonny Burnell, Joe Rico, Addam Cangha , Marge Petrie, Joyce Humphrey, Karen Terpstra, Diane Miller and Tammy Stevens.

- Motion authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers.
General Fund Vouchers # 23 - 46, Totaling \$65,668.19.
Water Fund Vouchers # 11 – 20, Totaling \$169,263.41.

Motion as Follows:

Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee Humphrey – Aye

All in favor, motion passed.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections.

Motion as Follows:

Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee Humphrey – Aye

All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed.
- Police Department. Report distributed.
- Code Enforcement: No report as there is a vacancy. Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that the village is looking to fill the position, if anyone who lives within the village, may be interested.
- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees with a number discussions:

✓ Mr. Wicks missing the window of signing the Oath of Office Book for the Planning Board Appointment.

✓ The LED gateway sign, DOT has changed the rules on placement allowances. She has spoken with June White about placement at Burnett Park as well as a representative for Forster Park; neither are interested in having the sign placed.

✓ Afton Town Medical Building, Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS) has pasted on the possibility of placing a practice at this location. She spoke with John Lawrence, the Town Supervisor; they will be speaking with a realtor for listing the property.

- ✓ She spoke of a program implemented by the Town of Guilford, called stick and carrot. They are helping to clean up and restore homes that need upkeep to help the community be more appealing. She stated that your home is your biggest investment. There are 16 homes within our community, which could benefit with a program like this.
- ✓ She attended a Commerce Luncheon, she feels as though their program is good for residents and businesses.
- ✓ The Planning Board discussed the increased permits for the fairgrounds, when other companies are not paying. It is a burden on the fair board. She stated that Jason received a letter dated date 2003 regarding permit conditions. That she has contacted Walton, Sidney, Unadilla and Greene, none of them have no regulations. They feel as though the fairgrounds are private property and permits are not necessary.
- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees that the village has received the new insurance policy billing.
- Parade Committee: Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that the Christmas Parade will have a meeting at the end August.
- 4 Towns Forward: No representative.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - No report.

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence said that she had reached out the possible buys for discussion. There are a few changes that they would like to see happen. The board will table this for executive session. Planning Board Chair April Leggett, stated that she has reached out to Brendon Becker to get assistance in applying for grant funds to have the houses take down, if the village is going to sell them should she continues. Trustee D. Lawrence said yes, as you stated there are other homes that we could use the funds towards.

New Business:

- Letter received from Afton Fair Parade Coordinator, Maryann Palmetier. Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence expressed to Ms. Palmetier that the village would love to be a part of the parade, she is aware Officer in Charge, Frank Ventura, was asked to lead the parade. She will speak with Bailey about placing a village truck in the parade.
- Motion to sign the Letter of Intent allowing the Village of Afton to participate with the updated to the Chenango County, NY Hazard Mitigation Plan. Appointing April Leggett, the Planning Board Chair, as the Primary Contact and the designated local Floodplain Administrator. Trustee D. Lawrence with the alternate secondary contact.
Motion as Follows:
Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.

- Motion to move \$151,793.96 from General Fund Savings Acc # 2 - A3042 for payment of Invoice #INV0185321 - to Ti Sales: for the purchase of water meters. (F8350.40 – Common water supply-meters – for \$151,793.96).

Motion as Follows:

Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.

Trustee D. Lawrence stated that the village would be reimbursed, through grant funding from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC).

- Review of Amusement Permit/Racetrack Permit Policies. Trustee D. Lawrence stated that after looking through the additional permit conditions for amusement license. It appears as though the Village Board did not vote on this information, at that time, dated July 14, 2003. Rather it was a recommendation, to have two security officers present, as there seemed to be issues with drinking. The Chief of Police at the time also indicated that there was a problem with a backup of traffic on to Route 41. The current Village Board expressed that Mr. Ford is required to have liability insurance along with the required permits that need purchasing, ahead of time. Mr. Jason Wicks expressed that he does, just not to the extent of the information that was giving to Mr. Ford, by Trustees T. Lawrence.
- Letter Received from Mr. Ron Ford, Afton Motorsports Park requesting two additional race days. The dates requested are Wednesday, July 16, 2025 and Sunday, August 31, 2025. Trustee Humphrey stated that he has had a conversation with Mr. Ford about these dates, as they were, posted on Facebook, before, being presented to the Village Board of Trustees. Trustee Humphrey stated that if the village were to say no to the additional days, it looks bad. He said this of course would not happen, as everyone on the village board has always been willing to work with Mr. Ford. We wants to see the races happen and Mr. Ford succeed, but it is the principal.
- Motion to grant Mr. Fords request of two additional race days to be, held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 and Sunday, August 31, 2025.
Motion as Follows:
Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.
- Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that the board will need to decide very soon to either stay with our current Attorney Mr. VanWhy or the firm Coughlin & Gerhart, as Mr. VanWhy is leaving the firm.
- Trustee T. Lawrence asked the Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier if there was digital copy of the Village Code Book available to give to the contactors working on getting the required permits for the electric car charging station through The New York Power Authority. We do not have a digital copy; Trustee T. Lawrence stated that he would coordinate sending a hard copy.
- Motion to appoint Jason Wicks as a Planning Board Member.

Motion as Follows:

Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye

Trustee Humphrey – Aye

All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Brenda Philpott stated that she is the Board of Directors for the Fair Board; she is very happy with Ann as the Clerk, she is helpful. She stated that Saturday at the Go-Kart races, which are ran by Brandon Clapperton. Who has done a great job making this family event, in which she is proud of his hard work. She was working the concession stand when she witnessed a man having a very heated involvement with another man. I went over and asked everyone if they were ok. I then asked the man for identification, he refused. I asked two more time before he finally gave his name, because I told him if he did not tell me I would ask the person he was arguing with, there were many witnesses to his actions. That person was Trustee Tyler Lawrence; I am very, disgusted with his behavior. This is a function where children are involved; this type of language is not wanted, at the fairgrounds in front of children. She is requesting that the village board have a resolve to his actions as a Village Trustee.
- Trustee D. Lawrence stated that this took place at the fairgrounds.
- Trustee T, Lawrence said that he does not have to make a public comment, but what he did was totally unacceptable. He apologized and said that he was raised better than that, that he was pushed past his comfort level. It was an unfortunate situation that I let get the best of me. I publicly apologize, for what happened, it will not happen again. Trustee Lawrence thanked Ms. Philpott.
- Trustee D. Lawrence expressed that there is no need to go directly on Facebook that you can reach out to the Village, Town or the Fire Department directly with your questions or concerns, our contact numbers and emails are available. We need work together for our community to bring everyone together, and stop the finger pointing.
- Visitor Diane Miller stated that we are not on the board there is a greater responsibility of the board not to be nasty or snarky to people. It is how your actions are perceived, that is something that the board should own.
- Visitor Jason Wicks expressed his wishes to have the permit process to, be rewritten to abolish the Sunday activity rule, allowing more to be done within the village, including holding Sunday races. It was, said that Sunday is a family day as well as a day of rest.
- Visitor Tammy Stevens, who is a member of Afton Youth Sports Organization (AYSO) asked the Village Board about some repairs and improvements that are needed at Davys Field. She asked to reach out to DPW Supervisor DeBetta with her concerns. She expressed that she has been working with Bailey, but that she was not sure where the responsibility lies. She stated that Bailey has been great with whatever she has needed.
- Visitor Joyce Humphrey asked the Village Board of Trustees about Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). As she would like to apply, she wondering if she would need to write her own or

piggyback off the village. She was asked to reach out to Brendon Becker to what his recommendation would be; the village is willing to do what best.

- Visitor Brenda Philpott expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that she would like to have a resolution to her concerns over Trustee T. Lawrence. She asked if she needed to put everything in writing for the Mayor. She expressed that she does not understand, the propose as to why Ronnie was giving the informing he was giving. Ronnie was at the last meeting and no mention was made, at that time, nor a motion. She asked are Trustees allowed to give this information.
- There was discussions of a Community Calibration Meeting, put together by James Parkinson. They had had their first meeting to bring the School, the Fire Department, the Town and the Village together to bring ideas to help better the community.
- Motion to enter into an executive session at 8:30 pm, for the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by the public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.
Motion as Follows:
Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion to exit executive session at 8:55 pm.
Motion as Follows:
Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:57 pm.
Motion as Follows:
Trustee D. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee T. Lawrence – Aye
Trustee Humphrey – Aye
All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer