

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
June 10, 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held June 10, 2024 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence.

Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that Mayor Dedman was under the weather, so she will be running tonight's meeting

Present: Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and DPW Supervisor DeBetta, Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Absent: Mayor Dedman.

Visitors: Donald Ouimet, George Sandsiv, Jr. & Kathy Shaffer, Linda Matthews, Teri Schunk, Jerry Harris and April Leggett.

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

General Fund Voucher's # 1 - 21, totaling \$9,659.46.

Water Fund Voucher's # 1 – 8, totaling \$2,596.41.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction made by Trustee Humphrey. Seconded by Trustee T Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7: 00 pm for the purpose of for the purpose of obtaining citizens' view and comments relative to the submission of an application to the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to improve New York State's business climate and expand economic growth.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that he will be looking into having the section of the municipal parking lot that is village owned surveyed. Once this is done the section that does belong to the village will be paved. At that time a curtesy will be given to the village businesses that own the remaining portion of the parking lot to make arrangements with the company to possibly have their sections paved as well.
- **Police Department.** Verbal report given by Officer in Charger, Ventura.
- **Code Enforcement:** Verbal report given by Code Enforcement Officer Butler.

- Planning Board: Planning Board Member , April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees the last Planning Board Meeting is the second meeting in a row, where members are not showing up for meetings. Currently the Planning Board has been tasked with applying for a 239 review for a proposal of an agreement to do the high powered, level 3 charging station for 10 years in Afton. There were many discussions on this topic as well as where these units may or may not be installed. Prior to the acceptance of these units, it must be village board approved.
- Finance/Insurance: The Clerk/ Treasurer informed the Village Board of Trustees that we are in the process of closing out the previous budgets, we have started the budgets for 2024 /2025 fiscal year. The New York State Comptrollers Audit for the 2023/2024 fiscal year has been started.
- 4 Towns Forward: Visitor Teri Schunk from 4 Towns Forward explained to the Village Board of Trustees the goal of the program. She stated that this group was started in 2019, originally called Visions 21. Their motto is better together, working together to help spread the word of events held in each community. They have formed Board Members, who are from the surrounding communities. They have formed a tourism guide that would show case each community of Afton, Bainbridge, Sidney and Unadilla, to include the hot spots, restaurants and local businesses to shop. Currently all community are working on a feasibility study, which will be ready for submission on Monday. Ms. Schunk explaining some of the different events that are hosted throughout each community working together to obtain grant fund for all. On July 6, 2024, 4 Towns Forward will be hosting a concert the Sidney Airport, featuring Nate Smith. All proceeds will be split among the Chambers for each community. Ms. Schunk informed the Village Board of Trustees that in the beginning when this committee was first formed that there had been a charge to be a part of the group. However, going forward no one will be charged to be a part of the committee and no one will be paid to help with any hosted events, everyone involved volunteers their time.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

- Railroad discussion. – No updated information, remains the same.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – No updated information, waiting to hear on funding opportunities from Empire State Development through the Restore New York Funding Program.
- Water Meter Project Progress. – No updated information, waiting on Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers to compile a spread sheet list of the 3 companies that are best suited for the village's needs.
- Proposed boat ramp discussion. – Visitor Jerry Harris informed the Village Board of Trustees that Chenango County Soil & Water are willing to do the permit applications for this project. Mr. Harris presented the Village Board of Trustees with 4 bids on the estimated costs. Deputy Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence informed Mr., Harris that we are hung up on the estimated costs to remove any mussels that may be found, it's a ridiculous amount of money, that the village does not have. She stated that it's great that the DEC. & the County want to help, however, we need to find the funds for that purpose before moving forward. Visitor Teri Schunk from 4 Towns Forward expressed that perhaps the boat ramp could be a part of the village's feasibility study.

New Business:

- Discussion on ATV and UTV and Golf Carts. – There were a few discussion on this topic. It was stated that as with farm equipment, having a tri-angle attached to any utility vehicle does not make it legal to drive on public roadways. This topic will be tabled until the next meeting for discussion as Mayor Dedman is not in attendance.
- Discussion on Public Electric Car Charging Stations. – There discussions on the current proposed contract and responsibility on the village. This topic will be tabled until the next meeting for discussion as Mayor Dedman is not in attendance.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$2,269.13 in general budget from Contingency Fund (A1999.40), for budget overages to the following:
 - A. Personal Services Supervisor (A5010.10), for \$586.13.
 - B. Street Personal Service- Wages (A5110.10), for \$982.71.
 - C. Social Security (A9030.80), for \$700.29.

Seconded by Trustee Humphrey, All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$390.60 in the water budget from Contingency (1990.40), for budget overages to the following:
 - A. Superintendent (F8340.11), for \$390.60.

Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close out the 2023 /2024 budget, forward any remaining balances over to the new 2024 /2025 budget to continue bill pay. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close office on Thursday, July 4th, 2024 in observation of Independence Day. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Discussion on the Clear Energy Community grant funding email received by Mr. Chris Skawski from Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County representing Clean Energy Communities Coordinator. The Village Board of trustees asked that Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier contact Mr. Skawski, and ask that he attend a board meeting on this topic for further discussion and understanding.
- Public Comments – on citizens’ view and comments relative to the submission of an application to the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to improve New York State’s business climate and expand economic growth. There were none.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence at 8:20 pm to close the public hearing on citizens’ view and comments relative to the submission of an application to the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) to improve New York State’s business climate and expand economic growth. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has spoken with Andrew Winans about being a Zone Board of Apples Member. Mr. Winans has agreed to become a member.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to appoint Andrew Winans as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee T. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has been speaking with DPW Supervisor DeBetta on the possibility of trading in one of the dump trucks for a ¾ ton pickup truck with crew cab and a box service with a plow attachment. As it makes better sense for travel or commuting outside of the village with a small truck. DPW Supervisor DeBetta will gather estimates for the board for review.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor April Leggett a Planning Board member asked the Village Board of Trustees what other locations that they have in mind for a possible public electric car charging station. Trustee T. Lawrence suggested that Ms. Leggett ask that question to the company that is making the proposal. As there must be a more feasible location, considering that they are looking for a 10 car space parking area to house all the required equipment for placement.
- Visitors Jr. & Kathy Shaffer voiced their concerns to the Village Board of Trustees over the speeding vehicle's that come into the village on the east side. Mr. Shaffer expressed that he has spoken with Office in Charge, Mr. Ventura about this a few weeks ago, however it continues to be an issues. The Village Board of Trustees indicated that they have one more solar speeding sign that they intend to place on a moveable trailer throughout the village where and when needed. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that he will place a sign over on that side of the village.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:35 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer