

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
June 9, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held June 9, 2025, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Dedman, who welcomed those in attendance.

Present: Mayor Dedman, Trustee D. Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence, Trustee L. Matthews, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Visitors: April Leggett, Joseph Snel, Ronnie Ford, Brandon Clapperton, Becky Komorowski, Bentley Woods, Brandon Becker, Jim Parkinson, David Dodge, Ron Sherman, Bonnie Feltham, Dale Dewy, Judy Hinman, Jason Wicks, Joe Rico, Sonny Burnell, Daron Schultes, Diane Miller and Marge Petrie.

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

General Fund Voucher's # 1 - 22, totaling \$12,462.20.

Water Fund Voucher's # 1 – 10, totaling \$17,192.51.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections made by Trustee T. Lawrence. Second, by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7: 00 pm, for the purpose of obtaining view and comments on the Village of Afton, community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more (CDBG) grant applications for the 2025 program year.
- The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR) and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$20 million for the 2025 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, housing, with the principal purpose of benefiting low/moderate income people. The Village of Afton is considering applying for CDBG funds to complete a municipal water upgrades project and possible other projects. The hearing will provide further information about the CDBG program and will allow for citizen participation in the development of any proposed grant applications and/or to provide technical assistance to develop alternate proposals. The hearing is being conducted, pursuant to Section 570.486, Subpart I of the CFR and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.
- Visitor Brendon Becker explained to those in attendance that in the next term of funding by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), there is up to 20 million available funds for public infrastructure, for the village to apply we must hold a public hearing to see what the need or wants are of the community.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta.
- Police Department: Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed.
- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she spoke with Len Carson from DC Marketing, regarding the possible placement of an LED sign within the intersection of Rt. 7 and Rt. 41. The Department of Transportation has denied the application, stating that this sign does not fit what they would consider a gateway sign. Ms. Leggett stated that Mr. Carson was going to see if there was a variance. She asked the Village Board of Trustees if there could be an alternate placement for the sign. She recommended Foster Park would be a good location, she asked the board to make a motion for placement at this location, The Village Board of Trustees told Ms. Leggett that she needed to speak to the undertakers of the park for permission. Ms. Leggett exchanged contact information with the visitor, Mr. Ronald Sherman. There were discussions about another possible location, which would be Burnett Park; Ms. Leggett was asked to reach out to June White. Mrs. Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she and Mr. Dale Dewy had been in contact with UHS to place a health center at the location where Doctor Dygert had practiced. They seem very interested, however the HVC system is old and outdated, and needs replacing, which is very costly. They have also reached out to Guthrie but have had no reply. Ms. Leggett asked the Village Board of Trustees what the plans are for the 2 yellow houses, as she would like permission for the planning board to apply for grants to have them demolished. The Board informed Ms. Leggett that there is an interested party that was looking to purchase them; however, there has not been any recent contact. There was much discussion with the board, along with Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers, about how the village has already tried to obtain funds for the demolition of the properties. The village has already passed the required resolution outline that they are pro housing to move forward to look for grants. Mr. Becker stated that there is some paperwork required to move forward with grants for the demolition of the two yellow houses. After much discussion, it was decided that April Leggett could work with Mr. Becker on behalf of the village to complete the necessary paperwork. Mrs. Leggett expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that she feels as though it would be in the best interest of the Village if they were to join the Chenango County Chamber of Commerce.
- Finance/Insurance: up to date.
- Parade Committee: Daron Schultes informed everyone that the Memorial Day Parade went well. He said that the sound system needs work, once we reach the bridge, as it is difficult for most to hear. We will have a meeting for the Christmas Parade in August.
- 4 Towns Forward: Trustee L. Matthews attended a meeting where they discussed ways to do better within our community, like having affordable housing, internet availability. She said the 4 Towns Forward is looking for volunteers for the Music Festival, being held on July 5, at Sidney Airport. Anyone who wishes to help can contact Judy Hinman or me; you will get in free and a free tee shirt for helping. Mrs. Hinman added that at the last meeting all 3 County Chamber Presidents were at the last meeting, they are working hard to obtain grants for the smaller communities.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. Mayor Dedman informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has had no contact with the interested buyers. Trustee D. Lawrence said that she would be willing to reach out the possible buys for discussion.

New Business:

- Afton VFW War Memorial Proposal. – Mr. Joseph Snel presented the Village Board of Trustees with documentation outlining the intentions of the VFW Post 3529 for placement of a war memorial at Foster Park. They would like to place seven benches around the existing memorial. The proposed project will be done in three phases, with a foundation that consists of arc concrete, along with an inscription. The target date for the completion of this project is Memorial Day or Veterans Day of 2026. The VFW will be hosting fundraisers to seek funds for this project along with the military flags for service members that are vets for both past and present. There were discussions that perhaps family members of the hero's would be willing to contribute towards the purchase of the veteran's flag in honor of their loved one.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to allow for the Afton VFW Post 3529 to proceed with phase 1 of their proposal, which will consist memorial benches with foundation leveled and tied into the existing elevations. Second, by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Bonnie Feltham informed the Village Board of Trustees of her intent to help organize a summer youth employment and training program. This is a program that is funded by New York State for students who are 14 to 18 years of age. There are qualifications that the students must be low income, get free lunch, TANF, SNAP, or Medicaid. The program pays students minimum wage to get work experience and carries insurance for them on the job site. This program starts July 14, 2025, and runs for 4 weeks, until August 8, 2025, students must work Monday through Thursday for 5 hours each day. On Fridays, students must report to Norwich for presentations and training. Ms. Feltham has already spoken with Mr. Ronald Sherman the Glenwood Cemetery President and Mr. Jason Wicks the President of the Afton Driving Park for possible work locations for students. Ms. Feltham was informed that the Village Board would discuss this with DPW Supervisor DeBetta to see if the village would have any work available for students that falls under the allowable category.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Butler, as Village Code Enforcement Officer effective June 9, 2025. Second, by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to move \$4,798.27, from Capital Reserves Water Improvement Savings Fund for payment of Invoice # 00023 - to Lamont Engineers for engineering services as follows:
(F8397.20 – Contractual – Lamont Engineers– for \$4,798.27). Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Public Comments – on the Village of Afton, community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more (CDBG) grant applications for the 2025 program year. There were none.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence at 8:20 pm to close the public hearing on citizens' views and comments, on the Village of Afton, community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more (CDBG) grant applications for the year 2025 program. Second, by Trustee D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor David Dodge asked if the sidewalk on Academy Street, by St. Ann's Episcopal Church, could be placed; on the list to be fixed. DPW Supervisor DeBetta said that he would look at the sidewalk.
- Visitors Bentley Woods gave the Village Board of Trustees a history of his medical health to explain to them the reason why he has been issued two parking tickets by Office in Charge, Frank Venture. Mr. Woods parked on the curb, making it easier for him to exit his vehicle, as he is missing toes and has a large scar on his foot making it difficult to walk. Due to his medical issues, Mr. Woods feels as though he should only be subject to pay just one of the issued tickets. The Village Board said that Mr. Woods should have a conversation with the Office in Charge, Frank Venture.
- Visitor Daron Schultes asked about the American flags that were once on Main Street. Mr. Schultes was informed that the flags, along with the hardware were not of good quality, most of the flags had been destroyed or blown away by wind. Mr. Schultes stated that the parade committee would be willing to donation new flags and hardware to 4 -5 poles along main street.
- Visitor April Leggett expressed that there are those in attendance who are hearing impaired who would appreciate the use of a microphone to follow along with what the board is discussing.
- Visitor Diane Miller asked about the hours that the police department work. She lives on Algerine Street, and has items missing in her yard, as she drove here tonight; she saw her missing items within the village. Ms. Miller would like to know if there is a schedule available. It was stated that there is no schedule, as this is a part-time police department. The office in charge works up to 20 hours a week, and the police officers work up to 9 hours a week.
- Visitor Brandon Clapperton who holds and operates the Go-Kart Races at the Fairgrounds on Friday nights, asked the Village Board of Trustees if he were to have a rain out on his scheduled race day, if instead he could run the races on Sunday, June 15, 2025, from 5:00 pm until 9:00pm.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to allow Brandon Clapperton to host his Go-Kart Race on Sunday, June 15, 2025, from 5:00 pm until 9:00pm, should there be a rain out on Friday, June 13, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Ronnie Ford thanked the Village Board of Trustees for allowing him to run on Sunday, June 1, 2025, due to the weather. He had a very successful night with 154 racecars in total. It has been tough this year with 9 weeks of no racing, due to the rainouts. Mr. Ford asked the Village Board of Trustees if there is two consecutive weeks of rain, if he could race on the following Sunday. He spoke of the continued payouts that are required, even if there are no races held. After discussions, it was decided to wait and see, to keep it at a situational as it arises, depending on weather.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 8:44 pm, for collective negotiations pursuant to the Taylor Law. Second, by Trustee T. Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to exit executive session at 9:15 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to accept the Teamsters Contract and allow Mayor Dedman to sign it. Second, by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:16 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer