

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
March 10, 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 10, 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.

Absent: Code Enforcement Officer Butler and Officer.

Visitors: Jim Parkinson, Donald Ouimet, Robert Cohen, Dale Dewey, April Leggett, John & Judy Hinman, Daron Schultes and Joyce Humphrey.

- 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 # 218 - 234, totaling \$10,380.85.

Water Fund Voucher's # 85 – 90, totaling \$3,926.15.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections 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. DPW Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that he has ordered cold patch to begin the repair of the village roadways. He has detected a water leak at the well house. He contacted the company that had originally placed the water pump in over 20 years ago. After their inspection the leak was found to be on the outside of the pitless, it has been fixed. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that he has spoken with Mr. Brendon Becker from Lamont Engineers, Mr. Becker stated that he will have information on the water meters for next month's meeting.
- Police Department. Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura. Trustees D. Lawrence asked Mr. Ventura if there has been any reports on the missing pipe that was taken at the DPW Building. Mr. Ventura stated no, but that there are flyers posted. There were discussion of the 1 or 2 Trustees meeting with the Town Judge to discuss the requirement of the Town Justice overseeing any tickets that are writing within the village jurisdiction. During this discussion the Mr. Donald Ouimet, The Town Judge was asked about his term of office. Mr. Ouimet stated that his term is until the end of December 2025, at which time he'll need to file the end of the year reports for the Justice. Officer in Charge Ventura has obtained copies of examples of the Town/ Village Tickets for both Bainbridge and Deposit.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed.

- Planning Board: Report distributed. Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has made contact with the Village of Oxford Planning Board Chair, who seems willing to share information and resources. However, their Planning Board does not meet this time of the year, as their Mayor is away. He will be contacting me when they begin their meetings. Ms. Leggett expressed that at the 4 Towns Forward meeting they had discussed the enforcement of assessing fines and fees for the non-removal of snow by home owners. They are finding that unless there is a structural issue with the property that they cannot assess these fees, as it is the fault of the owners, which would require a civil court intervention for fee recoveries. Ms. Leggett has also reached out to the Town of Afton for the possibility of merging the Town and the Village Planning Board's. The Town Superintendent seems interested, however they don't meet on a monthly basis, only when needed. Ms. Leggett expressed her vision for the planning and future of the community. She'd like to see alternative energy, either by solar, wind or even hydro-electric, to help with population and growth. As of right now we have very little growth, giving little opportunities. She would like to develop some kind of project team that could look at different options for growth with our community that involves both the Village and Town. This organization could also apply for grants. The Village Board of Trustees expressed their appreciation to Ms. Leggett and expressed that they too would like to see this a reality, however, it's a work in progress.
- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees that the annual PERMA payroll audit has been submitted.
- Parade Committee: Mr. Daron Schultes stated that we have just over \$2,000.00 to start off this year's Christmas Parade, we will begin the planning process in July / August. Trustee D. Lawrence asked Mr. Schultes if he'd be interested in once again helping with the Memorial Day Parade. Memorial Day is on May 26, 2025, Trustee D. Lawrence is willing to help get the school involved again this year, and she can speak with the Links Committee.
- 4 Towns Forward: Visitor Judy Hinman stated that this year's yard sales for the 4 communities will be held on May 3, 2025, residents outside the village limits are welcome to setup in front of the VFW. In order to participate one needs to get their address on our list, last year between the 4 communities we had over 100 yard sales happening. This year's Music Festival entertainment will be Uncle Cracker. The Arts and Craft Festival for Afton, held by the Greater Area Chamber of Commerce will be held on August 23rd & 24th, 2025. At the last meeting the different community members all discussed the ongoing issues they have all been deal with, within their communities, such as the junk laws and what is allowable by Chenango County to be placed on tax rolls. The Towns and Villages will be holding a meeting on April 9th, 2025 to discuss poverty, hosted by the Delaware of Opportunities at the Bainbridge Community Center. There will also be a meeting there tomorrow morning. Tyler Oliver the Director of the Economic Development will be hosting a Mayor's summit on Friday, March 21, 2025, at 3 pm. He is working on land banks, and job training with SUNY Morrisville College Certification Program. He has been seeking a placement for a homeless shelter within Chenango County.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Mayor Dedman stated that the board will discuss the proposed contract in executive session.

- Norfolk Southern Corporation. – Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that after our last meeting that she had reached back out to the person in which she has been in contact with, sending a pressing email on this ongoing matter. Trustee D. Lawrence was informed that the Villages refund is in a payment cycle, that we should expect to have the refund by March 13, 2025. If by chance we don't receive it at that time, she will need to make contact again, at this time there are no open invoices owed to them by the village.

New Business:

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence set a budget workshop date for Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Jack D. Bolster Communities Center, 105 Main Street. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the village office on Monday, March 31, 2025. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to hold a public hearing at the April 14, 2025 regular scheduled board meeting at 7:05 pm for the purpose of informing the public of the tentative water and general budgets for 2025-2026. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Joyce Humphrey, owner and operator of HALos informed the Village Board of Trustees that they are wanting to place a handicap ramp made of concrete in front of their building. She is questioning if the village or herself would be reasonable for the placement. It was stated that her deed would need to be looked over to see where the boundary lines are.
- Visitors Donald Ouimet, The Town Judge wanted to clarify that his term is up at the end of December 2025, at which time he will not be seeking re-election.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 8:02 pm to discuss proposed acquisition, sale, lease of real property of 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. Along 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 D. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Visitor Robert Cohen, Officer in Charge Frank Ventura were asked to stay for executive session. Officer in Charge Frank Ventura and Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier were asked to wait outside the Susquehanna Room until called.

At 8:06 pm, Mr. Robert Cohen enter executive session.

At 8:45 pm, Mr. Robert Cohen left executive session, and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura enter executive session.

At 8:55 pm, Officer in Charge Frank Ventura left executive session, and Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier enter executive session.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to exit executive session at 9:06 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence allowing for Mayor Dedman to extend an offer to Robert Cohen as a Part time Officer, with a probationary period, at no more than \$25.00 an hour. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews, motion passed.
- Trustee Humphrey stated that he abstains from the vote to offer to Robert Cohen as a Part time Officer, with a probationary period, at no more than \$25.00 an hour.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:30 pm. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer