

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Public Hearing
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
March 25, 2021

Minutes of the public hearing held by the Board of Trustees on March 25, 2021 at 5:30 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton.

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustees Simonds, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and Office in Charge Stanko.

Absent: Trustee Humphrey.

Visitors: Dale Dewey, Joyce Humphrey, Donald Ouimet and Charles Torres.

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm by Mayor Nickerson.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if anyone in attendance had any questions, pertaining to the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Response Plan, as per the New York State Executive Order # 203.
- Trustee Lawrence introduced Officer in Charge Angelica Stanko. Trustee Lawrence stated that as of the last Village Board Meeting, Ms. Stanko has just been appointed as the new Office in Charge for the Village of Afton Police Department. Trustee Lawrence stated that the Police Committee has been working with previous Officer in Charge, Ronald Swislosky since November of 2020 to update the Police Policies. Officer Stanko has done a great job with complying the proposed plan.
- Officer in Charge, Anjelica Stanko summarized the six key recommendations for the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration Response Plan for those in attendance. Ms. Stanko stated that the Executive Order # 203 can be found on line for anyone wishing to view the details.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Dale Dewey expressed that he feels Afton is in dire need of ambulance services. He stated that he had a friend in need of services. No one from Afton responded. The Town of Sidney was dispatched, he beat the ambulance to the location. It was explained to Mr. Dewey that the Fire Department is an independent nonprofit corporation who governs themselves. Mr. Dewey asked why we pay for fire tax on our taxes. It was explained that everyone pays for Fire Tax on their Town & County taxes to support the services to remain in the community.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Mr. Dewey if he was looking to volunteer his services to the Fire Department. Mr. Dewey stated that he would. Trustee Lawrence encouraged Mr. Dewey to make contact with the Fire Department.
- Mr. Dewey expressed his concern for the older residents within the Community.

- Officer in Charge Stanko, said that providing that the Village Police is informed they could do wellness checks when asked.
- Visitor Charles Torres expressed that family members of those in need, need to make acknowledgment of the situation. He stated that unless a family member communicates with someone with authority there's no way of knowing that there may or may not be a need for help.
- Visitor Joyce Humphrey said that she would be willing to help with a community project focused on helping those in needs, as this is what HALos is about.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if there were any questions or comments on the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration Response Plan.
- Visitor Charles Torres submitted a statement saying: That he'd like to thank former Officer in Charge, Ronald Swislosky for his dedication and hard work on the Village of Afton Police Department Policies. As well as the current Officer in Charge, Angelica Stanko for her hard work on the Village of Afton Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative Response Plan. Both Officers have demonstrated their commitment and service to our community and its future. Officer Stanko has brought forth many initiative suggestions to make the Afton Village Police Department a part of this Village and its events. I thank them both for their services.
- Visitor Donald Ouimet expressed that he thought the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration Response Plan is very well written.
- Visitor Dale Dewey agreed with the writing of the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration Response Plan.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to accept the Village of Afton Police Reform and Reinvention Collaboration Response Plan as it is written. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn at 6:03 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer