

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
November 9, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees November 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Mayor Janice Nickerson.

Mayor Nickerson announced at the start of the meeting that all visitors kindly hold all comments during the meeting until we reach the point in our agenda for public recognition.

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Visitors: Rhonda Barriger, April Leggett and Kathy Ryan.

- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the Following, audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed. **General Fund Vouchers # 180 - 211, Totaling \$9,905.12.**
Water Fund Vouchers # 43 – 57, Totaling \$3,444.36.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Muller. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta read the report aloud. He stated that he would bring a copy to the village office. DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the alarm system at the well house is not working properly. That that the County Health Department recommends that we update the system. Right now we are using dial up, which is causing interrupted services. The County has suggested that internet services, be installed, to better service the system. The cost of the internet service should run around the same as the phone lines. He stated that the new lighting has been, installed at the well house. He also received two calls from the village office today, about a dangerous tree branch on High Street. After inspecting the situation, the tree is the responsibility of the homeowner. Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler stated that he would look into it and speak with the homeowner about whom to call for service to help have the dangerous branch removed.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed, read aloud by Mayor Nickerson. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office, for anyone wishing to read it.
- **Code Enforcement:** Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler informed the Village Board of Trustees that he received a call from an interested buyer of the old pizzeria on Main Street. This property currently is in back owed tax sale by the County. The intended new purchaser will have to wait until the time it becomes available for bidding. He spoke

with a resident about not blowing leaves into the roadway, as this causes the drainage system to become, clogged. He referenced a building permit for a resident on Spring Street, over to the County. Inspected a french drain at the Village. He received a call about placing a double wide on Morgan Hill Rd, which he referred to the Town. Mr. Butler stated that he was able to see that three unregistered/ unlicensed vehicles, within the community, were or will be, removed. Mr. Butler spoke with the County about the delinquent tax sale for foreclosures, which will be available in January of 2021. He spoke with a fair board member about working with the village when future functions are, held to ensure assistance available if needed. Mr. Butler is also helping with the water survey to help the village fulfil the necessary returned surveys for grant funding purposes. He also attended the Planning Board and Town Board Meetings.

- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held a meeting. Village Code Officer informed the Village Planning Board that there is a business office in the crossroad of Rt. 41 and Maple Street. Mr. Butler stated that he is working on abandoned vehicles within the Afton Inn parking lot. Suggestion of a proposed chicken law were, submitted to the Village Board of Trustees. The Planning Board mirrored the policies set forth by the City of Oneonta, NY. As these seemed to best suit the Village. Trustee Humphrey suggested that the proposed chicken laws, be reviewed by each Trustee. To be discussed at the next board meeting.
- Finance/Insurance: Mayor Nickerson stated that we are up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that last week, she had spoken with Friends of Afton, Christmas Parade Committee Member Brenda James. Mayor Nickerson expressed that she wanted to discuss with Ms. James, what the intended plans were for the Christmas festivities throughout the Community. She and Ms. James bounced some ideas off one another going forward for a non-contact Holiday Season. Ms. James was going to contact the school to see if it would be possible to use their ball fields to place holiday light displays. There was discussions as to the use of the fairgrounds for this suggested idea. Mayor Nickerson informed the Trustees that, as of this afternoon, she had spoken with Alexis Vanburen about the list of events that are possibly being, planned. Mayor Nickerson wanted to ensure that they are planning safe socially distant events. There were discussions of the possibility of having Santa arrive through the village or even the fairgrounds by Firetruck to wave to the children of the community. There were many discussions as to where there may be an open area within the Village limits to place light displays for public viewing.
- Parks Committee: Remains the same.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated Kathy Ouimet is very busy and does a tremendous job. The report is available if anyone wishes to view it or wants a copy.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

Old Business:

- Comprehensive Plan – Street Design & Lighting – Mayor Nickerson met with April Leggett, John Lawrence and Trustee Simonds to discuss ideas that would best benefit the community. They plan on hosting, a meeting here at the community center on Monday,

December 7, 2020 at 1:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the possible design transformations for the Main Street District, as well as the type of grant funding available for such. Anyone is welcome to attend.

- Continued Policy updates – Mayor Nickerson stated that the PESH requirements have been, submitted. Trustee Lawrence stated that the Police Committee has finished the policy updates for the Police Department. Once received in the office they will, be sent to all Trustees for review.
- Truck Discussions - DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta presented the Village Board of Trustees with the paperwork pertaining to Auctions International Inc. He stated that the Town of Bainbridge and the Town of Coleville use this same auction site. This facility does all the required paperwork necessary. All sellers' fees will, be placed onto the buyer. There is a small charge of \$30.00 per vehicle for the pictures, as well as the write up of the vehicle description.

New Business:

- A motion made by Trustee Simonds to allow the Mayor to sign the online auction contract with Auction International, Inc. For placement of the 2008 Chevy Dump Reg. Cab 3500 Duly – 4 W/D – w/ Plow, Sander – W/ 59,587 miles and the 2009 Ford F250 Reg. Cab XL Supper Duty 4W/D with Boss Plow – W/ 88,551 miles for online auction. With a service fee for placement of \$30.00 for each vehicle. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that Governor Cuomo has signed into law that all public employers must create plans to protect employees and contractors in the event of another public health emergency declaration in NYS. Mayor Nickerson has begun the paperwork process. She has asked that the Village Board of Trustees review the packets and get back to her with their feedback.
- Motion made by Trustee Simonds to remove previous Mayor, Girard Matthews from the remaining Village bank accounts with his name attached and add the newly elected Mayor, Janice Nickerson. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to accept the audit of the Clerk / Treasurer fiscal year 2019 /2020. Seconded by Trustees Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that Officer in Charge, Swislosky spoke with her about the need for new updated equipment for the Police Department. Officer Swislosky is looking at obtaining 2 body cameras, this way they will always have one charged and readily available for the next shift. The newer models have a live feed available, which better protects the Officer and the public. The Department needs to update the taser gun, as the current gun will be expiring. Trustee Lawrence stated that Officer Swilosky has received price quotes for the purchase of the equipment through the County; each camera system will run around \$750.00 apiece. The price for replacement of the taser gun will be around \$1200.00.

- A motion made by Trustee Simonds to purchase 2 body cameras and 1 taser gun from Chenango County not to exceed \$3,000.00. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Muller to accept the following, information for the Village of Afton, yearly Organizational Meeting.

Village of Afton Organizational Resolutions as follows:

2020-2021 Mayoral Appointments

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor – Janice Nickerson (2020 – 2022) • Deputy Mayor - Trustee Lawrence • Trustee – Two Term – Robert Humphrey Jr. (2020-2022) • Clerk Treasurer - Ann Palmatier • Chief Fiscal Officer - Ann Palmatier • Tax Collector - Ann Palmatier • Records Management Officer - Ann Palmatier • Election Official – Ann Palmatier • Superintendent of Public Works - Bailey DeBetta • Village Attorney - Nathan VanWhy, Coughlin & Gerhart • Enforcement Officer - Jeffrey Butler • Officer in Charge – Ronald Swislosky • Auditor of Claims – Mayor, All Trustee’s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPW / Water Committee – Trustee Humphrey Trustee Lawrence • Police Committee – Trustee Muller Trustee Lawrence • Planning Board Committee – Trustee Humphrey Trustee Simonds • Finance / Insurance Committee – Trustee Muller Trustee Simonds
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WHEREAS, the board of trustees has determined to set the second Monday at 7:00 pm of every month for the official meeting night, and

WHEREAS, the board of trustees will meet on this night unless otherwise advertised,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the board of Trustees shall hold their official meetings on the Second Monday of every month unless otherwise notified or advertised.

WHEREAS, the board of trustees has determined to authorize payment in advance of audit of claims for public utility services, postage, freight and express charges, payroll.

WHEREAS, all such claims shall be presented at the next regular meeting for audit, and
WHEREAS, the claimant and officer incurring or approving the same shall be jointly and severally liable for any amount disallowed by the board of trustees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the board of trustees authorizes payment in advance of audit of claims for the public utility services, postage freight and express charges, payroll and all such claims shall

be presented at the next regular meeting for audit and the claimant and officer incurring or approving the same shall be jointly and severally liable for any amount disallowed by the board of trustees.

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE:

WHEREAS, the board of trustees has determined to pay a fixed rate for mileage as reimbursement to officers and employees of the Village who use their personal automobiles while performing their office duties on behalf of the Village:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the board of Trustees shall approve reimbursement to such officers and employees at the rate of \$0.50 per mile.

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES:

WHEREAS, there is to be, held during the coming official year:

- a. The New York Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting and Training School.
- b. Annual NYS Conference of Mayors and other officials Public Work Training School for Public Works Superintendents
- c. NYS Rural Waterworks Association for Waterworks personnel;
- d. NYS Association of Municipal Purchasing Officials Annual School
- e. Unscheduled seminars and classes for miscellaneous topics including records management, audit, finance, planning and zoning, etc.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That the following officers and employees are hereby authorized to attend the above: Mayor, Clerk/Treasurer Trustees, Superintendent of Public Works, Waterworks personnel, planning Board members, Zoning Officer and Zoning Board members all after giving the Board the proper notification and the seminars/conferences are within the approved budget.

DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES:

WHEREAS, the board of trustees, Pursuant to Section 4-412 of Village Law, designated that NBT Bank Corporation is the official depository for investment of funds for the Village of Afton.

MAYORAL DESIGNATIONS:

Planning Board

- Bruce Bosket
- Ernest Cutting Jr.
- April Leggett
- William Hosier
- Girard Matthews

Zoning Board

- Richard Cuthbertson
- Michael Lawrence

Village Historian

- Kathleen Ouimet

OTHER ANNUAL

Official Radio
Official Newspaper
Official Signatures

MAYORAL DESIGNATIONS:

WCDO, Sidney
The Evening Sun & the Penny saver
Mayor Nickerson, Clerk Treasurer Ann Palmatier

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

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Rhonda Barriger informed the Village Board of Trustees that she never expected the large turnout they received for the Halloween Trick or Treat drive through. The Village Board of Trustees informed Ms. Barriger that they were happy that the event was held. However, as a courtesy in the future the village would appreciate better communication as to the events being held at the fairgrounds. The Village was unaware of their intended plans, as no one approached the Village. Ms. Barriger stated that she would and perhaps they will hold the event again next year.
- Visitor Rhonda Barriger expressed that it would be unlikely that any Christmas lighting displays could be placed at the fairgrounds. As the grounds tend to get very wet and muddy when we have a snowfall blanketing them.
- Visitor April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she is looking for extensive grant funding to help with the street design and lighting as well as landscaping.
- Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that Kathy Ryan and Jeffrey Butler are helping with the income surveys by going door to door to help collect the renter information needed to help the Village obtain the grant funding for the water tank. Mayor Nickerson expressed the importance of doing the survey to help keep the cost of taxes down. As the Village was the only local taxes that did not increase this year.
- A motion made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer