

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
November 8, 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held November 8, 2021 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

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

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

Absent: Officer in Charge, Anjelica Stanko.

- **Visitors:** Teri Schunk, Daron Schultes, Brenda James, Timothy McNamara, John Hinman and Don Ouimet
- 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 # 129 - 162, Totaling \$11,144.81.
Water Fund Vouchers # 54 – 60, Totaling \$17,807.31.
- Motion to accept previous minutes from our regular monthly meeting and the special meeting held on October 25, 2021 with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee Lawrence to correct general fund abstract voucher from our August 9, 2021 meeting, remove voucher # 79 in the amount of \$78.44. Payable to Waste Recovery Enterprises for trash removal. Check never received by vendor, mains lost in mail. The total amount for the general fund vouchers is \$11,568.33. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** Report distributed. Read aloud by DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta. Trustee Lawrence questioned DPW Supervisor about the placement of the fencing on Spring Street. DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that he's hopeful that there will be no issues once plowing begins.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed, read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.
- **Planning Board:** Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held their regular scheduled meeting. Visitor Ms. Melanie Mueller asked the Planning Board if there were any remaining steps that she needed to address before

opening her Book Store on Main Street. Ms. Mueller was informed that she is located within the business district no other requirements are necessary. Trustee Humphrey stated that no further information has been brought to the Planning Board on the proposed Solar Project. The Planning Board reviewed samples of home occupations laws distributed by the Village Attorney. Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler questioned the Planning Board about an aerobic septic system.

- Finance/Insurance: Remains the same.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Visitor Brenda James informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The parade is scheduled to start at 5 pm. Mrs. James expressed that the Village of Unadilla will be hosting their Christmas Parade on the same date. It's believed that Unadilla will be hosting their event during the day. She intends on speaking with them about the two events being held on the same day. Historically, Afton has always held their Christmas Parade on the first Saturday of the month of December. Mrs. James said that we don't want to take anything away from one another with the scheduling of each event overlapping one another. All walkers will be stationed at the Afton Edge Apartments, all others will be stationed at Corporate Park Drive. Mrs. James stated that Mr. Daron Schultes will be her entertainer partner, as he will be the commentator during the parade. Emailed information has been sent out, about the upcoming parade to help offset the costs of mailing. Mrs. James thanked DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta for making new Christmas tree stands, this should alleviate the trees from blowing over on the sidewalks. There will be a mapping of the trees that are displayed throughout the village. Mrs. James stated that she will need to coordinate with Sertoma as to when they will be placing the candle sticks on the utility poles. Visitor John Hinman stated that Sertoma will be hanging candles on the Tuesday, before Thanksgiving. Mrs. James expressed that Main Street will need to be blocked off on the morning of the parade. DPW Supervisor stated that the Village Police Department places the barriers out the night before the parade. Visitor Mr. Daron Schultes stated that he has spoken with the Sherriff's Office, Afton Police Officer in Charge, Anjelica Stanko and the State Police about traffic control. Mrs. James asked about the placement of the Christmas Parade Banner. The Village Board expressed that they were not against the banner placement, but there must be a reasonable time limit as to how long it will be hung. Mrs. James stated that TDS usually places the banner, but that there is no guarantee as to when they can find the time to remove it. Trustee Dedman expressed that this may fall under a liability, as Spectrum's lines are at the same location. Mrs. James stated that she may have a solution, the village in past has given a donation, except now they must make a purchase. She has suggested that perhaps Paynes Cranes of Bainbridge could be paid by the village to place the banner with a set date of removal. Mrs. James was asked by the Village Board of Trustees to get more information on a time of display and removal as well as cost. Mayor Nickerson asked Mrs. James if she could place extension cords at Burnett Park, as Hickory & Doc would like to display holiday blow-ups in the park.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Afton Parks Association held a Halloween Dance. The Parks Association will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, February 12, 2022, more details will follow as we get closer to the date of the event.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - September 2021 report distributed.

- Afton Central School – Mr. Timothy McNamara informed the Village Board of Trustees that the vestibule will be opened by December 1, 2021. There will be a ribbon ceremony at a later date. New windows and doors are being installed, sheet rock hung. The bus garage is moving along with the roof placement and brick laying. Our basketball season is beginning. The School is continuing to look for Spanish, English and ELA Teachers, as we have received the American Rescue Plan to hire more people. Our football team finished in the top 3 sectionals, field hockey also did well. The school will be working with the Chenango County Health Department to administer a vaccination clinic to be held on December 1st and 21st, 2021 for ages 5 thru 12 and 12 & up.

Old Business:

New Business:

- 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. Currently they are in the early stages of forming a tourism guide that would showcase each community of Afton, Bainbridge, Sidney and Unadilla, to include the hot spots, restaurants and local businesses to shop. We will be working together to obtain grant funds. Our smaller communities tend to get pushed aside, but together we increase our size and chances, for instance if we were to be awarded a 20 million dollar grant that would net each community 5 million each. Small business Saturday will be held on Saturday, November 27, 2021, I and 4 other chamber presidents will be running a radio advertisement to showcase this event. Ms. Schunk extended an invitation to visitor Mr. Timothy McNamara, Afton Central School Superintendent to attend the monthly meetings, held on the 3rd Tuesday at Bob's Dinner in Bainbridge. Ms. Schunk expressed that there is 1 mile that separates us all. Trustee Lawrence asked if anyone had reached out to Joyce Humphrey, from HALos. As this was brought up at the meeting that she attended in July. Ms. Schunk expressed that she is not aware of who Mrs. Humphrey is but would gladly reach out to her.
- A motion made by Trustee Simonds for a Resolution of the Village of Afton to seek lead agency status in construction of the wastewater collection and treatment system project. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor motion passed.

Resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF AFTON SEEKING LEAD AGENCY STATUS IN CONSTRUCTION OF THE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM PROJECT

WHEREAS, the proposed Afton Wastewater Collection and Treatment System Project will involve building a new wastewater treatment facility and collection system in the Village of Afton and has increased the proposed project cost to \$12 million and is seeking funds through submitting an application to the NYSEFC WIIA program; and

WHEREAS, the application was submitted together with a Full Environmental Assessment Form (“FEAF”) and other supporting documentation (“Application Materials”); and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees must comply with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”);

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton has completed a coordinated review with all project involved agencies and designated itself as Lead Agency pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law in the environmental review of the Project; and

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Subject to providing notice to and obtaining the consent of all other involved agencies, the Village of Afton hereby designates itself as “lead agency” for purposes of compliance with SEQR, 6 NYCRR Part 617. The Village of Afton shall undertake and complete all duties and obligations of the “lead agency” as required by 6 NYCRR Part 617.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton adopts the findings and conclusions relating to the probable environmental impacts contained in the attached Environmental Assessment Form and file the Negative Declaration in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT

The Village of Afton hereby authorizes the Village Mayor to execute any and all documents on behalf of the Village as may be necessary to complete the SEQR Review.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and the following result recorded:

 5 **AYES** **NAYS** **ABSTAIN**

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8 day of November, 2021:

- A motion make by Trustee Lawrence to adopt the SEQRA Negative Declaration Resolution, from the April 19, 2021 board meeting. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Resolution as follows:

SEQRA Negative Declaration Resolution
April 19, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton is undertaking a project called the Water System Improvements Project (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Project’) that replace select

transmission main and distribution mains throughout the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton has designated itself as Lead Agency pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act in the environmental review of the Project and has solicited comments from involved and interested agencies with regard to the Village's designation as Lead Agency; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton has prepared an Environmental Assessment Form and has provided copies of this document to the involved and interested agencies for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the probable environmental impacts of the Village of Afton Water System Improvements Project have been carefully considered by the Board of Trustees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton adopts the findings and conclusions relating to the probable environmental impacts contained in the attached Environmental Assessment Form and files the Negative Declaration in accordance with the applicable provisions of the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the Mayor to take such further steps as might be necessary to the discharge of the Village Board's responsibility as lead agency for this action.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and the following result recorded:

 5 AYES NAYS ABSTAIN

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 8 day of November, 2021 – By unanimous vote:

- A motion by Trustee Simonds to move \$17,525.19, from Capital Reserves Water Improvement Savings Fund for the payment to Lamont Engineers for engineering services as follows:
(8320.40 – Well Source Supply Contractual Expense – for \$17,525.19).
Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Discussions of American Rescue Fund Committee. Tabled
- DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta gave the Village Board of Trustees 3 estimates for a purposed purchase of a scoop dogg pusher. This piece of equipment is a back hoe attachment that would enable the clearing of snow, making it easier in the main parking lot and the sidewalk areas on Main Street in the business district.

Estimates are as follows:

1. Trux Outfitter - \$3,400.00
2. Upstate Parts - \$10,700.00
3. Aftermarket Effects LLC - \$8,341.70

- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to purchase a buyers scoop dogg pusher from Trux Outfitter at no more than \$3500.00. Seconded by Trustee Dedman. All in favor motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to transfer funds in amount of \$3,500.00, from the DPW Equipment Capital Reserves Fund, for the purpose to purchase a buyers scoop dogg pusher from Trux Outfitter. Seconded by Trustee Dedman. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close the village clerk's office on the following days, November 17,22,23,24,29, 2021 as well as January 5, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor John Hinman informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Afton Chamber will be handing out 300 hot dogs during the Christmas Parade celebration. The VFW will be hosting breakfast with Santa. Henry's Drive Inn, Baristarcrats Coffee Bar and Gavin's Pizza will be donating supplies.
- Visitor John Hinman states to the Village Board of Trustees that they could look into purchasing a hand crank that would enable them to raise and lower the Christmas Banner on Main Street at their leisure. A lock could be placed on the devise to ensure that there is complete control. Trustee Humphrey stated that we would need permission to have use of the poles. There was concerns on the liability on the Village with the utility companies.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer