

**Village of Afton**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY**  
**November 14, 2022**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held November 14, 2022 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

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

Mayor Nickerson asked that all comments be held until the end of the meeting.

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

**Absent:** Trustee Winans and Officer in Charge, Stanko.

**Visitors:** Donald Ouimet, Maryann Palmetier, Charles Torres, Linda Matthews, Nicholas Colosi and Tyler Lawrence.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.  
**General Fund Vouchers # 157 - 187, Totaling \$18,497.82.**  
**Water Fund Vouchers # 63 – 77, Totaling \$282,852.02.**
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Humphrey. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. Mayor Nickerson asked if there was anyone who opposed. Trustee Humphrey stated, all in favor. Mayor Nickerson stated that there were two who were in favor, but that she was going to oppose. Trustee Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson what the reason was for the opposing the previous month's minutes. Mayor Nickerson stated that we will get to that later.

**Monthly Report:**

- **DPW/ Water:** A verbal report given by DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta. DPW Supervisor states the Department has continued with leaf pickup and they attended a water class in Sidney, NY. The new water tank required a placement of an incursion valve before the process of filling the tank could begin. Unfortunately, they discovered that there was a water leak while trying to fill the new tank. Today they were able to locate the leak, to continue filling the tank. DPW Supervisor said that the 2022 -5500 Ram Truck that was placed on state bid from Robert Green Trucking Division, and voted on at the March 14, 2022 Board Meeting for purchase will be arriving by Thanksgiving. Supervisor DeBetta informed the Village Board of Trustees that the DPW Department will be finishing up the leaf pickup throughout the village by the end of this week, as the weather is beginning to turn, it's time to get ready for the snow removal season.
- Trustee Lawrence asked DPW DeBetta if there was a time frame as to when the tank would be completely filled. Supervisor stated at this time there is no time line as to when the tank

will be completely filled, it is a slow moving process. It could be a week or two, then there is testing requirements that will need to be done.

- Mayor Nickerson asked DPW DeBetta if the leaves needed to be in piles to be picked up. DPW DeBetta stated that they need to be placed by the road for pickup. Mayor Nickerson stated that she has a deep ditch full by the roadway. Supervisor DeBetta stated that if they are in the ditch line the DPW crew may have not seen them. Mayor Nickerson stated that they are not on the road, there in the ditch, she thought that they could pick them up as long as there are no hills. DPW DeBetta stated as long as they can reach them from the road.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Supervisor DeBetta if there was a time line on the water hookup for the property location owned by Mr. Alan Gaydorus, as discussed at last month's meeting. DPW DeBetta stated that water connection into the village's line has already been completed.
- Trustee Lawrence asked DPW DeBetta if there was any updated information on the water situation on Long Hill. Supervisor DeBetta stated that he is not aware, as last he knew it was still being handled by the Attorney. Mayor Nickerson states that last she spoke with the Village Attorney, we are waiting to hear from their Attorney. Trustee Lawrence asked the Village Clerk if they are being billed for water services, the Clerk responded with yes, they are.
- Trustee Lawrence asked Supervisor DeBetta if he had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Patrick Dedman in regards to the placement of security cameras on the Village Office Building, as discussed at last month's meeting. DPW DeBetta said that he spoke with Mr. Dedman, he has agreed to continue to offer his services with the camera installation.
- Trustee Lawrence expressed that she looked over the estimate that was submitted to the Village Board of Trustees at last month's meeting by Supervisor DeBetta for pricing on a refurbished verses a new CM200 mobile radio's along with the installation cost from Tri-County Communications, Inc. for the possible placement of permanent radios in the village trucks. According to the estimate the cost for the refurbished radios are around \$300.00 each, where the cost of the new is \$530.00 each. After discussions of what the best option would be it was decided that the purchase of the radios would be beneficial going into winter months.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to purchase 3 refurbished CM200 mobile radio's to include installation costs not to exceed \$1,600.00, from Tri-County Communications, Inc. With the funds for this purchase to come from the DPW Equipment Capital Reserves Savings Account. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Police Department. No representative, September 2022 report distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed. Read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler.
- Mayor Nickerson asked Code Officer Butler about the complaint on Daily Drive about the obstruction of view. Mr. Butler stated that it was a flag issue. Mayor Nickerson asked about the camper issues in the village. Mr. Butler stated that he is still following up. That Bainbridge is having the same issues. He has obtained a RV code from New Berlin, he intends on giving the information to the Village Planning Board next month.

- Planning Board: Trustees Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that Mr. Kenneth Vail is looking at obtaining a variance for the Chicken Law. He would like to raise meat chickens, which does not meet the guidelines in the Chicken Law. Mr. Vail's property sits within 200 feet of a State Hwy, a County 239 review will be required. The Planning Board held a Public Hearing for the site plan review in response from the County 239 review and NYSDOT for an office space on 214 Main Street within the Village. The Planning Board expects that Buell Fuels will meet all setbacks for this property including NYSDOT and Railroad requirements. It was recommended that screens be used to provide visual concealment of propane tanks located on the property. Mr. Ferriola from Buell Fuels stated that approximately 25 – 100 gallon new tanks would be on site waiting from placement for new customer service installation, as such these tank would remain empty of fuel. Verbal permission was given to Mr. Ferriola allowing for Buell Fuels to improve the driveway/ parking area for easier access for trucks. There were discussions among the Planning Board pertaining to fence laws. They looked at different laws from Bainbridge, Greene and Oxford to begin the process. There was a question asked on the sign laws, as some businesses have temporary signs placed though out the village. This would be a village board matter as the sign law is a village law.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date, remain the same.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Mayor Nickerson stated that she has not heard a word from anyone. Trustee Komorowski stated that she heard that the Chamber will be taking over the Christmas Parade. Mayor Nickerson asked Trustee Komorowski if she has talk to anyone from the Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Komorowski stated that she's only spoken with Brenda James who is not a part of the Christmas Parade Committee, but that she has given a \$1000.00 cash towards this year's parade funds. Trustee Komorowski stated that she heard that the Chamber has finished the Sidewalk Sales now they will be concentrating on the Christmas Parade. Mayor Nickerson told Trustee Komorowski that she is suppose to the one in contact with the Chamber about the parade details, that she should contact Judy Hinman.
- Visitor Maryann Palmetier states that she has received a call from the Afton Chamber of Commerce for the Hope Church. They are planning the parade for the first Saturday in December. They have been advising, they are asking for some volunteers for people who may have some knowledge of the organization in the past, they are open to any ideas.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Komorowski states that there was no meeting. The Parks Committee hosted a Halloween Dance at the River Club, which did well. The next meeting will be held on the November 28, 2022.
- Historian Report: No report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.
- Afton Central School – Visitor Maryann Palmetier addressed the Village Board of Trustees by saying that she had been a School Board member for the last 6 – 7 years working alongside the administrative team. I feel as though we had accomplished a lot good things, there were still things that need to change, and make improvements, as always. I think sometime you think oh gosh we have the worst of all schools. But if you look across the state and the nation everyone is facing the same challenges. Last year before I left one of the things that I felt real good about was the changes in the administrative team. Last year

there was a new Finance Officer, and Business Manager and Elementary Superintendent. This year that has been a new CSE Director and new Secondary Principal and new Superintendent. This new administration is looking at encouraging transparency between the community and the school. Mr. Colosi is here to tell you a little bit about himself and his goals. Mr. Colosi thanked the board for having him and allowing him to have a little bit of their time. He stated that he had started at the Afton Central School District in mid-July as the new Superintendent, along with a completely new administrative members. The administrative team has a year and a half of experience. I had the opportunity meet with every staff member of the district, whether it was individually or in small or large groups. There were three questions that I had presented to everyone. "What's working well?" "What's not working well?" and "what do you need from me?" I did this for several reasons, one being that I'm a people person, we all need to know one another to work together. Also to gain the institutional knowledge that I may not have, there are many individuals who have been with the school for many years, I look to them to help fill in the gaps with what I don't know. All in all we've hit the ground running, were working on some small and large changes. The overall goal is to increase communication and to have transparency as well as being available. I cannot guarantee that everyone will like always like what we have to say, but we are there to have a conversation. I have an open door policy. I'm always willing to extend and olive branch and work together. There will be changes coming soon, within the next month the school will be launching a brand new webpage. We are hopeful that this change will give better communication. Along with a new webpage they will be implementing a new app. updating the technology. Allowing for easier accessibility for everyone. I will continue to access to see what will remain and changes will work. Right I'm focused on listening, I want to improve the culture and the climate, which will include ups and downs. As Maryann indicated, Afton is not any different than other schools across the region, the state and the country. We are saddled with a demising teaching staff, there are shortages across the country. We are trying to be flexible and as encouraging as possible to get people to apply. We are still reeling from covid, we are still trying to compline data from covid. We are working on some collaboration with some teacher's. We are working on a strategic plan, this process will include all stake holders, parents, community member, students, and staff and board member to include a three to five year plan for the district. This will take time, to work on the culture and the climate, academics, as well as providing support for the faculty and staff as far as training. As things change we have to change as well. This will be at a team approach, changes will not happen overnight. I feel as though that this point in the school year, most people have seen some differences comparability to last school year. Thank you for welcoming me here, know that my door is always open, if there are any questions, please do ask, we are in this together. Mr. Colosi gave the Village Board of Trustees a rundown of his work history, he's been in education for the past 20 years. He and he wife are both educators who are very active in their community. One thing that he wanted to mention is that his family has 3 dogs, with 2 of them being therapy dogs. I bring one of the dogs to school with me, when my schedule will allow. On day one the dog was utilize in helping a pre-k student settle into class. Everyone is excited to see the dog, there have been times when he is asked to help assist a student even if that just means that the student is reading to the dog. The dog has been a great help with the emotional support to students. The entire Village Board of Trustees Thanked Mr. Colosi for coming, and outlining his agenda for the school.

- Trustee Komorowski asked Mr. Colosi if there was assistance within the school for the metal health of the students. Mr. Colosi stated that currently behavioral health has a practitioner in the school, currently she's on maternity leave, so they're a 2 people filling for her. We also have separate school counselors for high school, middle school and

elementary school. There are 2 social workers, one for elementary school and the other for middle- high school. We also have a school psychologist who does testing as well as support for students. We are looking at ways to get counselors into the classrooms to help with the social emotional learning. There are standards that they have to teach, sometimes some of the social, emotional needs spill over into discipline referrals. We use those opportunities to have restored practices instead of giving out consequences. This would be where the students and the parents would be involved with sitting down and having a conversation. It about learning and providing a safe place for students to and tell us what's going on. The biggest barrier is students having connections, it's going back to culture and climate it's about building relationships and having an open door policy.

- Trustee Humphrey expressed this concern over the situation with the school swimming pool. He'd like to know if any disciplinary action was taken, for the improper filling of the pool. As this is a serious situation, the village has asked its residents to conserve their water usage until the new tank replacement project has been finished. It's very concerning as this is the village water system that has been misused after notifications were made on the conserving of the water. Mr. Colosi, agreed and apologized publicly to the Village Board of Trustees on behalf of the school. In his opinion, he feels as though here never was male intent. Mr. Colosi stated that he could not get into the pacific because it's a personnel matter, but yes the individual was addressed.
- Visitor Tyler Lawrence expressed that due to the filling of the pool it cause a rift on Facebook with the village community, as residents were asked to conserve water. Then one hears that the pool was filled, but they cannot wash their cars. This all going back to transparency. Mr. Colosi stated that it was an unfortunate series of events that he's apologized for, it will not happen again. He asked the Village Board that if there is anything that comes up or if they have questions to just call. Mr. Colosi stated publicly that he nor the school will engage publicly on Facebook, he cannot say that to be true for individuals. As a school we will not engage on Facebook, I find it to be a one way communication. Mr. Colosi stated I've never seen anything get resolved on Facebook, it's easier to just have a conversation face to face. He stated that if you have any question, please just call.

#### **Old Business:**

- Mayor Nickerson stated that we have no old business. Trustee Lawrence stated that she has a few things that she'd like to discuss.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that last month there was a discussion on the recommendations that she had made on who would report or what entities would report to The Village Board Trustees on the monthly agenda. She stated that her recommendations were not well received, but that she'd like to put out another recommendation. She still feels as though the Clerk/Treasurer should be added to the agenda for reports. The village has the other departments already submitting reports, such as, DPW, The Police and The Code Enforcement Officer. Therefore it only makes sense that the Village Clerk/ Treasurer is doing so as well. The Mayor states that she agreed that the Clerk should do a report. Trustee Lawrence stated that she feels as though 4 Towns Forward should be added to the reports on the monthly agenda. As this something that the village is paying a membership fee for, they should report directly to the board as it is tax payer funded. Trustee Lawrence stated that she felt it would clear up some confusion as to what it is 4 Towns Forward is doing for the Village of Afton, NY. Trustee Lawrence also suggested that the

Christmas Parade Committee be removed from the agenda as the Chamber has taking it over. She would like to remove the Parks Committee as well. Mayor Nickerson states that she does not mind taking the Christmas Parade Committee or the Parks Committee off the monthly agenda. Mayor Nickerson suggested that the Afton Chamber of Commerce be asked to report on the Christmas Parade Committee and the 4 Towns Forward as they are a part of both Committees.

- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to remove the Christmas Parade Committee and the Parks Committee for from the Village of Afton, NY monthly agenda , and add the Village Clerk / Treasurers Report and 4 Towns Forward as line items under the report section on the Village of Afton, NY monthly agendas. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Lawrence brought up Usource, a NextEra Energy Company, she stated that we tabled it last month. Mayor Nickerson stated that right now Usource is working with 4 Towns Forward, and so far they have The Town of Afton, The Village of Afton, The Town of Bainbridge, The Village of Bainbridge, The town of Sidney, The Village of Sidney, they are working on Unadilla. The plan is to put all of our kilowatt hours together to get a larger reduced rate. Trustee Lawrence stated that last month we tabled it, she does not see an issue with moving forward with having Mr. Leidy look into the village to see what kind of savings there may be, as we are not going into any kind of contract at this time. Mayor Nickerson states that Mr. Leidy has already in the process of looking into the saving by combining the Town of Afton and the Village of Afton into one for better savings. He is doing the same for the other Towns & Villages. Trustee Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson, don't we still have to make a motion to allow for him to look into our projected savings. Mayor Nickerson stated yes. Trustee Humphrey asked how Mr. Leidy is looking into the savings now if we still have it tabled form last month, no motion as been made. Mayor Nickerson stated that this is what we are doing, this is what we're talking about. Trustee Humphrey states to the Mayor, but you just said that he already has the information to move forward, how is that so if we tabled it last month. Mayor Nickerson states Mr. Leidy has the information because he was here and he spoke with us, he knows what our kilowatt hours are. Trustee Humphrey states that he did not know what our kilowatt hours were. The last time he was here because it was tabled, no decision was made. Trustee Humphrey asked how he's working on it, if we never sent him information. Mayor Nickerson said that Mr. Leidy was going to come back and talk to the board, but that not all trustees received the contract to look over before a decision could be made. Mayor Nickerson states that in order to see if the company would except the Village Mr. Leidy needed to know what our kilowatt hours were. Mayor Nickerson stated that he called and the Clerk gave him the hours so he could see what they are, it does not mean that we accepted him, it just means that he was able to go to the company to say they have this many kilowatt hours, if they are interested are you. Mayor Nickerson states that right now, Mr. John Lawrence approached Mr. Leidy to ask if 4 Towns Forward could go collectively. To have a larger amount of kilowatt hour that we could use that might get us more than just the 10% off that we all use. The Mayor states that nothing will change, there will still be no contract, no payment of any sort. Mayor Nickerson states that John Lawrence invited Mr. Leidy to go to the Town of Afton, NY, were he spoke and after John Lawrence thought it would be great to include 4 Towns Forward. Trustee Lawrence pointed out that the Village is not the Town. Mayor Nickerson states that she knows, but we are a part of 4 Towns Forward, we are now waiting to see what the savings may be. Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees if they don't want to at the time to join the 4 Towns Forward and possibly get more savings. Trustee Lawrence expressed that she's confused as it was never presented

as a 4 Towns Forward proposal. Somewhere between last month and now, so where did this come together as the Village Board had tabled it previously. Trustee Lawrence stated that this is why I made a point to look over the contract to place a motion on the table to go ahead and have Mr. Leidy look into our projected savings. As this was where I thought we were. Mayor Nickerson states that at the end of September, when the last 4 Town Forward meeting was held or maybe just before the last village board meeting she met with John Lawrence he told her that he'd like to see if there could be a combined usage with everyone for more savings. Mayor Nickerson stated as of this morning she contacted Mr. Leidy to see if this could be done, he's looking into it. Trustee Lawrence expressed that the timing of this seems as though this was done before the October meeting. She does not remember there being a discussion with the Board of Trustees that 4 Towns Forward would be bring the village on in the October meeting. Mayor Nickerson stated no they didn't, this has just happened, it happened after the October. Trustee Lawrence expressed that she misunderstood, what the time frame was stated, she thought the Mayor was indicating that it happened before the October meeting. Mayor Nickerson stated that at our last board meeting there were Trustees who did not received the contract for review, therefore it was tabled. But that she did tell the board that a discussion would need to be made. Trustee Humphrey stated, yes it was tabled at that time, no decision was made. Mayor Nickerson agreed with Trustee Humphrey, nothing has been decided. Trustee Lawrence said that what she heard Mayor Nickerson say was that we were group with 4 Towns Forward. Mayor Nickerson said no, that it's an opportunity. We don't have to do it, it's an opportunity that may allow us to get more than 10% off our electric costs. Trustee Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson, does that mean that the ball is already rolling and we don't need to make a motion. Mayor Nickerson said that she thinks that if we accept this whether it individually or with 4 Towns Forward we would have to make a motion to use it. Trustee Lawrence said that she through that we were at the stage where we going to move forward with a motion allowing Mr. Leidy to look into the Village electrical usage. Mayor Nickerson stated that she thinks we need to wait to see what Mr. Leidy finds out first. Trustee Lawrence stated that she's misunderstanding the process here, she thought she'd suggest making a motion that the Village send more information to Mr. Leidy to move forward, but it sounds as though we've already done this. Mayor Nickerson stated yes, we have. Trustee Humphrey stated how, when we've tabled it last month so how did we already move forward. Mayor Nickerson stated that we didn't move forward individually, in order to get what we're looking for as an investigator Mr. Leidy had to move forward to get the information were looking for. He's the only one that is going forward, he's going out and collection the information that we need to make our decision. Trustee Lawrence expressed that what her and Trustee Humphrey are taking away from this is that we haven't even made a decision to move forward, everything to this point has been tabled. We are under the impression that we were still looking into, no green light was giving to move forward. Mayor Nickerson stated that no, we didn't. Trustee Humphrey stated, but you said you gave him what he needed to move forward. Mayor Nickerson, expressed that she was confused, she stated that Mr. Leidy needs to know what our kilowatt hours are for him to investigate to see if we would even fit into the program. Mayor Nickerson stated that we cannot say yes or no to him if we are not aware if we are even eligible for the program. Trustee Humphrey stated that we did not say yes or no to the program, there were a couple of us who had not seen the contract because we did not receive the email. Therefore we tabled everything to do with Usource, when this happens this means we cannot move forward until a motion is made by the Board. Mayor Nickerson sated that the information was given out before this information was tabled last month. Trustee Humphrey asked how this happened when no motion was made. Mayor Nickerson stated that it happened because Mr. Leidy came and talked to us and asked if we had an interest,

we all said yes we had an interest. So we said that he would go ahead and find out what our percentages would be. Trustee Lawrence stated that she was making a motion to move forward, even though we've already taken this step to allow for Mr. Leidy to look into the information to see if this is something the village wants to do. Trustee Lawrence stated that this is the motion that she's placing the table. At this time there was no second on the motion made by Trustee Lawrence.

- Visitor Charles Torres expressed that he feels as though the Village needs to gather all the facts before making a decision. Mayor Nickerson state we have all the facts and told Mr. Torres to hold his comments. Mr. Torres stated that the Mayor allowed others to speak, she told him to hold his comments.
- Mayor Expressed to her Board that they are confusion her as well. Trustee Lawrence stated that's she is not saying that we shouldn't look into it but that they thought that this was all tabled last month, no motion was made to move forward. Mayor Nickerson indicated that it was tabled last month, Trustee Lawrence said ok, now do you see where the confusion lies. Mayor Nickerson said no, because it was the month before Mr. Leidy was here, we all agreed that yes this sounds very interesting. Trustee Humphrey said so that's when a contract needs to be sent. Mayor Nickerson said that he did send a contract. Trustee Humphrey stated that yes, but some trustees never received that contract, therefore it was tabled, no decision was ever made to move forward. Mayor Nickerson indicated but it did get sent to him, he had asked if we wanted to be a part of this program, we said we were interested, he said ok, I'll take your figures to see what I can do with them. That is what he did, we have not voted yes or no we have not accepted anything. Trustee Lawrence expressed that she doesn't ever remember saying in an open meeting, yes give him the information and we will look into it. The talk of the board stop when not all the trustees were in possession of the contract for review. Mayor Nickerson stated that no it was the month before, when Mr. Leidy was here that we talked about it. Trustees Lawrence expressed, yes but no motion was ever made. Trustee Humphrey said that at that time, there were discussion of the contract to be sent to all trustees for review before making a decision. Mayor Nickerson asked the Village Board of Trustees what they want to do, to undo the motion. Trustee Lawrence indicated that there is no motion to undo, as one was never made. Trustee Lawrence said that she is offering the originally motion that she made earlier in the meeting. That motion included to allow Mr. Leidy to move forward to take a look at the Village of Afton, NY NYSEG Accounts to see what kind of a savings would be available to the village and if the board would be interested in joining the program. Mayor Nickerson stated that, this is exactly what we did at the first meeting. Trustee Humphrey stated that no, no we did not. There was a discussion back and forth as to the confusion as to whether this was actual done. Mayor Nickerson indication that her opinion is that we did. There were discussions among the Village Board of Trustees about the pervious last two meeting on this topic.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to allow for Mr. Leidy from Usource to look at the Village of Afton, NY NYSEG Account to see what savings options are available to the Village under this program. Once this information is gathered and received by the Village Board of Trustees, then a decision will be made as to whether to move forward. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee Lawrence said that last month we talked about our water rate increases. Our water billing will be going out at the end of December, we really have not made a decision as to what those increases will look like. The Village Clerk Treasurer stated that

there is time to put the new rate increases into effect. As a public hearing will be required to inform the public by law. The new billing will be sent to the village residents at the end of December, giving no time to hold a public hearing. Trustee Lawrence said going forward that there will be a discussion on this topic at the meet village board meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$149,663.95, from# 1 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for remaining balance of Invoice # 6 - to DN Tanks of New York, LLC for the Capital Reserves Water Storage Tank replacement, to the following: (9950.90 – Transfer to Capital Projects Funds – for \$149,663.95). Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$79,323.61, from# 1 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for partial payment of Invoice # 7 - to DN Tanks of New York, LLC for the Capital Reserves Water Storage Tank replacement, to the following: (9950.90 – Transfer to Capital Projects Funds – for \$79,323.61). Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$47,526.80, from# 2 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for remaining balance of Invoice # 7 - to DN Tanks of New York, LLC for the Capital Reserves Water Storage Tank replacement, to the following: (9950.90 – Transfer to Capital Projects Funds – for \$47,526.80). Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to close office on Thursday, November 24, 2022, in observation of Thanksgiving Day. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey providing that the 2023 Village Election will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023. The election will take place at the Jack D. Bolster Community Center, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY, polls will be open from noon until 9 pm. Officers to be elected are Two Trustees with a four year term each. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Recognition of Visitors:**

- Visitor Tyler Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that he's in the process of retaining a property in which he has spoken with a few of the Trustees about already. This property is located behind the village water tank, the current owner has an easement with the village to be able to access their property through the village's property. Mr. Lawrence is aware that if he were to purchase this property that it is responsibility to maintain the roadway beyond the village water tank. Mr., Lawrence is asking that the village allow him the same easement as the current owner in written form, as easements are not transferable to move forward with the property purchase. Mayor Nickerson asked DPW DeBetta what we need to do. DPW Supervisor DeBetta said that he needs the same legal document as the current owner to be able to assess this property thought the village roadway. Supervisor DeBetta state that the he feels as though the wording should be added that the Village is not responsible to maintain the roadway in any way past the water tank. Trustee Komorowski asked Mr. Lawrence if he would need water services to

the property in question. Mr. Lawrence states that even though the village water is good, the water would need to be pumped up hill. It's just as easy to have a water well drilled, at this time he'd have no need for water. Mr. Lawrence indicated that he had some other stuff in the works with an attorney, he could do the write up himself and then the village could have their attorney look it over. Mayor Nickerson asked Mr. Lawrence if could get the property dimensions. Mayor Nickerson told Mr. Lawrence to write everything down, they we'll give it to the Village Attorney.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to agree to draft an easement for the property located at Hall Road Rear, previously owned by Donald Scott, to be updated then looked over and disused by all parties. Seconded by Trustee Komorowski. All in favor, motion passed. Trustee Lawrence abstained from voting.
- Visitor Tyler Lawrence stated that now he lives in the village he thinks it's a good idea for the village to have an end date to the leaf pickup. He indicated that he's seen where people may have forgotten about placing their leaves out for pickup on the day the DPW Crew is picking up, then there is the never ending cycle of picking them up. Mayor Nickerson asked if there was an end date for pickup. Mr. Lawrence stated no, he looked on the link on the Village web page. The end date is mid- October to mid-November. We are beyond this time frame, there really should be a set date, such as November 12. There were discussions as to the end date being dependent on weather. Trustee Lawrence suggested an end date for leave pickup be placed on the Village of Afton, NY Web Page. It was decided that Friday, November 18, 2022 would be the placed on the village web page to inform the public. Mayor Nickerson stated that she would add this information to the village web site.
- Visitor Tyler Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson who is the liaison for the 4 Towns Forward for the village. Is it the Afton Chamber of Commerce or does the village have someone that goes. Mayor stated that she goes to their meeting, but that anyone can attend. Trustee Lawrence asked Mayor Nickerson if we were to put 4 Towns Forward on our agenda would be her that would be reporting. Mayor Nickerson stated that the Chamber goes, so if we can get them to come to our meeting then they can report to the village.
- Visitor Tyler Lawrence stated that two board meetings ago there was a discussion on the flashing solar sign for speeding. He stated that at that time The Officer in charge was supposed to gather information for the village on grant funding. He stated that he has not seen her. Where are we with this? Mayor Nickerson stated that she got the packet from the County. She has made three copies for herself, DPW DeBetta and the Clerk. Mayor Nickerson said that DPW DeBetta need to fill out the street portion to move forward. There were discussions among the Village Board about the proper placement of the signs, either on a utility pole of a free standing pole. Visitor Tyler Lawrence expressed that this information was discussed two meeting ago and no effort was made to bring to back up. He expressed to the Mayor that as a community member he asks that she let the people know that we are working on it, as there has been no follow-up. Trustee Lawrence asked the New School Superintendent Mr. Colosi if he was aware of any help that maybe available to place solar speed signs, that if would be appreciated. She suggested that perhaps there is funding through the Safe Routes to Schools. Mr. Colosi stated that he could check with the School resource Officer. There were discussions as to where these solar speed signed would or could be placed without the village.

- Trustee Humphrey indicated to the Village board of Trustees that he had some new business that he'd like to bring forth. It has been brought to his attention that The Afton Motorsports Park has moving their race night from Friday to Saturday. He feels as though Mr. Ford and the fair board should have approached the Village Board of Trustees before making this agreement. As the Fairgrounds are within the village limits. Trustee Humphrey continued, stating that he's been informed, that Mr. Ford has not come in as he should for the proper permits to being opening the race track. He stated that if Mr. Ford does not get the required permits to open the gates, then he needs to be shut down. Trustee Humphrey said that the Mayor needs to make contact with Mr. Ford to ensure that past payments are brought up to date. Going forward he needs to come in to obtain those permit in order to open the gate.
- Visitor Charles Torres expressed his concern over the Village Board making a decision on the Usource program until everyone has had the opportunity to read over the contract and all information is gathered. He stated that the at the last two board meetings any and all information pertaining to this matter was tabled and no decision n was made. Even though the Mayor stated here tonight in front of everyone that Mr. Leidy was giving the information before then. She stated that the Clerk had given the information, even though no action was taken. Trustee Lawrence has made a motion here tonight to allow for this information be given to Mr. Leidy to look over, even thought this is redundant. This means this information was accrual given to this man before he actual came to your meeting. Mayor Nickerson indicated no that; not true. Mr. Torres said that the Mayor had said that he had been giving the information before it was tabled. Mayor Nickerson stated that before the last meeting on the month of September when Mr. Leidy about what it was, what he did and the rate reduction would be for the Village, based on the amount of Kilowatt hour's uses. Everyone her discussed the advantage of the program and how we'd go about joining, He said at that time that he could not tell us what our saving would be without knowing our kilowatt hours, so we said ok we'll get the kilowatt hours and when you come again , we will discuss t at that time. Mayor Nickerson states that last month at the meeting it was tabled. She stated that the board had already given him permission September to look up the kilowatt hours. Trustee Lawrence expressed to the Mayor that she knows we hashed over this, but that this is not how she remembers this happening. Visitor Charles Torres stated that this is not how he remembers this happening as well. Mayor Nickerson response was then why would he call and say can I have your kilowatt hours. Mayor Nickerson said to Trustee Lawrence that I'm sorry that you don't remember this. Trustee Lawrence stated that we never made a decision and Mr. Leidy was left no real answer from the Village Board. Trustee Lawrence stated that we requested a contract and he emailed it to us. Mayor Nickerson stated that yes, then we needed to give him our kilowatt hours in order for him to move forward. Visitor Charles Torres expressed that there was no motion made by the Village to allow his to have that information. Mayor Nickerson stated that nobody said not to do it either. Trustee Humphrey asked who sent the numbers to Mr. Leidy and when were they sent. Mayor Nickerson replied that he had called for the information. The Clerk spoke up and said, no that the Mayor had made contact with Mr. Leidy. The Mayor instructed the Clerk to pick up the phone so that Mr. Leidy could get the information from the Clerk to move forward with the kilowatt hour's inquiry. Trustee Humphrey asked what was the date as to when this information giving to Mr. Leidy, the Clerk replied with last week. Trustee Humphrey then stated so it was not last month. This was a decision that did not include the board's approval. Visitor Charles Torres stated that now this program seems to include the 4 Towns Forward as it was mentioned that there would be more saving with joining of the others, this changes the entire contract. When then Mr. Leidy was here in September it was just a village. Trustee Lawrence stated that Town Supervisor John Lawrence did ask

the question about a discount if the Town and Village were to join together. That was a side conversation that took place between Mr. Leidy and Mr. Lawrence. Visitor Linda Matthews stated that conversation also include the school as well, and agreed that it was a conversion between the two men. Trustee Humphrey stated that in looking at the current contract he would think that the contract would be any different that it would be for 4 Towns Forward. Mr. Torres disagreed, the village would have a saving by its self. If the parties involved change their mind and don't want to be in the contract together then that would change the savings. Everything needs to look over a whole, before going forward. Trustee Humphrey stated that the Village Board still has not made a decision to move forward, only to see what the saving may be. Trustee Humphrey suggested that the Mayor should make contact with Mr. Leidy to see what the difference in the contract would be in forces were joined by either the Town or 4 Towns Forward. Mr. Torres said that the decision needs to be made by the board and in front of the people. Mr. Torres said there was no decision with Mr. Leidy when he was here that this would include the 4 Towns Forward or the Town of Afton, this is all brand new tonight.

- Visitor Charles Torres stated to the Village Board of Trustees that at the September 12, 2022 Board Meeting there was a number of concerns about recreational vehicles being driven down the local roadways, along with the lack of Police Force. Mr. Torres stated that after this meeting on September 19, 2022, Mayor Nickerson had sent an email to the Police Committee asking that they come up with a plan of recommendation for the Police Department to revamp the Department. Mr. Torres handed out paper copies of the Mayor's email to the Police Committee outlining this request. Mr. Torres said that on October 3, 2022 the Police Committee sent Mayor Nickerson their preliminary recommendation which was the first step in address the police issues. At the last meeting that was held on October 10, 2022 it was inquired about the Police Committee finding. The Mayor did not want to talk about it at the time. A year ago the Police Committee along the Village Board of Trustees had sent out letters to the Village police Department with stipulations reminding them of their responsibility and their obligations to the village and what was expected of them. This letter was sent to all the Officers who work for the village. When we had asked about the requested Police report by the Mayor to the Police Committee. The Mayor at that time did not want to address it. I would like to ask the Village Board of Trustees and the Mayor if anyone intends on addressing the issue with the lack of police presences in the village. As the Mayor and as the Police Commissioner it's your responsible to ensure that there is coverage.

Mayor Nickerson expressed her dissatisfaction with everyone in attendance. She promptly stated verbally that she resigns.

Mayor Nickerson exited the meeting at 9:00 pm.

- The Village Board of Trustees continued to have an open discussion with those in attendance about the village moving forward. As well what the next correct steps would be moving forward with the mayor stating that she resigns.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:35 pm. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier  
Clerk / Treasurer