

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
September 14, 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees September 14, 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, Trustees Lawrence, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Humphrey, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta.

Visitors: Maryann Palmetier, Richard Cuthbertson, Linda Matthews, April Leggett and Patricia Stafford.

- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the Following, audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed. **General Fund Vouchers # 117 - 151, Totaling \$33,220.87.**
Water Fund Vouchers # 25 – 33, Totaling \$7,416.09.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Simonds. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- Open Public Hearing at 7:05 pm regarding Local Law #1 of 2020.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed. DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta read the report aloud. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office, for anyone wishing to view it.
- Police Department. Report distributed. Trustee Lawrence read the report aloud. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office, for anyone wishing to view it.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson read the report aloud. Mayor Nickerson stated that the report is available for anyone wishing to do so.
- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board held a meeting last week. Trustee Humphrey stated that Planning Board Member Girard Matthews attended a webinar on Hazard Mitigation, as there are requirements that every 5 years we look over our intended plan. At this time, the Village is in compliance and up to date. Trustee Humphrey stated that Planning Board Member April Leggett is looking into the Federal Land Bank usage. The Planning Board Members are continuing to gather information on ways to outline a chicken code adoption policy that would be best suited for the village. Trustee Humphrey stated that Unadilla has just framed

their own laws pertaining to chicken usage/ ownership codes, Two Planning Board Members will be meeting with their representatives to see what they have done to accommodate their residents.

- Finance/Insurance: Mayor Nickerson stated that we are up to date, with the exception of the cyber policy billing that we have just received.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Trustee Simonds stated that she has spoken with Brenda James about the upcoming Christmas Parade. Mrs. James indicated to her, that fellow Christmas Parade Member Kyle James, feels, as though, they may have to cancel this event. The Christmas Parade Committee Members were planning to reach out to those who partake in the event to see what their thoughts were on whether to hold the event. Considering the current 50 people or less rule with social distancing guidelines that are in place, this remains to, be decided.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Muller stated that the Afton Community Parks Associations has cancelled their intended Halloween Party for this year. At this time, it is too soon to make a decision for the intended Valentine's Day Dance. The Park Committee will make a decision as we near the time in which the intended dance is scheduled.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. Mayor Nickerson stated the report is available if anyone wishes to view it or wants a copy.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed. A copy of this report is available for viewing at the Village Office.

Old Business:

- Playground Equipment – Mayor Nickerson stated that we are waiting to have the footers finished. Once done, it is just a matter of placing the playground equipment. Mayor Nickerson stated that the village has received a number of volunteers willing to help with the placement when we are ready. Mayor Nickerson stated that the DPW Crew has placed the riders at this time. Trustee Humphrey stated that he had spoken with Greg Page about drilling the footers; he stated that he could, but did not give a direct indication as to when he would be available to do so.
- Tree Removal – Mayor Nickerson expressed to Mr. DeBetta that the person contracted to remove trees did a good job and prices were reasonable. Mayor Nickerson stated that there are still some trees in need of removal; perhaps we can get estimates for these residents. Mr. DeBetta stated that he has already inquired about a few of them.

New Business:

- Trustee Simonds asked DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta if they were working on a water main, as her water is dirty. Mr. DeBetta stated that they were changing out the chlorination system at the well house.
- Trustee Lawrence asked DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta how much longer the DPW Crew would remain on the 10-hour shifts. Mr. DeBetta indicated that they have already switch over to the 8 hour shifts.

- Mayor Nickerson stated that the Night Shade bush that was growing in the flowerbed in front of the library was successfully been removed.
- Mayor Nickerson state that policy updates are continuing. Trustee Lawrence stated that the Police Committee has been working with Officer Swislosky on the mandates set forth by Governor Cuomo, for police reform policies. Trustee Lawrence stated that Officer Swislosky has done a great job at taking the lead. We will be mirroring the policies set forth at the County Level.
- Green Button Discussion. Mayor Nickerson stated that with the policy updates comes the protection reform policy for the Village Clerks Office. As of now, there is no protective measures in place. The green button is a panic button system that would transmit from one computer to another within an office setting. The cost of this service runs around \$200.00 annually. At this time, Officer Swislosky will checking into what the County levels protocols may be or to see what their recommendations are.
- Comprehensive Plan – Street Design & Lighting. Visitor April Leggett stated to the Village Board of Trustees that she and Trustee Simonds have been working on different lighting options for part of the Main Street Business District that is currently without any lighting. Ms. Leggett suggested that she would like to look into a comprehensive plan grant to help obtain funding for a bigger project on Main Street. She would like to be able to get funds for a complete makeover of Main Street. Mayor Nickerson stated that currently we are looking at obtaining some type of solar lights with a vintage look to help improve the looks of Main Street, to help entice new businesses.
- A motion was, made by Trustee Simonds to surplus a 2008 Chevy Dump Reg. Cab 3500 duty – 4W/D with plow, sander with 59,587 miles as is. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was, made by Trustee Simonds to surplus a 2009 Ford F250 Reg. Cab XL Supper – 4W/D with Boss Plow with 88,551 miles. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Advertisements for the surplus vehicles to be, placed in the Norwich & Sidney Penny saver. The Village Board of Trustees will accept sealed bids at their regular scheduled board meeting on Monday, October 12, 2020. The Village Board of Trustees reserves the right to rejects any or all bids.
- The Police Committee conducted interviews. The following motions made on their recommendations.
- A motion was, made by Trustee Muller to hire Krista Baxter as a part time Police Officer. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was, made by Trustee Muller to hire Kyle Davy as a part time Police Officer. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Halloween Discussions – There were many discussions. Mayor Nickerson stated that she feels as though it should be a parent’s decision, as to whether children should trick or treat. That most children will be wearing some type of a mask. Mayor Nickerson stated that at this point we have not had any guidelines set forth, by either, the County Health

Department or by Governor Cuomo's Office. We will continue to wait to see if the situation changes.

- Trustee Humphrey asked Mayor Nickerson if there was any word on the program with NYSEG to change out the headlamps on the street light poles to LED. Mayor Nickerson stated that the village is on their list for the proposed project, but they have not given any details as to when they will begin.
- DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta asked the Village Board of Trustees about a lighting update at the well house. He stated that the lighting is very poor; there are four fixtures that could be, updated. Mayor Nickerson asked that he obtain an estimate and she will obtain one as well.
- Mayor Nickerson asked if there was anyone present, who had any questions or comments, on the Local Law #1 of 2020. There was none at this time.
- A motion made by Trustee Simonds to close the public hearing at 8:02 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

VILLAGE OF AFTON
LOCAL LAW NO. 1 FOR THE YEAR 2020
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER II, ARTICLE II
ENTITLED "PEDDLING AND VENDING"

Be it enacted by the Village Board of the Village of Afton as follows:

Section 1. Chapter II, Article II, Section 2-2-2 "License Fees" shall be amended as follows:

Insert:

(d) for a license for one day from date of issue - \$10.00.

Section 2. Chapter II, Article II, Section 2-2-3 "Term of License" shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

No such license shall be granted for more than one year or for less than one day.

Section 3. Remainder

Except as hereinabove amended, the remainder of the Code of the Village of Afton shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Separability

The provisions of this Local Law are separable and if any provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part thereof is held illegal, invalid, unconstitutional, or inapplicable to any person or circumstance, such illegality, invalidity or unconstitutionality, or inapplicability shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, clauses, sentences, subsections, words, or parts of this local law or their application to other persons or circumstances. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this local law would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional provision, clause, sentence, subsection, word or part had not been included

therein, and as if such person or circumstance, to which the local law or part thereof is held inapplicable, had been specifically exempt therefrom.

Section 5. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

VILLAGE OF AFTON
RESOLUTION APPROVING LOCAL LAW NO. 1 of 2020

At a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Afton held at the Jack D. Bolster Community Center, 105 Main Street in said Village on the 14th day of September, 2020, the following resolution was offered and seconded:

WHEREAS, the Village of Afton scheduled a public hearing for September 14, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. for Local Law No. 1 of the year 2020 entitled “A Local Law Amending Chapter II, Article II entitled ‘Peddling and Vending’”; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the official newspaper of the Village, and posted on the Village Clerk’s signboard; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was duly held at the Jack D. Bolster Community Center, 105 Main Street in the Village at 7:05 p.m. on September 14, 2020, and all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf of or in opposition to said proposed Local Law or any part thereof; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), it has been determined by the Village Board that adoption of the proposed Local Law constitutes a Type II Action as defined under 6 NYCRR 617.5(26) and (33); and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Village to adopt said local law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Afton hereby adopts said local law as Local Law No. 1-2020 entitled “A Local Law Amending Chapter II, Article II entitled ‘Peddling and Vending’” a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and it is further

RESOLVED that the Village Clerk be and hereby is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and to enter said Local Law in the Local Law Book of the Village of Afton, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State; and it is further

RESOLVED that this resolution will take effect immediately upon filing with the Department of State.

CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Palmatier, do hereby certify that I am the Village Clerk of the Village of Afton and that the foregoing constitutes a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Afton at a meeting thereof held at the Jack D. Bolster Community Center, 105 Main Street, Afton, New York on the 14th day of September, 2020. Said resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Mayor: Janice Nickerson Aye
Trustee Sally Muller Aye
Trustee Robert Humphrey, Jr. Aye
Trustee Deanna Lawrence Aye
Trustee Michele Simonds Aye

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Linda Matthews expressed to DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta that he was doing a super job. Mrs. Matthews asked Mr. DeBetta as to when he thought the playground equipment should be complete as there are many people asking, and it has been such a long time. Mr. DeBetta stated that they are nearing the end, waiting on the footer placement process.
- Visitor April Leggett expressed to the Village Board of Trustees that perhaps once the chicken code/ policy is brought fourth and if it passes, that the Board may want to consider some type of a sanitation composting pile for the chickens waste that residents may be able to use for gardening purposes.
- Visitor Maryann Palmetier suggested that perhaps the Christmas Parade could live stream the event, as this event is important to the community. Mayor Nickerson stated that she feels as though it is too soon to make a decision. She stated that she realizes how much it means to everyone and how much we all may want to hold the event, we must be sure to follow all guidelines for safety protocols. Mayor Nickerson stated that she would reach out to the surrounding Mayors to see what they may be planning at this time.
- Visitor Linda Matthews questioned who should, be reached to report the outages of current streetlights. The light pole near her house is out. She stated with the season changes it is still dark in the morning and becomes dark earlier in the evening.
- Visitor Linda Matthews stated that Main Street is a State Road, which would require approval from DOT (Department of Transportation) for any upgrades.
- A motion was, made by Trustee Simonds to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:15 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer