

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
September 12, 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 12, 2022 in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

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

Present: Mayor Nickerson, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee Winans, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Supervisor DeBetta and Officer in Charge, Stanko.

Present via Zoom: Trustee Komorowski

Absent: Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Visitors: Patricia Wenner, Charles Torres, John Lawrence, Donald Ouimet, Tyler Lawrence, Linda Matthews, David Leidy and April Leggett.

- A motion 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 # 97 - 125, Totaling \$13,741.54.
Water Fund Vouchers # 39 – 48, Totaling \$288,826.81.
- Motion to accept previous minutes from the regular meeting held on August 8, 2022 as well as the special meeting held on August 30, 2022 with no additions or correction, made by Trustee Humphrey. Seconded by Trustee Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- **DPW/ Water:** A verbal report given by DPW Supervisor Bailey DeBetta.
- **Police Department.** Report distributed. Read allowed by Officer in Charge, Stanko. There was a discussion of the Safe Routes to School Grant Program to help the Village obtain a digital speed zone sign for the community. Officer Stanko stated that she attends meeting at the County once a month, at that time she will gather more information. Officer Stanko expressed that a study would be the first step to determine if the Village would qualify.
- **Code Enforcement:** Report distributed. Read aloud by Mayor Nickerson.
- **Planning Board:** Report distributed. Read aloud by Mayor Nickerson.
- **Finance/Insurance:** Up to date, remain the same.
- **Christmas Parade Committee:** Mayor Nickerson informed the Village Board of Trustees that Brenda James stopped by the Village Office to turn in the remaining funds from the

Christmas Parade Committee. Mrs. James has expressed that she will no longer manage the parade or continue with the Friends of Afton Committee. Mayor Nickerson stated that the Village will be looking for volunteers to assist with the Christmas Parade. Mayor Nickerson said that if anyone is aware of those who would be interested in helping, they could contact her. Trustee Humphrey suggested that perhaps Mayor Nickerson could contact the Chamber of Commerce to see if they would be interested in taking over the Christmas Parade. Mayor Nickerson stated that she would like to form a garden club as well if anyone is interested.

- Parks Committee: Remains the same.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed. Read aloud by Mayor Nickerson.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

New Business:

- David Leidy from Usource, a NextEra Energy company spoke with the Village Board of Trustees about a Community Solar Program that could help the Village save up to 5 to 10 percent on their energy costs. Mr. Leidy stated that this program requires no roof top usage or land space. There is no out of pocket cost to the Village. Usource would contact potential supplies on the village's behalf to help reduce their energy usage, by asking for a series of bids to be submitted to the Village Board for their decision on what their supply costs will consist of.
- David Leidy from Usource answered many questions by the Village Board of Trustee as well as the residents that were in attendance. There were many concerns as to where the energy would be coming from and how beneficial it would be to the surrounding community, regarding where or how far the solar energy would be supplied from. There is a contract that's required to become a member of Usource. It was decided that Mr. Leidy would directly email the Board Members the contract information for their review.
- Mr. Leidy supplied Mr. John Lawrence with the informational packets that were given to the Village Board of Trustees. Mr. Leidy stated that the Village & Town could not merge their accounts, but they could place the bidding process together to receive the best rates.
- A motion made by Trustee Winans to move \$200,000.00, from Capital Reserves Water Improvement Savings Fund for partial payment of Invoice # 5 - 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 \$200,000.00). Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$86,485.80, from # 1 Capital Reserves Improvement Building Savings Fund for the remaining payment of Invoice # 5 - 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 \$86,485.80). Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.

- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to close the Village Clerks Office on the following days, January 30th & 31st, 2023 and February 1st & 2nd, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor John Lawrence expressed his concern about recreational vehicles driving down the local roadways. Officer Stanko stated she had spoken with violators and issued verbal warnings. Visitor Tyler Lawrence states that slow moving signs are only acceptable to farm recreational use.
- Visitor John Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that it was brought before the Town Board that The Glenwood Cemetery has no water source at this time for the purpose of watering planted vegetation. DPW Supervisor DeBetta said that the responsibility of the village is only to the curb box. The water line connection is the responsibility of The Glenwood Cemetery Association, Inc., that they should be contacted about this matter.
- Visitor Tyler Lawrence asked the Village Board of Trustees what the maxim hours per week are for the Police Department. Trustee Lawrence stated that they have been asked to clock 2 – 4 hour shifts a week. There were discussion on the amount of hours being worked, as well as the pay scale in which the village is hiring their Police Officers. It was stated that the village is the lowest paying of Officers in the County. Visitor Mr. Charles Torres stated that there are rules & regulations that are set forth by the (DOJ) Department of Justice in regards to the hiring process for qualifications to have this job title. In order for Officers to be willing to put in the hours there needs to be increase made in the budget to offset costs of salaries. There was discussions of the possibilities of 1 full time and 1 part time Officer. This has been a continued process that the Police Committee has been working on. Visitor Tyler Lawrence expressed his interest in joining the Police Committee. It was stated as long as there was not a conflict of interest, he could do so.
- A motion made by Trustee Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Trustee Winans. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer