

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
September 9, 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 9, 2024, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

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

Present: Mayor Dedman, Trustee D. Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence, Trustee L. Matthews, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and DPW Supervisor DeBetta, Code Enforcement Officer Butler and Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Visitors: Patricia Wenner, Judy & John Hinman, Ben Watson, Darren Schultes and April Leggett.

- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers. Seconded by Trustee L Matthews. All in favor motion passed.

General Fund Voucher's # 73 - 99, totaling \$121,305.47.

Water Fund Voucher's # 27 – 36, totaling \$3,937.50.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or correction made by Trustee D. Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta.
- Police Department. Report distributed, read aloud by Officer in Charge Ventura.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed, read aloud by Code Enforcement Officer Butler.
- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board is tasked with forming a comprehensive plan. They are currently reviewing the Strategic and Waterfront Revitalization Plans, they will take some time to review as they are large reports.
- Finance/Insurance: The Clerk/ Treasurer informed the Village Board of Trustees that due to changes in the insurance policy with the removal of and adding of new equipment there is a small balance owed.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Darren Schultes informed the Village Board of Trustees that they held a meeting on August 21, and had 9 people in attendance. Amy Schoelier reached out to Barb Niles, and was able to gather more information from her on how they ran the previous parades. We need to make a decision as we gather more information on the opening a bank account to fund the Christmas Parade. The NBT Bank has indicated that the Christmas Parade Community will need to supply the bank with minutes to their meeting for this propose, in which they will do so. Trustee D. Lawrence expressed that more information was gathered by the Village Clerk/Treasurer from the New State Comptroller's Office, she

will share this information at the next Christmas Parade meeting, on September 18, 2024 at 6pm. They have confirmed the Grand Marshalls for the parade. The committee will be assisting Sertoma to drop cords for the placement of the candle sticks throughout the village. They have commissioned to have a new metal wreath made to begin the replacement of the candle sticks, as many of them are very old and worn. Once they obtain a price they will begin with Main Street, as they will not have enough funds to replace all of them at once. The informational forms for the parade are being printed at this time, and will be going out soon, to get the word out. The theme will be a Dickens Christmas, in which there will be cast members from a local theater dressing up and portraying characters throughout the parade. We will be making some donation jugs to be placed at local area businesses for collections to be used towards the parades needs. We will be hosting a cans and bottles drive, as well.

- 4 Towns Forward: Officer in Charge Ventura stated that the topic of discussion at the last meeting was on affordable housing and homeless and the need of hotels for tourism. April Leggett stated that they had also discussed the idea of opening up snowmobile trails for 4-wheelers, as we have had lack of snow over the last few years. Ms. Leggett also said that 4TownsForward indicated that this would require permission to use the trails from land owners and New York State. Visitor Judy Hinman stated that John Payne has been trying for 10 years with the help of Steve Fox, at the County to make this happen. They have had no luck. Mrs. Hinman informed everyone that the concert that was help by 4TownForward for all Towns/Villages has donated \$250.00 to each area school districts clothes closet. The next 4TownsForward meeting will be held tomorrow at 8:00 am at Bob's Dinner.
- Historian Report: No report. Trustee L. Matthews stated that Afton Museum/ Historical Society Building has just been made aware that their roof is in need of repair. They are looking for contractors to begin the work before they lose a complete wall, due to water damage.
- Dog Control Officer: - No report.
- Afton Central School – No representative.

Old Business:

- Railroad discussion. – Remains the same. Trustee D. Lawrence stated we can remove this discussion, she will continue to reach a representative, and follow-up once she has more information.
- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Mayor Dedman stated that he has received information from Trustee T. Lawrence on the persons wanting to purchase the yellow houses. Mayor Dedman stated that he would need to speak with the proposed purchasers before moving forward with the village attorney.
- Water Meter Project Progress. – DPW Supervisor DeBetta stated that reached out to Mr. Becker after our last board meeting, about the purchase of the water meters to begin the project. DPW DeBetta informed Mr. Becker that the village wanted an update before the next board meeting, no information has been received. Trustee Humphrey stated that he would contact Mr. Becker.
- Proposed boat ramp discussion. – Remains the same.
- Discussion on ATV and UTV and Golf Carts. – Mayor Dedman stated that this remains the same, we need to figure out how to get a handle on the misuse of the village streets and sidewalks by those riding their ATV and UTV along with Golf Carts throughout the village.

- Discussion on Public Electric Car Charging Stations. - Visitor Benjamin Watson asked the Village Board of Trustees if they have made a decision on the proposal that was made by the New York Power Authority for the village to go into contract to place a public electric car charging station on village owned property, at 174 Main Street. Trustee T. Lawrence asked about the liability cost on the village. The village did reach out to their insurance representative for a quote, we would need to increase the umbrella limits to 5,000,000/10,000,000 which would be a cost of approximately \$3,693.00. The Village Board of Trustees asked Mr. Watson to speak with his supervisor to see if he could come up with a better offer for the village to consider.
- Discussion on Grover Contract. – The Village Board of Trustees tabled the motions pertaining to the proposed contract, due to some of the wording within the contact.

New Business:

- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to accept the email vote on August 24, 2024, outlining change in dealership only for purchase of 2024 Dodge Ram Crew Cab. Due to a delivery issues this vehicle will now be purchased through, Scoville - Meno Ram in Sidney, NY for the same price, instead of through Robert Green Trucking. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to move \$31.20 in the water budget from Contingency (1990.40) to Unallocated Insurance (1910.40), for payment of changes on insurance policies. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor motion, passed.
- Voucher bill pay on McDowell & Walker – Tabled until a formal letter can be sent.
- Email of request – Davey’s Field – There were discussions among the Village Board of Trustees as to the actual information being requested. Trustee T. Lawrence will speak with Mr. Rupakus on this matter, to see if there are businesses that are willing to sponsor a plaque to be placed at Davey’s Field with the village’s permission for placement.
- Building discussion. - Trustee L. Matthews addressed the Village Board of Trustees with her concerns of the upkeep of the village building, she outlined several things that need repair. Trustee Matthews stated that this building is the first place that people come and see to get information, we need to address some of the maintenance issues and keep a maintenance schedule of the building to keep it in good standing.
- Halloween Discussion. – A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to hold Trick- or -Treating hours from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm on Thursday, October 31, 2024. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Trustee D. Lawrence expressed that she is aware that the village waives permit fees for the fairgrounds for any event that benefits the fair directly, however she feels that a discussion should be had with Jason Wicks outline the protocols, as there has been many events happening. Trustee Humphrey stated that he does not think that they are charging for these events.
- Trustee T. Lawrence stated that the Afton Youths Sports program is in rapid decline. He’d like to meet with the officials in Sidney, NY to see how they run their program. He feels as though more needs to be done to keep the program going.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Darren Schultes informed the Village Board of Trustees that after receiving approval from the village board his family has planted a maple tree in Foster Park by the river in remembrance of his late grandfather Ross Willes. His extended family was there for the dedication in which they have placed a plaque.
- Visitor Judy and John Hinman, Afton Chamber Board Members, expressed their concerns about another local business closing on Main Street. They have spoken with the Commerce of Chenango County for insight on how to bring businesses to Afton. They would like for Mayor Dedman to meet with them and the Commerce of Chenango County to gather ideas.
- Visitor Patricia Wenner expressed that when she was here in July she had inquired about the flags that were purchased by previous administration. She was told that the flags were not of good quality, she'd like to make an offer to purchase them to be handed over to the veterans of the community.
- A motion made by Trustee D. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer