

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
September 8, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 8, 2025, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence, who welcomed everyone.

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

Visitors: Dale Dewy, Julie Sutton April Leggett, Joyce Humphrey, Becky Komorowski, Jason Wicks, James Parkinson, Maryann Palmetier and Brendon Becker.

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

General Fund Vouchers # 73 - 88, Totaling \$8,733.27.

Water Fund Vouchers # 30 – 41, Totaling \$6,642.68.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections made by Trustee Humphrey. Second, by Trustee L. Matthews. 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: No report as there is a vacancy. Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that the village is looking to fill the position, if anyone who lives within the village, may be interested.
- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett address the following:
 - ✓ Guilford's public safety sanitation law
 - ✓ Abandon houses in the village
 - ✓ Electric co-op
 - ✓ Affordable housing
 - ✓ Codes and law availability
 - ✓ Microphones
 - ✓ Commerce of Chenango Membership
 - ✓ Game of chance

Visitor Jason Wicks asked the Village Board of Trustees to consider allowing games of chance, as they would like to hold them at the Fairgrounds. H has already spoken with the Town of Afton; they will be looking into the process.

- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees that as required by New State Law, late tax notices for nonpayment of taxes have been, mailed to residents.
- Parade Committee: Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence stated that Mr. Daron Schultes is not here tonight. However, their next meeting will be here in the Susquehanna Room, on Thursday, September 18, at 7pm, for anyone wishing to join the meeting.

Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence asked Mr. Jason Wicks when the banner for the Afton Fair would be, taken down. As there is a sign code, that requires that they come down within a certain time after the event is, held. Mr. Wicks said that he would need to get in touch with TDS to have it taken down.

- 4 Towns Forward: Trustee L. Matthews said that the Music Festival went well. However, they did not have as many people in attendance as they have in the past two years. They think it maybe that people are more interested in hearing country music, they will looking to book a county artist for the next Music Festival, each four Town Chamber will get a portion of the proceeds of the event. On April 26, 2026, Guildford will be hosting a UTV and ATV poker run. There will be a meeting tomorrow on the homelessness and poverty within the communities.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence said that she had reached out to Commerce of Chenango Member, Tyler Oliver. In the meantime, Planning Board Chair April Leggett has reached out to Brendon Becker to get assistance in applying for grant funds to have the houses taken down. Brendon Becker will be forming a letter of intent on behalf of the village to apply for pro-housing grants.
- Village Attorney – Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that due to Mr. Nathan VanWhy leaving Coughlin & Gerhart. The village will remain with Coughlin & Gerhart.
- Camera Discussion – Visitor Dale Dewey presented the Village Board of Trustees with information on different option for ring outdoor cameras. He stated that the village would need to pay for the service of the cameras at roughly \$100.00 monthly. The cameras can be set up through a cell phone. He states that he and his wife are willing to purchase the camera's, to donate to the village, if the village approves of the purchase. There were many discussions on the quality and options of the proposed camera purchase. Trustee L. Matthews states that we would need to see what type of system the Hinman's have to compare.
- Charging Station – Trustee T. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that the New York Power Authority will start the construction faze once NYSEG has the signed easement from the village.

New Business:

- Rebecca Komorowski – Letter of Intent. – A motion made by Trustee Humphrey acknowledging the letter of intent from Rebecca Komorowski expressing that she would be willing to complete the current term of the Mayor. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews.

Trustee T. Lawrence expressed that he would like to have a discussion, before moving forward. Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence said that we can go into executive session to have a quick, discussion.

- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to enter into executive session at 7:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor motion passed.

The Village Board of Trustees stepped into the Village Clerks office for a brief discussion.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to exit executive session at 7:46 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence said that we have already made a motion to acknowledge a letter of intent from Rebecca Komorowski expressing that she would be willing to complete the current term of the Mayor. Made by Trustee Humphrey, Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence said that a roll call vote would be, conducted on whether to appoint Rebecca Komorowski to finish the term as Mayor.

Village Clerk / Treasurer, Ann Palmatier proceeded with a roll call vote, which resulted in the following:

Trustee Humphrey	VOTING: No
Trustee L Matthews	VOTING: Abstain
Trustee T. Lawrence	VOTING: No
Trustee D. Lawrence	VOTING: No

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to accept the resignation of Marguerite Petrie, as a Planning Board Member, effective August 12, 2025. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to allow for the Deputy Mayor to sign an easement from New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG), allowing for New York Power Authority to place electrical service at 174 Main Street. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- Halloween Discussion. – Trick- or -Treating hours will be from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm on Friday, October 31, 2025.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to close the village office on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence informed the Village Board of Trustees that they were giving a letter of request, just before tonight meeting from The Afton Driving Park & Agricultural Association, Inc. requesting to use the parking area across from the fairground for a Fall Harvest Festival to be, held from October 3, 2025 through October 5, 2025. They are also requesting that the noise ordinance, be extended to 12:00 am for this event, along with a waiver of permits. There were questions and concerns from the Village Board of Trustees pertaining to the parking next to the well house. There were some issues with parking at this location during the fair, this cannot happen again. If giving permission to use as an over flow for parking, the fair board must comply with the boundaries set forth by the village. As far as the noise ordinance, the board asked if there was a certain event that, this request pertained too. Mr. Wicks said just for the demo that will be running on Friday and Saturday night.

- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence allowing for a waiver of permits for the Fall Harvest Festival being held at the fairgrounds from October 3, 2025 through October 5, 2025. Parking will be, permitted by the well house providing that the boundaries are followed set by the village. The noise ordinance will be, extended, to 12:00 am on Friday, October 3, 2025 and Saturday, October 4, 2025. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence to appoint Trustee Humphrey as Deputy Mayor. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to accept the resignation of Acting Mayor, Trustee Deanna Lawrence, effective at the conclusion of the September 8 , 2025 board meeting, Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Brendon Becker, Lamont Engineers explained to those in attendance that the wastewater project has been ongoing since 2010. When the project first started in 2010, the estimated cost was 6 million, now it is 16 million. The village has secured funding to have the project covered by 80% grants. It was, asked what the cost would be to hook into the system once completed; Mr. Becker estimates that it will be around \$1000.00 per household. There are grants avail to homeowner to apply for to help obtain funds to hook into the system, each homeowner will be responsible, and either by their own means or a contractor hook into the system. It is, estimated that once the system is up and running that the cost per year will run each household will be roughly \$800.00 yearly. This cost will reflect the amount of water that your household uses. Mr. Becker said that once the project moves forward the public will be notify. There were many discussions on this topic, among those in attendance.
- Visitor Dale Dewey talked about the New York State law regarding swimming pools, requiring fencing. He talked about the car charging station, the replacement of the 88 –culvert. The need for pro-housing in the community.
- Visitor Julie Sutton likes the idea of a car charging station it will bring people off the highway; it will be a great way to show case our village, allowing people to walk around our street. We need beautification to motivate people to make their place look appealing, we need owners to take care of their properties.
- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey at 9:02 pm to enter into executive session for the discussion of proposed, pending or current litigation. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews.

Acting Mayor, Trustee D. Lawrence asked Rebecca Komorowski to stay for the executive session.

- A motion made by Trustee Humphrey to exit executive session at 9:23 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Visitor Rebecca Komorowski left the meeting, 9:23 pm.

- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to adjourn our regular meeting at 9:24 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Palmatier, Clerk / Treasurer