

**Village of Afton**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY**  
**December 9, 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

**Present:** Mayor Matthews, Trustee Muller, Trustee Lawrence, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee Simonds, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla and Officer in Charge Quanison Wright.

**Absent:** Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler

**Visitors:** Andre Ouimet, Charles Torres, Curtis & Gloria Harvey, Lori Petzack, Stephanie Rupakus, Susan Weibel and David Wylubski.

- **No motion was made to pay the following Vouchers:**

**General Fund Vouchers # 184 - 207, Totaling \$8,743.80.**

**Water Fund Vouchers # 58 – 61, Totaling \$810.04.**

- Motion to accept previous minutes with the following correction. – Delete Check # 20700 under General fund checking payable to Steel Sales, Inc. in the account of \$88.04. Under Street Maintenance / Equipment- A5110.20, invoice previously paid. Leaving a total of \$7,800.38 spent in the General fund for November 2019. Motion made by Trustee Muller. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

**Monthly Report:**

- **DPW/ Water:** Report Distributed. DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla gave a verbal account of his written report. He stated that the department had 2 mark outs, for Dig Safely of New York. They located and shut off a water leak for repair on Rt. 41. They continued with the daily brush and leaf pickup. They replaced the service corp. value at 19 Pleasant Ave. Installed hand rails and toe boards on overhead storage at the shop. Ditches were cleaned on upper Spring Street and Pleasant Ave. With the winter weather they were plowing and salting the roadways.
- **Police Department.** Report and schedule were distributed to the Village Board of Trustees. Office Wright stated that the Department issued warning to those who were parking on the streets during snowfall.
- **Code Enforcement:** Mayor Matthews read the Code Enforcement report aloud. Mayor Matthews stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.

- Planning Board: Trustee Humphrey informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Planning Board did not hold a meeting due to the weather. Trustee Humphrey reminded everyone that the Zoning Board of Appeals will continue to hear the variance request made by Mr. Deluca at 222 Main Street. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 6 pm, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street. This meeting is open to the public, no public comments will be heard.
- Finance/Insurance: Up to date.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Mayor Matthews stated that the Christmas Committee did a nice job this year. He was amazed with how many people were involved in the parade as well as the number of people who attended.
- Grant Committee: Trustee Muller stated that the Parks Committee should know this spring if they will receive the grant funds that they have submitted to place a sidewalk at Leggett Park.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds informed everyone that the Parks Committee will be hosting a Valentine Dinner Dance on Friday, February 14, 2020. Cash bar starts at 6 pm. A prime rib buffet dinner will be served starting at 7 pm., dancing to begin at 8 pm until midnight. The cost is \$40.00 per person, the Band Sundown will be the night's entertainment. Tickets can be purchased at The NBT bank of Afton, The River Club or by a Committee Member. All proceeds to benefit the Afton Community Parks Fund.
- Historian Report: Report distributed. Mayor Matthews stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report of October & December were distributed. Mayor Matthews stated that the report was available to anyone wishing to view it.

### **Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

- DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla stated that he wanted to clarify that he has not made any complaints to the Police Department to have parked cars removed during a snow storm.
- DPW Superintendent stated that he feels as though the fire hydrants that are in need of replacing need to be done. As well as a resolve to our water tank.
- Trustee Muller asked DPW Superintendent about the catch basin repairs in the municipal parking lot. DPW Superintendent stated that the current placement was like a 500 gallon dry well. The replacement allow for the running water to drain off the black top.

- Trustee Muller asked DPW Superintendent about the catch basin repairs on Sunset & Highland Ave. DPW Superintendent explained that the catch basin was shallow which led to poor drainage. They dug down a little deeper, added cobble stone to allow for better drainage.
- Trustee Simonds asked DPW Superintendent to look into the security alarm, it keeps going off. Mr. Acla stated that he'd have one of the guys look at it tomorrow.
- Trustee Humphrey asked DPW Superintendent if the Village still owns a tractor with a snow blower on it. Mr. Acla stated that when they got the equipment out from storage they were heading across the bridge with it the steering rods broke. They have since order the news parts for replacement. He stated that they will taking it out for use in the next snow storm. Trustee Humphrey stated that we need to look into maintenance program to insure that the equipment is running properly.
- Officer Wright informed the Village Board of Trustees that when the building at 19 Court Street, housed the Village/ Town Court Offices there use to be video cameras on the building. Once they moved over to the Town location, those cameras were taken along with them. Office Wright explained that Suny University has donated cameras to be used at this location. Trustee Lawrence asked if this donation included the software needed to run the camera system. Officer Wright stated yes, we need to pay for the installation only. It was asked if the cost of installation is known. Officer Wright stated it shouldn't be any more than a few hundred dollars. Trustee Muller asked if Officer Wright if he had a person in mind to perform the installation of the camera system. Officer Wright stated yes.
- A motion was made by Trustee Muller to accept the donation of the cameras along with the software system from Suny University. To be installed not to exceed no more than \$500.00. To be placed at the DPW / Police building at 19 Court Street. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to close the Village Office on Wednesday, December 25, 2019 & Wednesday, January 1, 2020. In observation of Christmas Day & News Years Day. Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to allow for Mayor Matthews to appoint Trustees as Committee Members for such:

DPW / Water Committee – Trustee Lawrence  
Trustee Humphrey

Police Committee – Trustee Muller  
Trustee Lawrence

Planning Board Committee – Trustee Humphrey  
Trustee Simonds

Finance / Insurance Committee – Trustee Muller  
Trustee Simonds

Seconded by Trustee Muller. All in favor, motion passed.

- As per new hire Kyle Hinman as a part time Police Officer. Mayor Matthews asked that the Police Committee conduct an interview before the motion for hire be placed in front of the Board of Trustees. Mayor Matthews stated that our Officer in Charge Q. Wright has recommended Mr. Hinman for the position.
- Trustee Muller asked Officer Wright to set up a time when our possible new hire could meet with the Police Committee for an interview.
- Mayor Matthews addressed Mr. Charles Torres. Stating that it was his turn to address the Village Board of Trustees with his FOIL violation request. Mr. Torres stated that he'd allow the visitors to speak first.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

- Visitor Lori Petzack asked DPW Superintendent if the sidewalk on Daly Drive is on his list on sidewalk repairs. Mr. Acla stated that they he can take a look at it. Ms. Petzack stated that it clearly needs to be repaired.
- Visitor Petzack asked DPW Superintendent if the Fire Department and her roadway will be paved. Mr. Acla stated that those roadways in question had been cold patched a month ago.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked about the cross walk on Spring Street. She stated that this needs to be done.
- Visitor Lori Petzack expressed her satisfaction with Department of Public Works Workers. She feels as though they did a great job with the snow removal.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked DPW Superintendent if the Department had test drove the tractor after fixing it. Mr. Acla stated no they have not, they just finished putting it back together today.
- Visitor Loir Petzack asked when the new truck will be delivered. DPW Superintendent stated that he had placed a call today, but had not received a call back. Mr. Acla stated that going forward the Village will be trying to trade equipment in before it depreciates.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked if the Village could get a better deal on a truck. It was explained that the village follows State Bids, which are the best deals possible for the Village.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked Mayor Matthews for a follow up on a traffic light at the intersection request form DOT. Mayor Matthews stated that we are still waiting for their report.
- Trustee Muller asked DPW Superintendent if he has the capability to fix the broken / un-operational fire hydrants. Mr. Acla said, yes/ Trustee Muller said they should be done as

soon as possible. Trustee Humphrey agreed, he stated that the fire hydrants need to be replaced and upgraded.

- Trustee Muller stated that the Village needs to do what needs to be done to fix our water tower, even if the village needs to use saving to get it done. If no grants funds are awarded, the replacement must be done.
- Visitor Lori Petzack asked if the Village resubmits the grant application to include the fire hydrants, we fix them ourselves do we still get the grant funds. Ms. Petzack was told no.
- Visitor Loir Petzack asked the Village Board of Trustees if it was possible to make Daly Drive a one way street. Ms. Petzack stated that she'd like the Officer in Charge opinion. Trustee Lawrence asked Ms. Petzack which way she was proposing the one way direction go. Ms. Petzack stated from Main Street to Spring Street. Trustee Lawrence stated that in that direction it's difficult to see down Spring Street. Trustee Lawrence asked DPW Superintendent to look into the possibility.
- Visitor Curtis Harvey asked how much of the land through Daly Street way does the Village actual own. Trustee Lawrence stated that was a good point and asked DPW Superintendent to look into that as well. Ms. Petzack stated that her sidewalk butts up to the area where the cars park in the parking lot of the Afton Inn. Trustee Lawrence express to Ms. Petzack, let's let our DPW Superintendent do some research. Ms. Petzack asked DPW Superintendent what his opinion was on this decision. Mr. Acla stated that it's up to the Village Board of Trustees.
- DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla told the Village Board of Trustees that he had attended a Superintendents meeting the other day. He stated that the Chipps Program is in jeopardy. That the State may be cutting those funds. He asked that the Board Members and the local public contact their State Representatives, such as Assemblyman Crouch, Senator Akshar and Assemblywoman Lupardo to make their opinions heard.
- Trustee Lawrence stated that we heard the same thing last year, we still received funds. We need to keep our fingers crossed.
- Visitor Charles Torres asked DPW Superintendent what the calendar year was on the Chipps Program. Mr. Acla stated that it's a 5 year program. But that it could run from fiscal year. Mr. Acla is still waiting to receive the paperwork to have more information.
- Visitor Charles Torres gave a lengthy presentation about his unfulfilled FOIL request. Along with his disapproval of the way the Village is ran.
- Mayor Matthews, Thanked Mr. Torres. Mayor Matthews stated that he never sought the job or wanted the job. He said that he's done the best he can. Mayor Matthews then announced that he is resigning.

**Mr. Matthews handed in his keys and left the building.**

- DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla asked the Village Board of Trustees if he could have some time to respond to what Mr. Torres said. Trustee Muller responded yes.

- At this time Deputy Mayor, Trustee Muller took control of the meeting.
- A motion was made by Trustee Lawrence to enter into executive session at 9:00 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee Simonds to leave executive session at 10:10 pm. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee Simonds to hold a Special Board Meeting on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 4 pm, pending reconsideration of resignation of current Mayor, Girard Matthews. Pending appointment of new Mayor. Seconded by Trustee Humphrey. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Humphrey to adjourn our regular meeting at 10:15 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted  
Ann Palmatier  
Clerk / Treasurer