

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
February 11, 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held February 11, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Burnett, Trustee Matthews, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Zablocki, Village Attorney Beth Westfall, DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla, Officer in Charge Q. Wright and Village Code Enforcement Officer Jeffrey Butler.

Absent: Trustee Harvey

Visitors: Edward Jones III, John Lawrence, David Wylubski, Susan & John Weibel, Deanna Lawrence, Mark Strong and Allison Wylubski

- A motion was made by Trustee Zablocki authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.
General Fund Vouchers # 236 - 260, Totaling \$12,265.61.
Water Fund Vouchers # 96 – 102, Totaling \$1,953.21.
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections was made by Trustee Zablocki, seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Report Distributed. Mr. Acla gave a verbal reading of his monthly report. DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla informed the Village Board of Trustees that the 2009 Ford Truck was towed to the Ford Dealership in Norwich, NY. It's has performance issues, the dealer has deemed a motor replacement. The total repair cost for the truck is estimated at \$8,626.00. He explained that the cost of repairs exceeds the value of the truck. He asked the Village Board to consider surplussing the vehicle. They were many discussing's on what possibly could be done with the vehicle. Mr. Acla will look into what other options the Village may have for properly disposing of this vehicle. Whether surplussing, trade in value, State Bid or auctioning off. Visitor David Wylubski suggested that the Village receive another estimate of repair for the truck, as dealers will sometimes add in extras that are not necessary. He suggested that maybe the Village, should look into a leased vehicle.
- Police Department. Report Distributed.
- Code Enforcement: Jeffrey Butler gave a verbal report. He stated that he continues to hand out written notices and knock on doors in regards to sidewalks not being shoveled within the 24 hour time period. He stated that he has spoken with Steve Fox the County Code Officer about the lack of businesses here in Afton. There was an issue with a questionable tree on a property located on Caswell Street. There was a report of some trash dumping that

was not proving.

- Planning Board: Trustee Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that no meeting was held this month.
- Finance/Insurance: The Village Clerk / Treasurer supplied the Village Board of Trustees with a copy of the refund check that the Village received as a settlement from Ambit Energy/ New York Litigation. This refund is pertaining to the class action lawsuit Simmons, et al. v. Ambit Energy Holdings. LLC presiding in the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Kings.
- Christmas Parade Committee: Remains the same.
- Grant Committee: Remains the same.
- Parks Committee: Trustee Simonds informed the Village Board of Trustees that the Parks Committee had their Valentines Dance this weekend at The River Club. She stated that it was fabulous with good food and band. Everyone had a great time.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

Old Business:

- At last month's Board Meeting the Village Board of Trustees made a motion to appoint the Penny Saver as its official newspaper. The Penny Saver is an advertising paper, not one that allows for the Village to place legal notices.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to have the Evening Sun out of Norwich, NY as the official newspaper for the Village of Afton. Seconded by Trustee Zablocki. All in favor, motion passed. The Village will continue to use both the newspapers for their needs.

New Business:

- Village Clerk made request to close the office April 17th thru April 24th, 2019.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to allow for the Village office to be close from April 17th thru April 24th, 2019. Seconded by Trustee Zablocki. All in favor, motion passed.
- Village Attorney Beth Westfall asked the Mayor to set a Public Hearing on the 2% Tax Cap Law to be held at our next Board meeting in March.
- A motion was made to hold a Public Hearing on the 2% Tax Cap Law by Trustee Simonds. Seconded by Trustee Zablocki. All in favor motion passed.

- A Public Hearing will take place at the Jack D. Bolster Community Center at 105 Main Street at 7 pm on Monday, March 11, 2019.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor David Wylubski expressed to Mr. Jeffrey Butler, Village Code Enforcement Officer that there are many unregistered vehicles within the Village. He stated that he had a whole list that he could supply him with.
- Visitor John Lawrence requested that the Village Board of Trustees consider placing a Church only parking sign on the right hand side of Academy Street. Which is adjacent to St. Agnes Church. He stated that people have been parking there for school related proposes. Whether it's a shorter walk or more of a convenience. But it makes things a little more difficult when there are things taking place at the Church. He asked that he be informed if this is possible pending legal litigants.
- Visitor Deanne Lawrence asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla about the ditch that is spilling over along the roadway to her home. She stated that it was fine for a while, but now it appears to running back into the roadway. Mr. Alca stated that the catch basin was cleaned out this fall. But with all the winter debris it has clogged. He stated that the Department will keep an eye on it.
- Visitor David Wylubski asked the Village Board of Trustees if they were aware that Mr. Mark Strong was looking to place a gun shooting range on a property that he purchased through tax sale that is located within the Village limits. Trustee Simonds answered, Yes. Mr. Wylubski pointed out that the Village Code pertaining to the firearm section clearly states that a range can only be approved by the Chief of Police. Mr. Wylbuski stated that we do not have a Chief of Police, that we have an Officer in Charge. He stated that this is another reason why the ordinances should be rewritten. Mr. Wylubski stated that this decision should be made with both parties in discussion, the Police and the Village Board of Trustees. He also stated that this property is located within the Residential Single Family Zone. Which would require Mr. Strong to seek a variance for the placement of a gun shooting range. Mr. Wybluski stated that he does not want a shoot range behind his house. If permission is given, he'll start circulating a petition.
- Trustee Matthews stated that this is correct, a variance would be required. Trustee Matthews stated that the Planning Board worked on rezoning some properties within the Village last year Attorney Beth Westfall explained to Mr. Strong that the first step would be to contact the Code Officer, then the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Matthews told Mr. Strong that the Planning Board could help him with the process. Mr. Strong stated that he was not going to bother going through all of that.
- Attorney Beth Westfall asked the Village Board of Trustees to make a motion to enter into executive session.
- The Village Board of Trustees invited John Lawrence who is the Town Supervisor to join them in executive session.

- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to enter into executive session for personnel matters at 7:45 pm. Seconded by Trustee Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Matthews to exit executive session at 8:36 pm. Seconded by Trustee Zablocki. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion was made by Trustee Zablocki to adjourn regular meeting at 8:37 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted
Ann Palmatier
Clerk / Treasurer