

**Village of Afton  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY  
September 10, 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held September 10, 2018 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 Harvey, Trustee Simonds, Trustee Matthews, Trustee and DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla.

**Absent:** Trustee Zablocki

**Visitors:** Kenneth Vail, Daniel Fugnani, Jerry Nancy Harris, Pamela Wylubski, Craig & Barbara LaForte, Ivan King, Joan Pallatier, Thomas O'Donnell, Martin Pettit, Jeffrey & Shirley Butler, Marge Petrie and Charles Torres.

- A motion was made by Trustee Harvey authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers, Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.  
**General Fund Vouchers # 100 - 121, Totaling \$52,804.05.**  
**Water Fund Vouchers # 37 – 48, Totaling \$34,057.64.**
- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections was made by Trustee Harvey, seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

**Monthly Report:**

- DPW/ Water: Report distributed. Mr. Acla gave an oral report on his submitted written report.
- Police Department. No Report.
- Code Enforcement: No reports or representative. Waiting to hire for this position.
- Planning Board: Trustee Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that due to the Holiday the regular scheduled meeting was planned to be held on Tuesday instead. But that only a few members were avail, so no business was conducted.
- Finance/Insurance: Mayor Burnett received letter from NYMIR. Trustees Matthews stated that the Mayor will have to call NYMIR to get a better understanding of the letter.
- 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 will be holding a Halloween Party at the River Club. Taken place on Saturday October, 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Tickets will be \$5.00 per person.
- Historian Report: Report distributed.
- Dog Control Officer: - No Report.

**Old Business:**

- Weiss Cleanup – Remains the same. – Visitor Kenneth Vail asked the Village Board of Trustees what this Weiss clean up pertained to. According to visitor Martin Pettit is actually stands for Weisman. They are a company that works with clearing properties that have a lot of debris on them. Trustee Matthews & Trustee Simonds explained that there is a property that the Village has purchased in the hopes of placing a sewer treatment plant on the premise in the future.
- The location of the property was asked about. It was stated that it was the old junk yard previously owned by Max Fritzsich. They were many discusses from village residents about the possible contamination of this property. Visitor Charles Torres stated that the state can be contacted to see if there is an open case number on this property for a certificate remediation.
- Applications have been collected for the position of Code Enforcement Officers. Trustee Harvey asked Mayor Burnett if any interviews have been conducted. Mayor Burnett stated that she will be calling applicants for interviews. – Visitor Kenneth Vail stated to the Village Board of Trustees that he feels as though they may want to reconsider the amount paid for the duties of the Code Enforcement Officer. He feels as though this is a lot of responsibility for very little money.
- Village Board of Trustees revisited the email sent to them from Melissa Matthews last month. They had already discussed her first question at the August Board Meeting. They have stated that her questions 2 & 4 have already been handled. As for question 3 – making Daly Drive a one way Street. This will need to be discussed with the Village Attorney.

#### **New Business:**

- Visitor Pamela Wylubski Thanked Mr. Acla for the placement of signs throughout the Village informing residents of the hydrant flushing. She stated that not all residents read the Tri- Town News.
- Trustee Harvey asked DPW Superintendent Andrew Acla how many hydrants that he had come across that weren't operational. Mr. Acla stated that he'd have to shut down the entire line in order fix what's broken, working on that would be a long process.
- The Village Board of Trustees were informed that the agreement between Eastern Energy and the Village of Afton to update the electrical lighting within the entire Village Office Building was completed on August 16 & 17, 2018.
- Visitor Thomas O'Donnell asked the Village Board of Trustees about the shared service agreement between the Town / Village. He asked if there were any monetary funds exchanged. Mr. O'Donnell was told no that it's just equipment & labor that is shared. Mr. O'Donnell then asked if it is feasible for the Village to use the Towns equipment on their roadways. Mr. O'Donnell was told no that their equipment is much too large to use on the Village Streets. It would tear up the streets.
- The Village Board of Trustees were looking to increase budget line appropriations by moving funds from one account to another for both Water & General Funds. This was table until next month. Many discusses were made on the wording of these movements.

- The Village Board of Trustees discussed the surplus of the 2008 Chevy Dump Truck – Dump Box, Plow and Salter. As well as a 2001 John Deere Lawn Mower.
- Visitor Jerry Harris asked if the additional \$50,000.00 budget line appropriation was for the purchase of the new DPW Truck that was voted upon at last month's meeting. He suggested that the Village Board of Trustees wait to surplus the old truck until the new arrives
- Visitor Kenneth Vail suggested that we keep the 2008 Chevy Dump truck as a spare as a backup. In case the new truck has any issues. Visitor Martin Pettit stated that the village has 3 other trucks. Mr. Vail asked why get a new one.
- A motion was made by Trustee Simonds to surplus the 2001 John Deere Lawn Mower with 1623.4 hours logged. Seconded by Trustee Harvey. Advertisements for sealed bids will be placed in The Tri- Town News. All in favor, motion passed.
- A Resolution was made by Trustee Simonds approving consolidation of vital registration districts between the Town of Afton and the Village of Afton. Seconded by Trustee Harvey. All in favor, motion passed.

### **Recognition of Visitors:**

- Another email request from Melissa Matthews. Ms. Matthews along with the Chamber of Commerce are asked that the Chamber of Commerce, The Town of Afton and The Village of Afton donate \$100.00 each for the purpose of a 2 sided banner to promote Small Business Saturday and the Annual Village Christmas Parade. It was decided that the Village is not at liberty to donate funds for this purpose.
- Visitor Jerry Harris asked the Village Board of Trustees to consider dissolving the Village of Afton Police Department. There were a hand full of attending village residents that agreed with Mr. Harris.
- Visitor Charles Torres addressed the Village Board of Trustees with his concerns about the dissolving of the Village of Afton's Police Force. He feels as though it would be detrimental to remove the police force at this time. Mr. Torres stated that he lives next to the school, he sees all the drug deals happening right before his eyes within the school zone. This would be a very bad idea for our entire community. Instead of bashing our police force we need to treat them with respect to help better our community. I'm a very concerned citizen, parent and tax payer. I would gladly pay more to insure that we have police protection. This would be a very bad idea for all involved.
- Visitor Jerry Harris stated that we already pay the State & County for services.
- Visitor Martin Pettit, former Office in Charge for the Village of Afton agreed with Mr. Torres. He also congratulated Mayor Burnett on her election. Mr. Pettit stated that he was unfairly removed from the Police Roster. Mr. Pettit stated that if our police force were to work in the school for 20 hours a week it would not hurt the Village. The Village Board informed Mr. Pettit that the School was looking for a full time person for the RSO position. Mr. Pettit expressed his opinion that part of the problem is that these Officers are not getting paid enough to do the job. He stated that the village hires at \$14.00 hourly to start. Right now Deposit is starting at \$18.00. He explained that all the current Officers work for the County,

if they get mandated due to shortages at the county, then that's where they have to put their time in. Mr. Pettit also stated that we (our Community) is at the far end of the State Police Zone, with that said, it will take a while for anyone to arrive into the Village for help.

- Visitor Jerry Harris stated his opinion that it's apparent that we are not capable of running the Village.
- Visitor Martin Pettit stated that the Village of Afton is the longest running Police Department it was founded in 1893. It's a great service for the community. They are able to be here as a first responder. Some coverage is better than no coverage at all. It's what's best for our community. Mr. Pettit stated that the Board should reconsider pay raises for Officers. He stated that they are not given any allowance towards gun purchases. He stated that a purchase of a hand gun runs for \$1,000.00 just to come to work. Mr. Pettit stated that he'd be happy to consult with the Village at no charge.
- Visitor Kenneth Vail expressed his opinion that we should reevaluate the Police Force.
- Visitor Charles Torres stated that there is the issue with the school as well. We need police presence there.
- Visitor Martin Pettit stated that it's not just up to the School Superintendent. Just like it's not just up to the Mayor. All members need to be involved. Mr. Pettit suggested that perhaps the Village should consider a full time officer, with a part time chief.
- Visitor Jerry Harris suggested that a committee for the Police Department be formed. Perhaps Martin Pettit could help with this.
- Visitor Martin Pettit stated that sometimes it takes 15 minutes before back up arrive. Not just for police work but for the service work as well.
- Visitor Craig LaForte stated that we either need to fix what we have or get rid of it. No full time Police Officers. Mr. LaForte stated that he'd rather see an EMT service.
- Mayor Burnett asked if we could look into EMT service full time. Visitor Martin Pettit stated that that service would cost more than what's being spent now.
- Visitor Kenneth Vail suggested that we start a committee to revamp the Police Force. The Village Board of Trustees will be taking numbers of those interested in joining.
- Visitor Daniel Fagnani from Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. spoke with the Village Board of Trustees about the water tank replacement process. He informed the Board that the grant application submittal was sent in as of August 31, 2018. Mr. Fagnani stated that we should receive notification of grant funding sometime between January – February of 2019. Once that happens he'll be meeting with the Village Clerk / Treasurer to discuss the funding process.
- Visitor Martin Pettit stated that he had looked into funding before he had left his position at the Village with Congressman Richard Hanna's Office for the placement of a perimeter fencing around the Village water tank. At that time price was around \$38,000.00. This information should still be available through Congressman Claudia Tenney's Office.

- Visitor Kenneth Vail questioned the Village Board of Trustees about why they had first stated that they would not supply the property located at 138 Winding Way with water services. Then state that they would supply them with water services, as stated in the May 14, 2018 Minutes .This property is owned by Steven & Sherry Johnson. At that time the Johnsons has stated that they would like to pipe the water to the neighboring property dwelling for servicing. Mr. Vail stated that this would be theft of services since there is no dwelling on this property. The property that they would like services ran to is in the Town Ship. Mr. Vail feels if water services are provided to this property, then they will be stealing from tax payers. Mr. Vail pointed out that this property is located in a flood zone. Mr. Vail expressed his dissatisfaction that the Village Board has not reached out to the surrounding residents in that area to inform them of this possible water distribution in their section of the community. This would likely affect everyone's water pressure. Mr. Vail stated that he himself had previously looked into the purchase of this property, but decided not to. Due to the fact that it is in the flood zone. Plus there is not enough land to drill a water well.
- Visitor Kenneth Vail presented the Village Board of Trustees with photos of the neighboring property across from him. He stated that someone on the East Side has been coming on to this property with a gardening tractor dumping construction debris within the ditch lines. Mr. Vail stated that he does not think that the property owners are aware of this situation. Mr. Vail stated that this is causing the water to back up onto his property due to the drainage pipes getting clogged. Mr. Vail stated that this piping on Winding Way is deteriorating badly and is in need of being replaced. DPW will be looking into this and contacting the property owners to make them aware of the situation. Mr. Vail stated that he would have gladly contacted the Village Code Enforcement Officer, but the Village has yet to hire anyone. This should be their job not his.
- Trustee Simonds asked about the Great American Parking Lot. She stated that there all kinds of junk and debris in visible site. It was stated that this a Village Code Enforcement responsibility.
- Visitor Ivan King announced to the Village Board of Trustees that he has purchased the Jockey Port location at 59 South Main Street. Mr. King stated that we was in need of speaking with the Planning Board. He currently has 3 apartments at this location. He's not planning on reopening the Veterinary Clinic. He'd like to make 3 additional apartments. Trustee Matthews stated that he'd speak with Mr. King after the Village Board Meeting to discuss is plans.
- A motion was made by Trustee Matthews to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Trustee Simonds. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted  
 Ann Palmatier  
 Clerk / Treasurer