

**Village of Champlain
Village Board Meeting
August 11, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, Aug. 11, 2025 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Molinski, Conner, Herzog and Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Trustee Trombley was excused this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve minutes of the July 14th board meeting. All other members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND GENERAL QUESTION
PERIOD FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor McFetridge reported:

Our 3 summer events were well attended: Thank you to *All About the Bass* who played at Bill Earl Park.

Thank you to the Morelock family and the Mavor family for sharing their porches for Porch Music.

Thank you to the musicians Ryan Casey, Matt Wagar, Rob Guay, Tony Bulriss and Matt Welch for offering their time and talent. Thank you to the Adirondack Regional Theatre for their presentation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at our first Theatre in the Park & Stewarts for the ice cream.

She met with Champlain Committee for America 250. A Historical Marker Dedication is scheduled. They are looking to schedule a concert and lecture series as well as involvement from libraries. Volunteers will be needed, so please contact Mayor McFetridge if you are interested.

The Climate Smart Community Pledge has been passed by the Village. We will need a task force which supports and promotes climate mitigation. Anyone interested in being involved, please reach out.

The new Champlain Fire Station is near completion and will have a small Ribbon-cutting on Aug. 29th at noon. There will be a Community Grand Opening on Oct. 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor McFetridge attended the following events this past month:

- Met with Bonnie Black to learn more about suicide prevention.
- Attended a *Friends Across the Border* gathering with Michael Cashman & the Mayor of Cornwall.
- Attended the Dedication of Bob Venne Park
- Has been working with JCEO to help our local seniors
- Attended a Town History meeting
- Attended open house and tour of the new Crisis Intervention Center in Plattsburgh.
- Spoke with Benner-Boire regarding our new website
- Performed a wedding in the Village

PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:40 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Herzog, seconded by Trustee Molinski to close the regular meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to go into Public Hearing.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No one was present from the Public this evening.

This ordinance requires that certain structures have a key lock box installed on the exterior of the structure for fire, EMS and other safety purposes.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to go out of Public Hearing.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Herzog to go into Regular Meeting.

All members member present voted aye. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Water & Sewer Committee:** Both Projects are close to complete
- **Streets and Sidewalks Committee:** Nothing new
- **Equipment & Tool Committee:** There is a lot of maintenance on our equipment.
- **Buildings/Property Committee:** Trustee Herzog has reached out to the Codes Officer requesting information on the Vacant Building registry to see where we stand and if it's where we want to be.
- **Parks/Recreation Committee:** nothing new
- **Planning Board Liaison:** nothing new
- **Zoning Board Liaison:** nothing new
- **Champlain Fire District Liaison:** Mayor McFetridge reported updates in her report.
- **Recreation Committee:** Nothing new.

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REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski thanked Janet for all of the activities organized this summer.

She also thanked Stewarts for their donation of ice cream for the ice cream social.

The library had a successful series of gardening events this summer themed "color your world"

Thank you to Cornell for coming to talk about gardening, plants and pollinators.

The Clinton, Essex and Franklin libraries will hold the Library Crawl during the month of October.

The Annual Pumpkin decorating will take place at the end of that month.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner had nothing to report.

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog had nothing to report.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER

The board was provided the Expense and Revenue report for July 2025.

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

The warrant was presented with additional invoices of \$9,613.04 for a total warrant of \$30,420.64.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve the warrant with additional invoices.

Roll call vote:

Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

Water Line Replacement

Barton & Loguidice

\$772.50

Motion to approve payment made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski.

Roll call vote:

Trustee Molinski	aye
Trustee Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Water

- Hydrant flushing was completed
- Monthly water readings completed
- Work on PRV vault maintenance continues.

Streets

- Mowing and trimming are being done.
- Ash tree removal is waiting for approval
- Brush removed on roads and sidewalks.
- Trees that need to be removed will be cut down as time allows.

Sewer

- The DPW started working on sewer tanks. 2 digester tanks have been completed. They have started shoveling out the first aeration tank. These tanks have 1'+ of sludge in them. Once emptied, they must be washed and all piping removed. Next, new piping is assembled and bolted down with stainless hardware. There are 6 tanks left to complete. We will need a vacuum truck for at least one tank. This is very labor-intensive work and is estimated to go into October.

Misc.

- The bucket truck generator was repaired
- The backhoe was sent to the shop and repaired.
- The Kubota is at the shop and parts were ordered for repair.
- The 4 gas meter was repaired

To be repaired:

- One well pump has had problems and we will have to get a tech here to pull the pump.
- The loader will need to go to the shop for technical service
- The 2010 Peterbilt has electrical issue and will need to be fixed and inspected.
- The sewer jet needs work.

PURCHASE REQUISITIONS

1. Last month I asked for approval for a duct hunter rodder. This is a 300' flexible fiberglass rod on a reel with a copper core. It is used in non-conductive pipes or lines like sewer lines or conduits. This allows me to put a current down the line to locate and would be used in conjunction with the new locator. It will accurately and effectively mark out sewer lines. Currently a steel sewer snake is used, but it is only 100' long. They range in cost from \$1,600-\$2,250 plus freight. There is one available for

\$1,500. Supt Jolicoeur is looking for approval for up to \$1,750 for the purchase of a traceable line rodder.

A motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve up to \$1,750.00 for the purchase of a duct hunter rodder. Discussion followed. Roll call vote:

Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

2. We have two radar signs that have not been working. A rep. from trafficlogix came to check on them and is offering us two radar heads, but only charge for one. They are usually \$250 each. We would also get cloud service for both signs for the next 3 months. After three months, we will see how they are working and we could continue with cloud service forward.

A motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve ordering the two radar heads for \$250.00. Roll call vote:

Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp from Gerald Stone to TJ Fiacco Construction praising employees.
2. Corresp from Northern Housing with Annual Donation
3. 2nd Quarter Sales Tax Revenue of \$77,867.47 from Clinton County Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Standard Work Day Resolution for Employee

A motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the Standard Work Day Resolution for Employees.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Standard Work Day & Reporting Resolution for Elected & Appointed Officials

A motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve the Standard Work day and Reporting Resolution for Elected and Appointed Officials.

Nicci Molinski's ROA is 2.25 hrs. and Kim Trombleys ROA is 4.92 hrs.

3. Purchase of new computer for Superintendent

Our tech services, Twin State, has advised us that Supt.Jolicoeur's computer is at 90% full storage and currently 7 years old. Windows 10 goes unsupported in October and this machine cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 due to its age and specs. They suggested a Dell desktop computer at a cost of \$1,949.48 for the computer and \$814.00 to set up, transfer data, install applications and updates.

A motion was made by Trustee Herzog, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve this purchase.

Discussion followed. The board would like several more quotes for this purchase.

This matter was tabled until we have further information. We will schedule a special board meeting before Aug. 29th, when the Twin State quote expires.

4. America 250 Committee

Next year will be the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Town has come up with some ideas for this celebrations: Dedication of Historical Markers, Author visits, lecture series, music across the centuries, cemetery tours. These events need a lot of help and volunteers. Please contact the mayor if you are interested in history and getting involved.

5. Constellation Energy

After some research, we found that Constellation Meta has the best rates. We are currently at \$.062/kwh which will increase to at least \$.078kwh, which will give us an increase of \$10,000/year in electricity costs.

Our options are 12 month term @ \$.07973/kwh, 18 month term @ \$.08082/kwh, 24 month term @ \$.07805/kwh or 36 months @ \$.07811/kwh. Discussion followed.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to lock into the 2-year term with Constellation at \$.07805/kwh. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. .GOV website

Mayor McFetridge and Dep. Clerk Spring Spoke with Aaron Benner from Boire Benner regarding updates to our website and making it compliant with NYS .gov content. The board was provided with a quote from Benner Boire for a website upgrade and website hosting. They are aware of the things that are required to be on the website. The cost for the website would be \$3,800 and hosting would be \$720/year.

Motion to approve the quote for services from Boire Benner Group.

Discussion followed. The board went over some ideas of things that we should include in the new website including photos, billing, call directory, email system, .gov emails for employees/board members, Village Code, announcements, link to local organizations, scrolling notices, etc. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Purchase of Fire Station

Mayor McFetridge has reached out to our attorney multiple times with no response. The Fire Dept. had not heard anything either. She asked the board for their thoughts on options we should consider:

Trustee Herzog felt that the building should be used to keep our vehicles from weathering. We could lease to buy the property, if possible.

Per the Clerk/Treasurer, we would need to take on a loan to buy, but we don't have a price yet. Mayor McFetridge asked if we could do a lease. Clerk/Treasurer said that would depend on the cost to taxpayers. If you get a bond, it would be 15-30 years and interest rates are a factor.

Trustee Conner said that some work will need to be done and we have to consider other utility costs. We could use the space, but we need to know overhead costs.

Trustee Molinski asked if all offices would move there.

Mayor McFetridge said we haven't talked too much about that.

Trustee Conner said we would have to add on for that.

Mayor McFetridge said that we haven't yet asked for a \$ amount. She will contact the Fire Dept. and let them know our interest, but that we need more details on the financial aspect.

The board received an invitation from the Town of Champlain to attend the Ribbon Cutting for Tom Venne Park on Aug. 21nd at 10:00 a.m. Mayor McFetridge encouraged the board to attend if possible.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 7:33, p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Herzog to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

At 7:33 p.m., the Board Meeting was re-opened.

KNOX BOX LOCAL LAW PUBLIC HEARING

The current version of the Knox Box Local Law does not have any fines attached. The board was provided an amended version with fines added of up to \$200/day for violations.

A motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to include fines in the local law.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A public hearing for the amended local law Knox Box was set for Sept. 8th at 6:40 p.m.

At 7: 36 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Connor to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Spring, Secretary