

**Village of Champlain  
Village Board Meeting  
December 11, 2023**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Molinski, Herzog and Conner and Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Trustee Trombley was excused this evening.

Also present this evening were Grayson Deso, Oliver Deso, Declan Deso, Charles Horner, Everly Deso and Melissa Deso.

Grayson Deso, Oliver Deso, Declan Deso, Charles Horner and Everly Deso led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the minutes of the Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Trustee Herzog abstained. Motion carried.

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

The family present this evening reported that they liked our Park and the Tree Lighting with Santa.

**REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Codes Enforcement Officer Matott provided the board with a Report for November 2023.

**REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor McFetridge reported the following:

Some of the accomplishments in the Village this year include:

- The wastewater treatment plant project with upgrades is nearing completion.
- The water line replacement work will start in the spring
- This year we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, observed Arbor Day and Holiday Fest. Several concerts in the Park were enjoyed by many.
- We were awarded a number of grants for activities including the Sensory Garden, Board Games for seniors, walkability training and many kid's events. We continue to work with the health department to make our village a safe place to walk.
- We have a new business downtown "What's in Store" with another at the old Falcon Drug store to open soon.
- Congratulations to Mike King on his retirement from the village DPW.
- Thank you to Sally Jarvis and Lori Brink, who organized the Parade of Lights, which has become a tradition.
- Thank you to Nicci Molinski and Tricia Wrye for their work on the children's activities & candy cane hunt.
- Thank you to the DPW for decorating the park for our Tree Lighting and hanging decorations.

Mayor McFetridge alerted residents that they will be receiving a letter explaining that federal lead and copper rule revisions have gone into effect. This requires every community to develop a water service line inventory of all the buildings in each community. We will be asking for information regarding your service line or we will need to visit your home to determine what material it is made of. More information will be provided in the letter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work to complete this requirement.

Mayor McFetridge wished a beautiful holiday season to all. This can be a difficult time for many people who may be lonely, isolated and missing loved ones and asked that we take time to include neighbors by sending a card or a personal greeting.

**REPORT FROM TRUSTEES**

Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski reported that the House Decorating Contest judging will take place next week, Dec. 18-22. Winners will be reported at the January meeting.

Over 25 children participated in the craft activity and candy cane hunt. She thanked Mayor McFetridge for her ideas and Tricia Wrye for their help. There will be activities scheduled for the February break.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner thanked the board for their hard work this year. He thanked Mike King for his service here. He reminded the public that we have a job opening in the Village. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog thanked Mike King for his years of work and congratulated him on his retirement. He also thanked the DPW crew for keeping the roads clear.

**REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ**

The Board was provided the Expense & Revenue report for November 2023. Our quarterly billing was \$70,751.50 for water and \$66,854.47 sewer.

Purchase Requisitions

**Mower Deck**

The New Holland lawn mower needs replacement parts. Supt. Jolicoeur was able to find a new/unused mower deck from Hart’s Lawn Care that includes those parts and will work with our mower from.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the purchase of a New Holland 60” lawn mower deck model 914A in the amount of \$500 from Harts Lawn Care. Roll call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**Tires for 2016 Ford F250**

New tires are needed for the 2016 Ford F250. We have a quote from G&G Tire.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve up to \$1,200 for the purchase of 4 tires for the 2016 Ford F250 with installation, balancing, disposal and alignment. Roll call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**Suspension Enhancement System**

The 2022 Ford F350 Super Duty needs this to help hold up the suspension with the plow on the truck.

Motion by Trustee Herzog, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve up to \$650 for the purchase of a Front and Rear Suspension Enhancement system for the 2022 Ford F350. Roll call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**TRANSFERS**

|       |         |   |            |
|-------|---------|---|------------|
| TO:   | G8130.4 | Sewage Treatment & Disposal-Contractual | \$5,000.00 |
| FROM: | G8130.2 | Sewage Treatment & Disposal-Equipment   | \$5,000.00 |

We spent a lot on tipping fees this year from G8130.4.

Motion to approve transfer by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski. Roll call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT**

The warrant of \$138,290.79 was presented with additional invoices of \$2,450.64 for a total of \$140,741.43. This includes workers comp policy and water loan payment to the Town.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$140,741.43. Roll Call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

Water Main Replacement Project

|            |                    |          |
|------------|--------------------|----------|
| 11/30/2023 | Barton & Loguidice | \$625.00 |
|            | Total:             | \$625.00 |

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to pay B&L \$625.00 for Water line replacement project.

Roll Call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

Wastewater Plant Disinfection and Upgrades Project

|            |                             |             |
|------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 12/05/2023 | Barton & Loguidice          | \$30,643.25 |
| 11/30/2023 | Triangle Electrical Systems | 11,362.00   |
|            | Total                       | \$42,005.25 |

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve payment to Barton & Loguidice and Triangle Electrical for a total of \$42,005.25. Roll Call Vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT**

Supt Jolicoeur provided the board with a report for November 2023.

Trustee Conner asked about the Kubota still being in the shop. Mayor McFetridge thought it was a part he is waiting on.

Trustee Conner asked about the Peterbilt battery. Should that be under warranty?  
Munoz said that Supt. Jolicoeur is talking with them about that and we haven't paid that bill yet.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Franchise Fees from Charter Communications
2. Corresp from NYS DOT regarding bridge and culvert funding.
3. \$4,000 Tobacco Grant funds for Rec. Trail materials
4. \$2,105.49 Mortgage Tax Distribution from Clinton County.
5. Letter of Termination to Nicholas McSweeney
6. Corresp to Rebecca Drake.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Building Permit Fee Schedule updates

Our fees have not changed for many years and they are fairly low. These are the same fees that are proposed by the Town and include some things that we have not charged for in the past. Mayor McFetridge suggested that we have a working meeting with the Codes Officer to go over suggested changes. He may have input on things that we are not aware of. We will be sharing the Codes Officer between the Town and Villages of Champlain and Rouses Point. He will be using new software that will be better at tracking things. Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to table this matter. The board agreed to a working meeting, date TBD.

2. Service Line Inventory

Mayor McFetridge read over EPA fact sheet addressing lead service lines. Every municipality in the county will have to establish an inventory of all water service line materials. We can use our records, but most of our homes are older. Homeowners may be able to provide that information, but if not, we may need to go in ourselves to determine materials in the service lines. This has to be done by mid-October 2024.

3. SBA Office of Disaster Recovery

The representative is not here this evening. She will reach out with more information. She would like our help in educating the public on some of the loans available for the July flooding in Clinton County. We didn't have flooding in the village, but this can be shared with those who may be helped by this assistance.

4. Water Board Report

Mayor McFetridge asked the board to carefully read through the water report and if there were any questions, email in a thread for the report. This is both the Village and the Town's responsibility to be well-informed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Dog Law

This matter was tabled until we receive a response from our attorney.

2. Oil Spill Settlement Agreement

The Attorney General's office accepted our offer to pay \$5,000/year for 10 years to pay off this debt. Resolution #3-2023 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor of the Village of Champlain To Sign the Settlement Agreement with the State of New York State Spill # 17-07897 PIN 07898

Motion to accept Resolution #3-2023 by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Herzog.

Roll call vote:

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Trustee Molinski | Aye |
| Trustee Conner   | Aye |
| Trustee Herzog   | Aye |
| Mayor McFetridge | Aye |

Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, at 7:10 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Molinski seconded by Trustee Molinski to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary E. Spring, Secretary

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023**

- Inspection of 11137 Rt. 9 house. House conditions still not livable due to trash in upstairs bedrooms.
- Complaint regarding moved trailer and equipment being operation on the neighbor's lawn on Meadow Lane. Trailer was moved for placement of slab and they have a permit. Spoke with workers in regards to staying off the neighbor's lawn with any equipment.
- Conversations with Clinton County SS regarding 11137 Rt. 9
- Decking inspection and footing inspection on Rt. 9
- Spoke to owner of residential project on 11062 Rt. 9. Building was originally built wrong and found during contractor inspection. Building will be replaced instead of renovated.
- Trash complaint on Willow St. Owner removed trash.
- Burning complaint on Rt. 9. Advised owner not to be burning in Village and not to burn trash or debris.
- Issued permit for demo of burned house on 11258 Rt. 9. Court case is completed.
- Violation letter to 11258 Rt. 9 regarding demo or repair.
- Issued updated CO for 14 Spruce St. for bank loan.
- Issued permit for renovations and deck on Rt. 9
- Inspection of 11137 Rt. 9. Trash has been removed, floors cleaned, and smoke alarms installed. House can now be occupied.
- Final inspection of 1696, 1685, 1676. CC issued.
- Spoke to owner of 158 South St. property regarding junk. Given deadline to comply. Junk in yard cleaned up.

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2023**

**Water:**

- Water meter readings completed for billing
- Shut off 2 water services for the winter
- Repaired hydrant on Rt. 11 and pumped out.

**Sewer:**

- The new belt press and grit removal had startups done by factory reps. We are still waiting on UV and bar screen to be started up. We ran into a few issues with the installs but have had discussions with engineers and are working on them.
- Drain cover made for drain under belt press

**Equipment:**

- The Kubota is still at the shop for repairs.
- Front tires on backhoe changed.
- New live edge plow blades were delivered and installed on the v-plow. We will be getting \$1,500 from Clinton County Soil and Water for Salt Reduction Grant.
- Purchased new batteries for the 2021 Peterbilt.

**Streets:**

- Built a frame and raised drain grates on Elm St. near Prospect St. intersection.
- Still trimming low hanging brush on streets and sidewalks.

**MISC.**

- We removed flags and banners and put up Christmas decorations. Park was decorated.
- Street connection made for new water service line at 810 Hayford Rd. for new house in the Town. Meter is not yet installed and off at the curbbox.
- Delineators put up to help with plowing.
- Terminated a new hire and are reviewing applications to fill the position.

- Mike King retired from the Village. Supt. Jolicoeur thanked him for his service and wishes him well on his next chapter.