

Village of Champlain

Village Board Meeting

December 10, 2018

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, December 10th, 2018 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York. Present were Mayor Martin, Trustees McFetridge, Gehrig, Thomas Trombley and Kim Trombley, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz, Secretary Sousa, Codes Officer Tetreault and Supt. Jolicoeur. Also present were Diane Morrelli, Judy Demers, Chris Babbie, Daniella Romo, Kyrstn Parent and Brad Lafave.

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

A motion was made by Trustee McFetridge and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the minutes of the November 7th Special Board Meeting. Trustee Gehrig abstained. All other members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to approve the minutes of the November 13th Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Diane Morrelli from Willow Street addressed the board as representative of the group present. The issue of concern is the dumping at the end of Willow Street. There have been chunks of cement, rebar, tarmac and old sidewalk cement dumped there where children were playing during the summer. There was some rumors that some of it came from Rouses Point when they closed Wyeth and from another property in Champlain.

This dumping is affecting water drainage. The ditch along the old railroad tracks is no longer open as it has been filled in.

This neighborhood does not want contaminated soil and does not want a gravel pit or dump at the end of their street.

They were questioning who okayed this dump, who is doing the dumping, is the fill safe, and has it been tested? What about wetlands and drainage effects? Are there zoning laws regarding dumping on a residential street, and can people use construction debris for landfill?

Chris Babbie said that this property borders on his back yard and there is a pond growing in his back yard since fill has been put in. He is concerned with neighboring properties not draining with 4 ½-5 feet of fill. The water table is low there and will be worse in the spring with rain and snow thaw.

Daniella Romo is concerned with contamination. Her boys were playing on the dirt and she had heard that that it was contaminated. If it is, why are there no warning signs.

Mayor Martin responded:

1) When the water project began, engineers were looking for approved sites to put the spoils of the project (what is left after digging for water line trenches). The debris there was put there at the request of the property owner. When completed, the contractor was to smooth over and take care of drainage, but the contractors left before this part of the project was completed.

2) Regarding concerns of contamination, the owner of the land is obligated to tell the trucking firm and property owner that is accepting the material if there is contamination in that material.

He does not know if that material is contaminated and suggested that one person in the group contact DEC Spill Coordinator. The large chunks should not have been put there and is the fault of the trucking firm.

3) Working is still being done on West Service Road with hookups still to be done. The contractor is allowed to put material in that site that is going to be used at the West Service Road project per the approval of the property owner. Once the project is complete, the contractor is responsible for the cleanup of that area and taking care of drainage problems.

Further discussion followed. Ms. Morrelli asked if zoning could be more specific about what can be used as fill on a residential street. Mayor Martin said that we can look back in our code to see what is in place now. She was also concerned with big trucks going through with children on that street. Codes Officer Tetreault agreed it was a poor site to choose for this.

Mayor Martin said that he would contact DEC tomorrow and suggested that a member of the group contact them as well with their concerns of contamination.

REPORT FROM CODES OFFICER

Codes Officer Tetreault reported that he is dealing with the apartment at 11191 Route 9. The owner cannot rent without a certificate of occupancy. The owner is trying to evict the current occupants and will then have a lot of work to do to get a CO.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Martin reported the following:

The Village has had many positive events this year including our Village Fest, Tree Lighting, Music in the Park and long boats on the river. We have also faced some negative events including numerous water breaks and boil water orders. The water project, which was to be completed by now, will go into 2019. Water line issues in the Village will be addressed, much needed repairs at our wastewater plant will be completed and our street paving and sidewalk repairs are concerns that will need attention.

Our Tree Lighting ceremony was on Saturday evening with warm beverages, a heater to ward off the cold and a visit from Santa. The children and all in attendance seemed to enjoy the experience. In order to have an event like this, we must have some much-appreciated support from our local business community.

- A huge thanks to Ashley and her crew from our local Dunkin, that continues to support our annual event with hot chocolate and snacks.
- A big Thank You to Border View Grocery for their continued support with their generous donation of a Christmas Tree for our tree lighting ceremony.
- Thank you to Robbie Roberts with his well-lit tanker and Christmas characters.
- Thanks to Kinney Drugs for their continued support with their donation of candy canes.
- A thank you to our local Girl Scout troop for singing many traditional Christmas carols.
- Thank you to the fire department for delivering our honored guest this evening.
- Thanks goes to Clarke Herdic for providing his patio heater to keep our hands warm.
- A big thanks to Ace Hardware for their donation of lights and decorations.
- The biggest thanks goes to Santa for making a stop at our tree lighting to the delight of all the children. Thank you, Mr. Cooke, for your continued service, creating joy in the eyes of our children.
- Thanks to Juanita, Mary and the DPW crew for their help .
- Mayor Martin wished residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES

Trustee Gehrig would like to extend the House Decorating Contest to Dec. 20th. Residents should turn on their lights by 5 p.m.

She reminded residents that Stewarts has started its Holiday Match program, which returns those funds to our local communities.

She thanked Janet and Clarke for the use of the Meeting House for craft activities on Saturday.

She also thanked Nicci Molinski for organizing the craft activities for the children.

Trustee Gehrig asked when the ice rink will be going in. Mayor Martin said that we have a volunteer who is willing to work on that, hopefully to be ready for Christmas break.

Trustee Gehrig also suggested that we have a bonfire in the Village, possibly during February break. She asked if the board would look at changing from a 2 year term to a 4 year term for mayor and trustees. She felt that 2 years was too short of a term. Discussion followed.

We will look at what it takes to make that change.

Trustee Thomas Trombley reported that on Dec. 13th the K of C will be holding a blood drive at the Catholic Men's Club, 3 Oak Street from 2-5 pm.

A Community Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 23rd starting at 2 p.m. at 3 Oak Street. There will be food/snacks, games/activities, a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus, gift bags from Santa, a sing-along and a Christmas movie with popcorn.

Trustee Trombley wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Trustee McFetridge reported the following:

She thanked Nicci Molinski for doing the Children's Crafts on Saturday.

She thanked Trustee Gehrig for handling the candy cane hunt at the playground.

Village Walk	Jan. 1 st at 1:00 pm	Champlain Meeting House
Author Series w/ Mark Barie	Jan. 26 th at 6:30 pm	Champlain Meeting House
Sewing Classes	mid-January	Champlain Meeting House

(More information to follow)

Wreaths are due at the Village office by Dec. 14th with judging taking place on Dec. 15th.

Trustee McFetridge wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Trustee Kim Trombley reported that she had been in touch with Sierra Fleming from the Clinton County Health Dept. as community liaison. She won't hear anything on the kayak grant until March.

The Annual Sr. Citizens Christmas Dinner was very successful considering the weather. There was a good turnout and good food.

She wished a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

REPORT FROM THE CLERK/TREASURER

The board has been copied with the Expense and Revenue report for November.

The following transfer needs to be done to cover meter parts:

From F8340.2		\$5,000
To F8310.2	\$5,000	

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve this transfer. Roll Call vote:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee McFetridge	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye
Mayor Martin	Aye

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

We have additional invoices in the amount of \$4,169.15 to be added to the warrant for a total of \$47,050.36.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$47,050.36. Roll Call Vote.

Trustee McFetridge	Aye
Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye
Mayor Martin	Aye

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Supt. Jolicoeur reported the following:

- We had a water break on Willow Street that has been fixed.
- Furnace was not working this morning but has been repaired
- They are working on the clarifier at the WWTP, pumping it out, putting on new chains and changing grease fittings.
- The blower motor did stop but they got it back up. He is in contact with the contractor for the new blower and they may have it in January.
- He ordered the new pump for head works. There is a 18-20 week lead time. He did get this pump for \$1,500 less than it was approved at the last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp. to Patricia Labarge regarding violations at 11191 Rt.9
2. Corresp. from CC Treasurer with Mortgage Tax distribution check
3. Corresp. from Carter Conboy regarding Rivers case

NEW BUSINESS

Patterson Fence

Mayor Martin spoke with our attorney regarding the fence at 11158 Rt. 9 (Patterson property). Mr. Murnane said that we could take it down and the liability is on the LLC owner if anything should happen. But the Village may want to keep it up for safety reasons, as residents walking by have to go further around the property. We can no longer lien the cost of the fence on this property, as it has been taken off of the tax roll. We could possibly modify the fence and only cover the front of the property.

Mr. Murnane also suggested that we see if the property owner is willing to transfer the property to the Village on the condition that we are able to look inside of the building with an engineer and codes officer. We wouldn't have to take possession of the property until we signed for it. Discussion followed.

Trustee Gehrig and Trustee Thomas Trombley agreed that we should keep the fence up at 11158 Rt. 9. We will find out the cost of buying the fence instead of renting it from Taylor Rental. Mayor Martin said that there is a land bank meeting on January 9th at the County. There will be a presentation regarding zombie properties and demolition. He will forward information on that meeting to the board.

Sexual Harassment Training

Training will take place tomorrow, Dec. 11th and Dec. 18th.

New Employee

Mayor Martin said that we interviewed for a new hire last week. The Board selected Michael King and he accepted the job offer. He was given the stipulation that he must have the proper licensing by the end of his probationary period.

OLD BUSINESS

WWTP Blowers

Karen Clark from Barton & Loguidice has received contracts from Pipeline Mechanical. They have submitted shop drawings for review of equipment they are purchasing for the VFD and DO control systems. B&L is waiting on the blower submittal, which is being expedited. The manufacturer has committed to have it at the site the end of January as we are having problems with the blowers now.

Executive Session

Mayor Martin said that he would like to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel issue.

At 8:03 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to close the regular meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:03 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to go into Executive Session. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:25 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to come out of executive session. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:25 pm a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to go back to regular meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to approve an increase in salary to \$18.00/hour for the Deputy Clerk. Roll Call vote as follows:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye	
Trustee McFetridge		Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley		Aye.
Trustee Gehrig		Aye
Mayor Martin		Aye

Motion carried.

EV Charging Station

The charging station equipment we have needs adjustments and EV Connect has suggested that, with the boards okay, Supt. Jolicoeur drill the pole we have and put in an electric box and cover. Mayor Martin felt that we should have a new pole that works properly and that EV Connect should be taking care of that. The Board agreed that Supt. Jolicoeur should not have to do their work. Discussion followed. Mayor Martin will contact EV Connect and let them know that we want the proper equipment we should have had originally.

Hometown Cable

Calvin Castine said that he is no longer able to lease a channel on Spectrum for Home Town Cable because of changes made by Spectrum.

Public access, which is required to be provided by a cable carrier, has channels for public, educational and government, which are free from advertising. However this channel is being shared by a large viewing area now. Calvin Castine is asking for a letter of support to get a community channel dedicated to our viewing area. Discussion followed. The board agreed to support this request. Mayor Martin will check into any legal aspect of this.

Sexual Harassment Policy

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee McFetridge to approve the new Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 8:34 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.