

**Village of Champlain  
Village Board Meeting  
February 12, 2024**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, February 12, 2024 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Natalie and Nora Nevius led the Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Trombley, Molinski, Herzog and Conner, Supt. Jolicoeur and Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Also present were Jennifer Jewett, Michael Miller, Malana Tamer, Oliver Tamer, Natasha Nevius, Natalie Nevius and Nora Nevius.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve the minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Jennifer Jewett on Animal Control Laws

Ms. Jewett provided the board with a packet with pictures of tethered dogs, information on communities where tethering is prohibited, communities where tethering is limited by time and certain conditions. Also provided were NY Local Laws regulating the outdoor restraint of dogs and Ulster County NY and Essex County.

Ms. Jewett reviewed the many jobs and the value of dogs in our home and communities.

Currently NYS law only requires that a dog owner provide a dog with food, shelter, and water. After that, an owner can leave a dog chained up in the freezing cold every single day and night, even if there is a blizzard. At the same time, it is legal to leave a dog tied out in 90 degree heat with 90% humidity Ms. Jewett is here to request changes in our town's dog laws that will make it illegal to chain a dog outside 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.

She reviewed statistics on abused and neglected dogs and gave examples in our community that prompted her to request changes in New York State laws.

Ms. Jewett is requesting changes in Animal Control laws related to tethering in all the surrounding towns including Altona, Beekmantown, Champlain, Rouses point, Chazy, Ellenburg and Mooers. She has been speaking to our local legislators and plans to attend the Clinton County Legislatures meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Kim Trombley was concerned with how the law would be enforced. We have one person that covers a large area. We can contact Essex County for information and this can be discussed at our next board meeting.

Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant presentation

Michael Miller from the Clinton County Health Dept. was here to go over the Creating Healthy Schools & Communities Grant. The 5 year grant focuses on access to healthy foods and access to physical activity in community sites, schools, municipalities and early care educators. The Grant is funded by the NYS DOH and is designed to serve all age groups in under resourced areas. The goal is to increase physical activity by connecting everyday destinations with activity friendly routes and making it safer to get to places in your community.

The grant offers two types of funding: Direct purchase of supplies by the CCHD which are delivered to the Village, which must be done by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Sub-Award has the village purchasing materials and being reimbursed. The Memorandum of Understanding and sub-award voucher will have to be signed and returned to the CCHD by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Receipts for purchases must be provided by April 1<sup>st</sup> for reimbursement.

Malana Tamer, from the Health Department spoke about several possible projects that we might do with these grant funds. They include crosswalks striping: Pine St./Rt. 9, South St./Church St to Dollar General, across Rt. 9 to Price Chopper plaza and across Rt. 9 to the Village Office.

There are a lot of sidewalks that need replacement: Downtown, Church St., Cedar St, Pine St.,. We would have to obtain concrete for that project and be reimbursed.

Solar lights at the trailhead for the Rec. Trail were suggested.

Trustee Conner asked about the term of the grant. Ms. Tamer said that there are 18 municipalities in the county and the health department is trying to work with all of them over that 5 year period. They are working with 4, including us, this year. Trustee Conner was in favor of working on sidewalks.

Mr. Miller said that they have outlined 5,000' of sidewalk, and they can fund 500' sections at a time. Trustee Conner asked about the dollar amount. Mr. Miller said that it would probably be around \$11-12K. We have a sidewalk budget that we could add to that amount too.

Mr. Miller will need our decision on projects within the next few days. We will then need to complete the Memorandum of Understanding and the Sub-Award Voucher. Ideally projects would be done by August, but that's not a hard date. Discussion followed. The board agreed that sidewalks should be done.

### **REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

Codes Enforcement Officer Matott provided the board with a Report for January 2024.

### **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Mayor McFetridge reported the following:

We are developing our budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Other topics in the Village include safe streets and sidewalks, removal of diseased ash trees, creating housing opportunities, and rehab or removal of abandoned buildings.

Events: Board Games on Sunday Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. at the Champlain Meeting House

Village Listens to Vinyl on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. at the Champlain Meeting House.

A shout out for the JCEO, which operates out of our building and Champlain Outreach Center. In addition to the food pantry, they provide services for heating, senior services, weatherization and early childhood education.

### **REPORT FROM TRUSTEES**

#### Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog reported that while getting his petition signed, he heard a lot of residents concerned with sidewalks. He feels that we should have a long term strategy for consistent repairs.

#### Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner has spoken with residents and many would like to see sidewalks a priority. The Sidewalk Committee (Trustees Trombley and Molinski) should make a plan of sections to be done. Discussion followed on locations we should work on.

#### Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski reported that the library will be holding children's activities during Winter Break on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 p.m.

#### Trustee Trombley

Trustee Trombley had nothing to report this evening.

### **REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ**

The Board was provided the Expense & Revenue report for January 2024.

**TRANSFERS**

TO:	F8330.2 PURIFICATION/EQUIP.	\$50.00
FROM:	F8340.2 TRANSM & DISTRIB/EQUIP	\$50.00
TO:	G8120.2 SANITARY SEWERS	\$15,000.00
FROM:	G599 FUND BALANCE	\$15,000.00

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve these transfers as written.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT**

The warrant of \$37,626.57 was presented with additional invoices of \$3,232.08 for a total of \$40,858.65.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$40,858.65.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Wastewater Plant Disinfection and Upgrades Project

Barton & Loguidice	\$ 1,916.75
Triangle Electrical System	5,377.00
Perras Excavating	<u>29,253.89</u>
Total	\$36,547.64

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve payment of these items for the WWTP Disinfection and Upgrades project. Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Trombley	Aye
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 January 2024.

Purchase Requisition

Furnish and install Replacement door for Wastewater Plant: HM3068 Flush, Insulated, Galvanized, Prime Painted, Frame, Hinges, Exit Device, closer, re-use existing key cylinder, weather stripping, sweep, and threshold. .

D.S. Specialties	\$5,437.88
Hartson Total Opening	\$5,945.00
Adams Glass	\$6,921.00

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve purchase of Wastewater Plant replacement door from D.S. Specialties for \$5,437.88. Roll Call vote:

Trustee Trombley           Aye  
Trustee Molinski           Aye  
Trustee Conner            Aye  
Trustee Herzog            Aye  
Mayor McFetridge         Aye.

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1. CHIP’s balances from NYS DOT.
- 2. Corresp. from Teamsters regarding contract negotiations.
- 3. Letter of support for the Ash Tree Management grant.
- 4. Request for Grant support of outside murals.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Creating Healthy Schools & Communities presentation

This was presented earlier in the evening.

2. NYS Pro-Housing Communities program

The Pro-Housing Communities Program provides a certification program for local governments that are taking action to support housing growth to address the housing shortage throughout the state. The program will certify participating communities and those communities will receive a preference in the scoring/evaluation of certain discretionary funding grants. .

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to authorize Mayor McFetridge to sign a Letter of Intent to pursue certification as a Pro-Housing Community. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

3. Northern Tier Ash Management program

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve Resolution #1-2024; Resolution endorsing application for Clinton County Northern Tier Ash Management Program. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4. Jennifer Jewett on Animal Control laws.

This was presented earlier in the evening.

5. Tax Cap Override

If approved, this local law would give us the option to override the tax cap if needed.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve a Local Law Authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established by General Municipal Law Section 3-C. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

The Public Hearing for this Local Law will be on March 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

#### 6. Budget Review

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz has made changes in wages, workers comp, insurance etc. A budget workshop was set for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m.

#### Personnel Policy

Mayor McFetridge presented the board with updates to the Personnel Policy:

#### **Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders.**

*Except as otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement, the following policy shall apply regarding those employees who are volunteer firefighters or emergency responders.*

#### ***POLICY:***

*In the event an employee is called upon to perform volunteer duties as a firefighter or emergency responder on a day the employee is scheduled to work, the employee will receive paid leave to perform such duties as authorized. The employee may not leave the workplace until it has been approved by the appropriate supervisor. Such leave will not be subtracted from any of the employee's leave credits. Time spend by the employee performing such duties, including driving to and from the scene, will not be included as time worked for purposes of computer overtime. The employee is required to return to the worksite upon completion of the emergency call, unless such call ends after the end of the employee's scheduled work shift.*

#### ***DOCUMENTATION:***

*The employee must account for all the time spent responding to emergency calls on the employees' time sheet, including the time the employee left and returned to the worksite. The employee may be required to submit verification of the employee's attendance at such call.*

#### ***RESPONDING TO CALLS DURING PAID LEAVE:***

*If the employee is on paid leave from the Village and the employee responds to a call, the employee will not receive additional compensation from the Village and the employee's appropriate leave time will still be charged.*

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to accept this addition to the Personnel Policy. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

7:58 p.m. motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Trombley to close the Regular Board Meeting

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Trombley to go into Executive Session.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

8:03 p.m. Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to come out of Executive Session.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to go into Regular Meeting.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### 1. Dog Law

There is no update on the dog law.

##### 2. Local Law: Vacant Building Registry

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve Local Law: Vacant Building Registry.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.  
Public Hearing set for March 11, 2024 at 6:45 p.m.

Trustee Trombley has spoken with our Dog Control Officer Jody Perrea regarding Jennifer Jewetts presentation. He will come to our next board meeting with an AG & Markets Rep. to speak about some of her points. Mayor McFetridge agreed that we need more information. Trustee Trombley will arrange that.

Trustee Conner wanted to confirm that we will use the Clinton County Health Dept. grant to work on sidewalks. We cannot do all of the sidewalks on the list, but sections at a time. We will leave out Route 9 as NYS DOT would have to be involved. The Board of Trustees agreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, at 8:13 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

*Mary E. Spring, Secretary*

### **Code Enforcement Report Jan. 2024**

- Meeting with board to discuss change in fees and vacant structure registration
- Review of Special Use permit for new commercial business in Price Chopper plaza
- Violation letter to 54 Moore St. for trash
- Census survey on new housing units.
- Questions regarding noise ordinance and generators during a power outage.
- Zoning information for 36 Moore St. for prospective buyer.
- Questions on enlargement of non-conforming use at 44 Locust St.
- ZBA meeting for Tesla chargers in PC plaza.
- FOIL request for 110 Church St.
- Inspection of 54 Moore St. progress being made on trash.
- Inspection of Canal St. property in violation: unpermitted structure has been removed.
- Framing inspection on Route 9
- Issued permit for single wide removal on Church St.
- Issued permit for roofing on Elm St.

### **Superintendent Report for Jan. 2024**

#### **WATER**

- Interim water meter readings done
- 2 high water meter readings w/ broken lines on 192 South St. and vacant home 11236 Route 9
- SCADA repaired at water plant
- Working on getting door changed at water plant: does not meet code.
- Changed out broken circulator coupler at water filtration plant

#### **SEWER**

- Grit removal started up, but motor keeps tripping due to high amp draw. (submerged with flooding)
- Electricians completed most of SCADA work. Heat tracers wired on press auger and grit screen. Wiring in UV building for future sampler and lights.
- Contractors to return.
- Aqualogic here: SCADA working. Waiting on auto dialer for callouts.
- POU hot water heater replaced WWTP
- Getting quotes for Main St. lift station control panel
- 1 sewer tap was completed on Rt. 9.

#### **EQUIPMENT**

- 2021 Peterbilt went in for repair of DEF sensor. Covered under warranty.
- 2016 pickup had a lot of front-end repairs completed.
- Backhoe rear tires installed. Hydraulic line replaced, windshield repaired.

#### **STREETS**

- Streets and sidewalks plowed and sanded as needed.
- Ash Tree survey done for removal using County Soil & Water grant

#### **BUILDINGS**

- Fire extinguisher testing completed.
- Fire Pull Station was replaced in-house.
- Cleaning garage for PERMA inspection.

#### **MISC.**

- Snow blower from trackless sent for repairs.
- 2010 has electrical issue. OOS temporarily.
- 3 check valves in the Main St. lift station need work, but we must pull the cement top to complete. We will work on as time allows.
- Supt. working on LCSL inventory