

**Village of Champlain  
Village Board Meeting  
February 8, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, February 8, 2021 at the Village Office, 11104 Rt. 9, Champlain, New York.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

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

Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Molinski, Gehrig, Thomas Trombley and Kim Trombley, Supt. Mike Jolicoeur, Clerk/Treasurer Juanita Munoz, Secretary Sousa. Also present were Paul Gehrig from the Champlain Memorial Library and Matt Cooper and Anthony Young from Barton & Loguidice.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the minutes of the January 7<sup>th</sup> Special Board meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the minutes of the January 11<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING: Water Main Replacement Project Funding**

At 6:35, a motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to close the regular meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Molinski to open the Public Hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Anthony Young said that this Public Hearing is required for financing the \$1.5 million project.

There was no one present from the public to comment on the Water Main Replacement Project funding.

At 6:37 pm a motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to close the Public Hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to return to the regular meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Paul Gehrig was here this evening to update the Board on the state of the Champlain Memorial Library. It was a challenging year with COVID having a significant impact on community events. They reopened in July with limited hours and in October @ 21 hours/week. There has been access to library materials throughout the pandemic.

Challenges for 2021 are access to the library for older members. They are doing fundraising right now and will doing outside work with the help of donations from local businesses. There are no in-person activities planned right now.

Matt Cooper and Anthony Young were here this evening to talk about the Water Line Replacement and Wastewater Plant Disinfection and upgrades.

Water Line Replacement

The water line replacement will be around \$1.4 million. We have a grant from USDA Rural Development for the study but we are not eligible for a funding grant. The other options are WIIA or CDBG.

In order to be eligible for the CDBG we need to have an income survey done.

We are almost set to apply for the WIIA grant. Our next step is to pass the Bond Resolution. There is no guaranty that that grant will be available this year, but we should be ready if it does. This would be due in September.

Mayor McFetridge asked if the income survey for the CDBG grant covers the entire village or only those affected by the water line replacement. Matt Cooper said that will most probably be for the entire village as the loan would be spread among the entire community. We could use that income survey information for future funding requests. The cost for the survey would be between \$10,000—\$20,000. The most current data shows that we are at 50% in the low to moderate income range. That number needs to be at 51% , so we are very close.

Trustee Gehrig asked if we do the Bond Resolution, are we committed.

Matt Cooper said no, it is the board authorizing us to spend the money, but does not require that we do that.

Trustee Gehrig asked the cost of the Bond Resolution. Anthony Young said that it will be whatever our attorney charges to draw up the resolution.

### Wastewater Disinfection & Upgrades

We are required to do the disinfection at the wastewater plant. Matt Cooper said that they are requesting an extension from DEC for the design phase. Currently, the design deadline is May 1, 2021, start construction date is May 1, 2022 and Completion is set for May 1, 2023. But, if one deadline is extended, all will be.

A summary of costs are \$1.1 million for disinfection and \$2.5 million for other improvements.

Disinfection costs will increase user cost by \$25/EDU/year.

Other improvement costs will increase user fee by \$59 to \$131/EDU/year. That number will depend on grant amounts. The Mayor had emailed grant information to the board.

We do qualify for a 0% hardship loan, but will need to apply very soon. With a focus on disinfection, the WPIQ grant will cover 80% of construction, but won't cover engineering costs. We can apply for the 0% loan now and start using funds for the design part of the project. It may take months to get a loan closing day though.

The board will need to decide whether they want to apply for funding for the disinfection only or both the disinfection and other upgrades. There is a high probability that we can get funding from WPIQ grant for disinfection, but he is not so sure about the other improvements.

Mayor McFetridge asked what will happen if we miss the 2023 deadline.

Matt Cooper said that DEC won't answer that question but they have been granting individual extensions.

Trustee Gehrig asked why we are requesting an extension.

Matt Cooper said that they won't have the design done by May 1<sup>st</sup> but should be done by fall.

Trustee Gehrig asked what we are committed to if we apply for the hardship loan.

Matt Cooper said we are borrowing @ 0% interest. He said that by combining the disinfection and other improvements, the disinfection qualifies us for 0% loan. If they are separated, the other improvements won't qualify for 0% rate on their own.

At 7:15 p.m., Matt Cooper and Anthony Young left the meeting.

### **REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Supt. Jolicoeur reported the following for January 2021:

#### **STREETS:**

- The DPW stayed busy on streets and sidewalks with the snow
- A load of salt was delivered and they will keep mixing to keep the shed full.
- There are issues with cars on the edge of the road and sidewalks.
- Trash cans cannot be put in the road or on the sidewalk. When the DPW is out cleaning streets, they will not be stopping to move them. They will be pushed off the road or sidewalk with the truck or sidewalk machine.

#### **WATER**

- A leaking pipe at the water plant was repaired
- At the water plant, a pressure reducer was added and a chlorine monitor was rebuilt.

- Two water meters were changed out as they had frozen and were leaking.
- At least 9 residents have had frozen water pipes.
- The air handler in the chemical room had a new motor installed and put back in service.

**SEWER**

- The spare E-One pump was repaired and delivered to us.
- Several people had sewer lines back up, but they were not issues on the village side.

**EQUIPMENT**

- A front tire on the plow truck blew and was changed out.
- The angle cylinder and center pin on the Vplow broke and was repaired.

**PURCHASE REQUISITIONS**

4 New Tires for 2016 Ford F-250

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to approve the purchase of tires from G&G Tire for a total of \$821.00. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

1 Tire for Peterbilt

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the purchase of a tire for the snowplow, including dismount, mount, balancing and disposal from Warren Tire for a total of \$835.35. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Mount for Plow Wing

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve up to \$3,600 for the purchase of a plow wing mount. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Ring and Cooler for Peterbilt for a total of \$764.82

This is an emergency expenditure and Supt. Jolicoeur is making the board aware of this purchase

Valves for Wastewater Plant upgrades

There are plug valves that need to be changed out. They were part of the wastewater plant upgrades, but purchasing them now will cut down on future costs.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve the purchase of 3 (three) 8” valves @ \$1,606.53 for a total of \$4,819.59. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

At 7:48 Supt. Jolicoeur left the meeting

**REPORT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Code Officer Tetreault reported the following for January 2021:

- Altercation with Doug Powers concerning the repair of a manufactured home without a permit. We are currently in the process of resolving the issue.
- Spoke to property owner at 38 Church St. concerning the accumulation of garbage on the front porch. A letter was sent referencing the Village Code addressing the issue.
- Started training the new Code Officer, familiarizing him with Village Law, permits, issues and layout of the Village.
- After promising to paint the office last year, the Mayor called in the favor. I spent most of the month cleaning, patching and painting the walls in the Mayor’s office as well as the front office.

Mayor McFetridge reported that Mike Tetreault is working with the new Codes Officer and there is a big learning curve. She has asked Mike Tetreault to keep on top of the 11167 Route 9 property. It was on the foreclosure listing, but since the property changed hands, it is no longer on that list. She doesn’t want to miss any deadlines to get the building demolished and removed.

**REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:**

Good evening and welcome to the Village of Champlain Board meeting. Winter has arrived and with it, lots of snow. Our Department of Public Works has been working diligently to clear the roads and maintain the sidewalks. They have cut back snowbanks and opened areas around hydrants to continue to make the village as safe as possible. They put in long hours doing this work and I ask you to take the time to thank them for this dedication. Remember to do your part by not parking on the road during the night, removing trash receptacles as soon as possible after garbage pick-up, slowing down while driving, and watching out for pedestrians.

I am continuing to work on funding for important infrastructure projects, specifically waterline replacement and wastewater plant upgrades. In addition, improvements will be made to the playground and park in the spring including new play equipment, a basketball hoop, and a volleyball net. Decisions on summer concerts will be made in the upcoming months in consultation with the Clinton County Health Department.

We have nearly reached the first year anniversary of life during a pandemic. It has been a challenge for all. While we may be accustomed to wearing masks and staying apart as well as attending virtual meetings and activities, this situation has taken its toll on many individuals and businesses physically, mentally, and economically. Isolation can be a dangerous setting. Mental health concerns are on the rise for all ages from youngsters to the elderly. I urge you to take the time to check on your friends and neighbors. Make a call, send a text or mail a card. Businesses may be suffering, too. Don’t forget to buy locally and promote those who have chosen to establish their business here among us. We must all support one another if we are to thrive as a community. Please stay safe. Remain healthy. Take care of one another.

**REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES**

**Trustee Thomas Trombley** reported that there will be a blood drive on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3-7 pm at the EMS Station.

He emailed the minutes from the Water Board to the Village Board for their information. They are still waiting on a response from the Town. If there is not decision by the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will go from there.

**Trustee Kim Trombley** reported that she and Trustee Molinski have talked about the Union Contract & Personnel Policy & longevity. When a union employee has reached 5 years, \$200 is added to their salary and spread out over the year in the form of an increase in wages. She and Trustee Molinski asked for the years of service for Mary Sousa, Juanita Munoz and Michael Jolicoeur.

**Trustee Molinski** reported that they had 5 families attending the Trivia Night last Saturday. In February, each Friday she will present one ingredient to be used in a recipe and shared. During winter recess she and Allison at the Library will be posting kids activities for the week.

**Trustee Gehrig** reported that we did not receive the garden grant, but has applied for another garden grant. The Stewarts Grant will be used for ground cover at the playground. The Robert Wood Grant is due in March and the board agreed that this grant would be for ground cover as well.

**REPORT FROM THE CLERK/TREASURER**

The board was provided the Expense and Revenue Report for January 2021.

**PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT**

There are additional invoices of \$7,125.26 for a total warrant of \$35,262.15.

A motion was made by Trustees Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$35,262.15. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Corresp from NYS DOT regarding Shared Services
2. Corresp from Senator Daniel Stec
3. Corresp from Arond Roach requesting wastewater credit
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Sales Tax Revenue from Clinton County Treasurer
5. Corresp from NYS DOT regarding CHIPS funding
6. Corresp from Codes Officer to Krystal Berger regarding garbage

**NEW BUSINESS**

Wastewater Credit/ Arond Roach

The board reviewed Mr. Roach’s request for a wastewater credit. The Supt could not confirm that the water from the leak(s) did not enter the wastewater system, which is part of the criteria for a wastewater credit.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve the sewer credit. All members present voted nay. Motion denied.

Budget Workshop

A budget workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Village Office.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Comprehensive Plan

Mayor McFetridge has provided the board with a rough draft of the Plan to review.

### Personnel Policy: Longevity for salaried employees

Trustee's Molinski and Kim Trombley are working on this.

### WWTP Disinfection and upgrades

Mayor McFetridge noted that we are required to do the Disinfection, but the other part of the project is very daunting and was not comfortable with the amount of money involved.

Trustee Gehrig was concerned with trusting what is being told to us. If tonight is all factual with no risks, it would save us a lot by applying for the whole project.

Trustee Thomas Trombley agreed that it makes sense to see if we qualify.

Trustee Kim Trombley felt we should apply for everything as so many things were left out of the last project.

Trustee Thomas Trombley thought we should ask for a timeline for individual items need in "other improvements" to see what we need right away. We aren't locked into anything by applying, and we will see what we can get.

The general board consensus was to apply for the 0% hardship loan for full amount needed for the disinfection and other upgrades at the wastewater plant.

### Water Line Replacement Survey

We will not be able to get the CDBG Grant without the income study. It is a full (100%) grant, but we are not sure of the likelihood of our getting it.

Trustee Thomas Trombley said that we need 1% to break the threshold. We could wait for the 2020 Census results that come out in March to see where we fall income wise. If it is likely we could break that threshold of 51%, the \$20,000 might be worth it.

The board agreed to wait for the census data before making a decision on the income study.

At 8:36 pm, there being no further business before the board, a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.