

**Village of Champlain  
Village Board Meeting  
Feb. 26, 2025 5:30 p.m.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Trombley, Molinski and Conner, and Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Trustee Herzog was excused this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Schedule Public Hearing for Local Law #1: Tax Cap Override

Motion to schedule Public Hearing for Tax Cap Override on March 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Approval of payments

Clerk/Treasurer explained that our last credit card payment to Sam's Club was returned after 3 weeks stating that they did not know where to credit it. We paid by check over the phone at that time to avoid late fees. That attempt and two others were returned to Synchrony, unpaid. We contacted TD Bank and the checks had never been submitted because we had no ACH filters in place. Our Sam's Club/Synchrony credit card was closed as "high risk". Clerk/Treasurer Munoz paid the credit card balance at Sam's Club today with a check. The remaining balance was covered with cash back rewards and a credit from ebay. Only a small amount remained, so no further payments need to be approved tonight.

We have appealed the decision to close our credit card, but have applied to TD Bank for a credit card in the meantime. We have a debit card from TD Bank to cover us until the credit card comes through.

3. Resolution regarding Business Credit Card Account

This resolution is required by TD Bank in order to apply for a credit card for a municipality.

Motion to approve made by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Conner. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried

4. Employee Reimbursement request

a) Employee Robert Pulsifer requested an explanation of why another employee's insurance premiums, union dues and AFLAC were paid by the village while on disability, and he (Robert) had to pay for his insurance and AFLAC himself when he was on Workers Comp from a work injury.

Clerk Munoz responded that while Robert Pulsifer was out on Workers Comp, he was being paid almost full wage plus AFLAC benefits. He did pay his insurance & AFLAC premiums, but did not pay union dues during that time. (He stated himself that he recused himself from the union) He paid \$110.16/month for 7 months, or \$771.12.

Per Teamsters, you can only have teamsters insurance for 6 months, and then need to go on COBRA. Robert had come back in the middle of the month and did not need COBRA.

The other employee, James Ondras, was out for 7 months on disability, which pays only \$175/week. Other employees donated a portion of their paid time off to him so that he could receive a paycheck for a few more weeks. During that time, his insurance and AFLAC were being deducted from his paycheck.

After that, his insurance premiums were paid at \$31.15 bi-weekly for 11 weeks or \$342.65. AFLAC was paid \$15.78/month for 5 months, or \$78.90. Total paid by the Village was \$421.55. James Ondras was out for 7 months, so he had to pay COBRA premiums of \$1,070.00 himself for the 7<sup>th</sup> month of disability. It was noted that it was not a board decision to pay James Ondras's premiums, and they probably should not have been paid. Discussion followed.

The board agreed that this will stay as is. Robert Pulsifer paid insurance premiums & Aflac as per contract.

- b) Employee Robert Pulsifer felt that, after being given the new position of Water/Wastewater Operator, his base pay was changed and his longevity pay from 2015 and 2023 was not added back in. He feels that he lost his longevity pay.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz stated that when you get longevity pay, it stays with your current pay rate. When you receive an increase in pay, that longevity stays with your pay rate and is not taken away.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:47 p.m. motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to come out of Regular meeting.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

At 5:55 p.m. motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to come out of Executive Session.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to return to Regular Meeting.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion on an employee matter. No formal action was taken.

### **BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz reported that we can only raise taxes by \$7,000, but due to the increase in assessments of \$329,000, our increase in revenue is \$22,000.

General Fund: The majority of increases are in salaries and electricity costs. The board adjusted several items for a decrease of \$1,750.00.

Water Fund: The board adjusted one item for a decrease of \$500.00

Sewer Fund: Two of the biggest increases are in electricity and the loan payment. The board adjusted several items for a decrease in \$1,500.00.

Last year we used \$58k in fund balance. This year we are short by \$106k. We will have to raise funds through sewer service fees and sewer rates. The remainder can come from fund balance.

We are also looking at processing sludge again for additional revenues to sewer.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, at 6:47 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Conner. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

*Mary Spring, Secretary*