

**Village of Champlain
Village Board Meeting
July 14, 2025 6:30 p.m.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, July 14, 2025 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

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

Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Trombley, Molinski, Conner, Herzog and Clerk/Treasurer Munoz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Herzog, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve minutes of the June 9th board meeting. Trustee Conner abstained. All other members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT

Violations

- .Vacant Building at 11137 Rt. 9
- Noise complaint on Oak St.
- NYS Fire Code Violation at 9 Cane St.
- Property Maintenance violation at 9 Cane St.

Permits

- New Commercial at 6 Coton Lane
- General Building on Moore St.

Inspections

- Plumbing, Electrical, Interior finishes, Final at 9 Filion Lane
- Final at 45 Oak St.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor McFetridge reported:

The water main construction on Main St. is almost complete. This has greatly reduced our water breaks, which has saved Boil Water Orders, time and expenses.

Many ash trees in the Town and Village have been marked for removal. They will be removed once the funds are released, and a bid can be awarded to a tree removal company.

The Planning Committee for America 250 has met to discuss how we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Ideas include historical markers, history walks and activities for children and families.

On Sunday, there was a presentation organized by the America Legion Post 912 on Revolutionary war hero Richard Montgomery and Jacque Rouse, the Village's namesake. The Fort, the Fire Dept., the Legion and a street have all been named after Montgomery.

We are looking for an historical marker at Pine and Spruce St. If you have any input on where it might be, please contact us.

Mayor McFetridge attended a Clinton County IDA presentation on the PILOT program (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). They are considering changes in policy that would encourage entities to negotiate a separate host community agreement, requiring payments to a school district.

The Farmers Market started on July 12th and will continue from 9-noon on Saturdays at Paquette Park. Food coupons will be available from the Health Dept. on July 19th.

All Without the Bass will be playing at Bill Earl Park on River St. on July 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Porch Music will be taking place on Aug. 3rd at 2:00 p.m. at 41 Oak St and 59 Oak St.

Shakespeare in the Park and the Annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Aug. 10 starting at 5:00 p.m.

The Bob Venne Park Dedication will take place on Friday, July 25th at 6:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Water & Sewer Committee:** Trustee Trombley is looking forward for the installation of the pipes at the sewer plant so that we can start generating some revenue.
- **Streets and Sidewalks Committee:** Trustee Trombley & Molinski would like to have downtown finished first, Church St. next and then Prospect St. Prevailing wages would make the cost too high if we contract it out. If we can use CHIPs funding for these projects and finish it, we can go on to something else. It may require a 5 year savings plan.
- **Equipment & Tool committee:** Trustee Conner reported that he had spoken with Supt. Jolicoeur regarding a maintenance plan. They do not have a plan but check the equipment on Monday if they can get to it. A plan needs to be developed by the DPW so that things don't get overlooked. Trustee Herzog suggested a spreadsheet of equipment that we own and stick to a schedule. Discussion followed. Mayor McFetridge will follow up with Supt. Jolicoeur on this.
- **Buildings/Property Committee:** Trustee Herzog called the Codes Officer regarding vacant properties. This local law was approved in February of 2024 and he is looking for information on any progress with these properties, and is it effective. He is waiting to hear back from Codes Officer Matott. Mayor McFetridge said that letters were sent out this year. Discussion followed.
- **Parks/Recreation Committee:** Trustee Molinski said she never got to the Kids Garden this year. In the fall, it would be good to dig up an area and have it ready for next year. Mayor McFetridge said that there are two raised garden beds still empty. There wasn't as much interest this year. The new park at Cedar/Church has grass growing well there. We will be putting in a bench soon.
- **Planning Board Liaison:** Trustee Conner reported that the new business came before the board two months ago, requesting an amendment to the project, reducing it in size. It was approved by the Planning Board.
- **Zoning Board Liaison:** there may be an announcement soon on the new business on Coton Lane.
- **Champlain Fire District Liaison:** The new Fire Station is coming along well. There is lots of space and a good location. The projected completion date is at the end of August with a ceremony in September.
- **Recreation Committee:** Thank you to the Town for their work at Bob Venne Park. There is something for everyone there: exercise stations, bike station, disc golf, the Rock Snake and a gazebo.

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REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog read the Vacant Building Registration Local Law and its intentions. He feels that it is important for the Village to get properties workable. He is looking for data from our Codes Officer and how we can move things along.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner reported that the water project is mostly cleanup and seeding. But there are a lot of properties in the village that need maintenance.

Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski reported that the NCCS Band will be holding a bake sale at the Music in the Park on July 27th to raise funds for their next band trip. She was not able to get a food truck.

The Reptile event at the Library brought in almost 100 people last week.

Other Library events are:

July 17 @ 3:00pm Color with Chromography

July 26 @ 10:30am Cornell Co-Op Hidden Color of Flowers

Aug. 9 @ Kids Paint and Snack

Trustee Trombley

Trustee Trombley reported that she did get information from the Tax Office but it didn't have property unit's classification. It was in excel format, which is easier to work with. The next water board meeting will be scheduled soon. She asked for information on what has been borrowed from Fund Balance in the past to get that information to the water board.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER

The board was provided the Expense and Revenue report for June 2025.

Transfer

To: A1420.11	General Code	\$3,000.00	
From: A599	Fund Balance		\$3,000.00

This is to cover the costs to update our code book for the last 2-3 years. It is too early to take from the current budget and is a one-time deal. Motion to approve this transfer made by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski. 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 was presented with additional invoices of \$6,717.69 for a total warrant of \$35,208.11.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve the warrant with additional invoices. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Water Line Replacement

Barton & Loguidice	\$500.00
Financial Advisors	130.50
Fiacco Construction	<u>113,443.30</u>
	\$114,073.80

Wastewater Project

Barton & Loguidice	\$525.00
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Motion to approve these payments made by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Conner.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT

Water

- Meter reading for billing completed
- The water line replacement project is almost complete. The new main is completed & in service.
- The water plant parts for CL@ injection came in and were installed. The new transformer for the VFD has arrived and I will get it installed. We have one well pump that has problems and we will have to get a tech here to pull the pump.
- We have started the annual hydrant flushing which will continue this week until finished
- Working on PRV vault maintenance.

Streets

- Mowing and trimming are being done.
- Cleaned valve boxes and trimmed Town fire hydrants to prepare for flushing. Many were not even visible or trimmed around.
- Added topsoil and seeded a few areas.
- Cut down trees that needed to be removed and will continue to do so.
- Supt. Jolicoeur met with Brittany from County Soil & Water to look at all the Ashe trees that were measured and marked for removal. The county is waiting on funding approval to go out to bid.
- New curbing was installed, the railing on the curve near CTG was installed, and sidewalk replacement is mostly complete as part of the water line replacement project. There are four service lines that need to be pushed under Rt. 9 and some asphalt and restoration.

Sewer

- The new stand for the belt press auger has arrived but needs to be installed.
- The Cornell grip pump was picked up and sent for repair.
- The sludge was hauled out of the drying beds so we can make room for what will be vacuumed out of the aeration tanks. This needs to be done so all of the pipes and diffusers can be installed in all 8 tanks. There is a whole tractor trailer load of piping to be assembled and mounted in bottom of tanks with SS hardware. This project will take a long time.
- One aeration blower is still down and still waiting on the next step for repair.

Misc.

- The bucket truck generator quit and is at shop for repairs
- The Kubota started leaking oil and will be going in for repairs.
- The 2010 Peterbilt has an electrical issue and will need to get fixed and inspected.
- The 2021 Peterbilt went to the shop to be repaired. We did get it back but now there is an engine light it will have to go back in.
- The 2022 Ford pickup was repaired under warranty and is back in service
- The 2016 Ford truck had to have a tire replaced.
- We are going to have to get work done on the sewer jet.
- The backhoe will need to go to the shop to have the thumb repaired.
- The back window of the backhoe was broken and replaced.
- The 4 gas meter had to be sent out for repair.
- 2 radios were sent out for repair but are obsolete and need to be replaced. These radios are just under \$6,000 each.

Trustee Trombley was concerned with the number of things going out for repair. With a maintenance log, they could have been caught inhouse. Discussion followed.
Mayor McFetridge will relay this to Supt. Jolicoeur

PURCHASE REQUISITION

Rapid Radio portable radios \$899.00 for 6 radios

Cell Service is free for one year, \$50/radio annually after that.

Kim agreed that they need to communicate in the field but wanted to know what kind of warranty they had.

Mayor McFetridge did not know enough about this yet. Chuck asked if they could communicate with the county/ems/fire/police. The radios they currently have do that, but cost \$6,000 each. Mayor McFetridge suggested a special meeting to get more details. Joel felt this was a good deal right now. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Trustee Herzog and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the purchase of the radios for up to \$950.00. Further discussion followed. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Duck Hunter 300' Fish Tape \$1553.72

The board tabled this matter until they have further information.

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Climate Smart Community Resolution

A motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve this resolution.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

2. Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution

Approval of the resolution was tabled until Trustee Trombley has updated her Record of Activities for this report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Purchase of Fire Station

This matter was tabled until we have more information from our attorney.

2. Knox Box Local Law

Mayor McFetridge provided the board with a draft of the Village of Champlain Knox Box Local Law. She said that this may not be same as the Town's and we can wait for the Town. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the Knox Box local law as printed.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A public hearing was scheduled for Aug. 11th at 6:40 p.m. at the Village Office.

3. Gov website

Dep. Clerk Spring stated that we were assigned a .gov domain fairly quickly since the last meeting. She reviewed several quotes for website development and maintenance.

Munibit charges nothing for the website development but there is a \$1548 annual fee.

Evolution Marketing charges \$1900 for the website design and \$40/ month for maintenance

Layer 8 can create the .gov domain, but don't create websites. They will be a domain manager, but I have not received a quote from them yet.

Trustee Herzog suggested we check locally for someone who develops websites, such as SUNY Plattsburgh.

This matter was tabled until we have more quotes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 7:25, p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary Spring, Secretary