

**Village of Champlain
Village Board Meeting
March 14, 2022**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Mon., February 14, 2022 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York. Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Trombley, Conner and Herzog & Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Also present was James Ondras, Monique Lepage and David Lepage. Trustee Molinski was excused this evening.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 Board Meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 Special Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

David Lepage suggested that we add a tennis court or pickle ball court in the village. Mayor McFetridge said that there is some open space behind the playground equipment. The property there is flood buyout property and only porous materials that water can flow through can be put there. There is a porous cement, but it is very expensive and may need a grant to help pay for the cost.

Monique Lepage asked if youth signatures would be required for any of those grants.

Mayor McFetridge said that letters of support would be needed and good way for the Boy Scouts to help.

Further discussion followed.

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Codes Officer Matott provided the board with a report for February 2022.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor McFetridge reported the following:

We continue to be plagued with water main breaks: 7 since the beginning of the year. Our engineers are continuing to work on the design for the replacement project and we anticipate hearing about funding soon. This is a difficult situation for many residents, having to deal with lack of water while the break is being repaired and boil water orders. This creates tough situations for our village employees as well, with some long days and long nights. Mayor McFetridge thanked both residents and employees for their patience. This is a project we are going to tackle and get taken care of.

Events: **Slow Art Day**, April 2 @ 1:00 p.m. at the Champlain Meeting House

Exercise Classes for seniors: April 11 @ 11:30 a.m. at the Champlain Meeting House

Arbor Day Celebrations: April 30th @ 1 p.m. at the Champlain Meeting House

Village Elections tomorrow from noon to 9 a.m.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Trombley

Trustee Trombley will be drafting a letter to the Town regarding several issues on the Water Board report:

1. Insurance Costs for Water Tanks:

The Village was open to sharing the cost of the water tank maintenance, but the Town is asking to share the cost of insurance for the water tanks as well. Trustee Trombley does not feel that insurance costs are O&M expenses.

She will check with Sara at the Town on the cost of that insurance.

Mayor McFetridge felt that there was something in the IMA related to insurance costs. And she is not sure that insurance would be considered O&M costs.

Trustee Trombley will check to see if there is any information on insurance costs in the IMA.

Trustee Trombley added that this should not be added to the IMA, but should be a separate contract drawn up between the Town Supervisor and the Village Mayor.

2. Village Water Laws and penalties regarding theft of water:
Trustee Trombley will draft a letter to the water board stating that we do have a law in place and provide a copy of Village Code to the Town.
3. Water Testing: Mike Jolicoeur and Chris Matott are working on a Google document regarding water testing.
The Village does all of the hydrant flushing, so no shared document needs to be done for that.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner reported that there will be another Game Day at the Meeting House on Sunday, April 20th at 1 p.m. and they are looking forward to a good turnout.

He asked if the front of the Village Office building could be washed down and possibly painted.

He suggested that we have a Village Cleanup Day where residents can go through their neighborhoods and clean up garbage.

The Village cleanup usually starts in April. Mayor McFetridge said that we usually gather at the playground, hand out garbage bags and people take different streets and neighborhoods. We meet later to bring the garbage, etc to the dumpster. We could make that into an Earth Day activity. Further discussion followed.

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog would like to schedule a tour of the water and sewer plants to see what goes on there.

Mayor McFetridge suggested that he get in touch with Woody Kissel to schedule that.

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

The board has been provided the Expense and Revenue Report for February 2022.

Transfers

To:	A5142.2	Snow: Equipment	\$2,620.00
From:	A5142.4	Snow: Contractual	\$2,620.00

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve this transfer. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

To:	F8320.2	Source of Supply	\$17,753.12
From;	F599	Fund Balance	\$17,153.2
To cover the cost of the platform at the Water Plant			

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve this transfer. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

There are additional invoices of \$ 22,927.82 to be added to the warrant for a total warrant of \$42,115.06.

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$42,115.06. Roll call vote:

Trustee Trombley	Aye
Trustee Nicci Molinski	Absent
Trustee Charles Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve payment of \$23,039.40 to Barton & Loguidice; invoice #123489 for Preliminary Engineering Report for the Water Main Replacement project.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve payment of \$38,019.50 to Barton & Loguidice invoice #123490 Preliminary Design Phase for the WWTP Disinfection and Improvements Project.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

Supt. Jolicoeur provided the board with a report for February 2022.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor McFetridge requested an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

At 7:09 pm a motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Herzog to go out of Regular Meeting.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to go into Executive Session. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

At 7:37 pm a motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Trombley to come out of Executive Session.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Herzog to return to the Regular Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No decisions were made and no votes were taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp. to residents affected by FEMAS's changes to the flood plain in the Village
2. Corresp from Nick Molinski requesting a wastewater credit
3. Corresp from Champlain Town Court regarding Steven Trombley case
4. Corresp from Attorney Murnane regarding court date for Powers case
5. Corresp from Attorney Murnane regarding disposition of Steven Trombley case.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Wastewater Credit Request: Nick Molinski

Nick Molinski requested a wastewater credit for a hot water leak in the basement at 11236 Route 9. The water heater was replaced and the owner replaced the sump pump and tied it into the sewer line. Supt. went to the property and notified Mr. Molinski that the sump pump cannot go to the sewer.

Supt. Jolicoeur could not confirm that the water from the break did not enter the wastewater system, which is a requirement for a wastewater credit.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to **not approve** this request. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried. The request for a wastewater credit is denied.

2. Water Rate Increase

Mayor McFetridge reported that the water fund account is getting low and we have increased expenses. She is recommending a water rate increase from \$5.25/K gal. to \$5.75/K gal. This will add \$5.00/quarter to the average bill, but the actual amount will depend upon household usage. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve an increase in water rates from \$5.25/K gal to \$5.75/K gal. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. Flood Plain changes

Mayor McFetridge reviewed information sent to village residents affected when FEMA redid the flood plain maps and added more areas to the flood plain. Residents or owners can buy flood insurance at lower rates prior to the maps being approved.

4. Public Hearing for Budget

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Herzog to set a Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget for April 4th, 2022 at 6:45 pm. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

5. Purchase Requisition

Woody Kissel is requesting a purchase of 6 barrels of Aqua-Pure @ \$425/barrel for a total of \$2,550.00 plus freight. This supply will last 3 years.

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Herzog to approve the purchase of 6 barrels of Aqua-Pure at a cost of \$2,550.00 plus freight. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sale of Village Property at Perry Mills Rd

Mayor McFetridge contacted DEC regarding this matter and was told to contact our lawyer. DEC will not come in and test without good reason. Our Attorney said that we can sell it as is to someone with the knowledge that it was used as a dump. Trustee Trombley said that there should be something in the contact to protect the Village.

Mayor McFetridge said that we can speak with those interested, and if serious, we will have our lawyer draw up a contract.

2. Water Plant Platform.

The platform at the water plant has been installed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 7:58 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

M. Spring, Secretary

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

- Letter to 19 Locust St regarding trash
- Letter to 28 Locust St. regarding trash
- Complaint of property line encroachment on Spruce St; requested I not speak with neighbor
- Attempted meeting with resident of 19 Locust St., left meeting due to hostility. Issue is a landlord/tenant dispute and not a code issue. Met with Mayor immediately following.
- Final inspection of #1642. CO issued.
- Final inspection of #1640. CC issued.
- Final inspection of #1639. CO issued.
- Re-inspection of trash violations on Locust St., Not cleaned up.
- Sign regulations for business on Elm St. and directional sign for Four Maples Vineyard
- Final inspection of Permit #1643. CC issued.
- Placarded resolution on building at 111191 Route 9
- Issued appearance ticket to owner of 19 Locust St for trash accumulation
- Issued permit for sign replacement at FEDEX
- Court case for 19 Locust St.
- Spoke with manager for 102 Church St. He will board it up more.
- Conversation with Judge Triller regarding 19 Locust St.
- Met with owners of Spruce St. lot regarding plans for development.
- Flooded basement at 11094 Route 9, water into electrical, landlord notified to get electrician.
- Assist with water main break
- Issued 3 additional appearance tickets for trash at 19 Locust St.
- Gave paperwork for area variance for sign on Locust St.
- CEO annual conference training.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

WATER:

- Had 2 water main breaks this month: Rt. 9/Ashline intersection, Moore Street.
- WIGAN will be here at the end of the month to work on our filtration system and show us how the NANO filters are cleaned. If filters are blinded, they will need replaced.
- We had a water leak that was difficult to find. It finally surfaced and was repaired.

SEWER

- We have had a few residents with plugged sewer lines, all homeowner's issues.
- Got elevations for engineers to finalize plans on upgrades for sewer plant.
- The pumps at the Main Street lift station were pulled and inspected. One was bound up and had to be flushed.

EQUIPMENT

- Sidewalk machine has an oil leak in the drivetrain. Will monitor until we can get it repaired for street cleanup.
- The town loaned us a spare tire for the loader, but it has not yet been installed.
- The Kubota front end was repaired and is back in service.
- The Fisher plow had hydraulic hoses leaking and new hoses were installed. We had to replace a solenoid.
- Oil and transmission cooler lines repaired on the 1 ton.
- The 1-ton dump box has holes where the metal has rotted away. We will have to take it OOS and have a new steel bed welded into it.
- The backhoe has a hydraulic leak. Will order a line for replacement.
- Old plow truck wing parts were delivered and repair in progress

STREETS

- Plowing and sanding
- We had to open frozen drains and jet some culverts to aid in water flow.
- We did some pothole cold patching and will continue as needed.

- The up and down temps, the frost is deep and we are seeing many frost heaves and cracks in the roads. Please keep this in mind and use caution when driving the roadways. These issues should lessen as the frost works out of the ground.

MISC

I am still having issues with people leaving trash cans roadside or on the sidewalks. These cans can be put out the night before pickup, but need to be pulled back out of the Village right-of-way once pickup is complete. I continue to see the trashcans that were left out all winter. This creates issues with cleaning streets and sidewalks when they are left curbside. This is a code violation and you may receive a citation.

Reminder: do not park on sidewalks, near crosswalks or near stop signs. Several residents have received violations and if it continues, I will have to have the vehicle towed at the owners expense.

Supt. Jolicoeur asked the board to look at the following:

Hiring More Personnel

It takes time to get personnel trained and to get their licenses (Water & Wastewater). This fall we will be down an employee due to retirement.

Vacation Carry Over

I have been short one employee since the middle of December and am not sure when they will be back to work. I have another employee that wants to take his vacation the last week of April and all of May. I have another employee that has 20 days and wanted to take ½ days to do water and sewer rounds and will not be able to help on the streets. I also have time to use. We will have spring cleanup and will not have enough manpower to clean streets.

Revision of Superintendents Comp Time

40 hours of banked time is not sufficient to be able to use before losing it. After the first week, between a snowstorm, having truck breakdowns and water main break, 45 hours of comp time was acquired. With limited manpower it was not ideal to have taken the following week off. I have 160 hours of comp time as of now and have taken 44 hours. If the 100+ hours is lost due to looking out for the villages' best interest, it would be unfair.