

**Village of Champlain  
Village Board Meeting  
March 9, 2026 6:30 p.m.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, March 9, 2026 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, Herzog & Conner, Clerk/Treasurer Spring and Deputy Clerk Ducharme. Also present, Geri Favreau from the Historical Society.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve minutes of the Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve minutes of the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Board meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

New Business: America 250

Geri Favreau is present representing America 250 committee.

Geri Favreau was here to present on behalf of the America 250 celebration. The celebration of America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday is not only about American Revolution but about American History. Everyone is celebrating something in their history this year. The local America 250 committee received a \$40,000 grant and purchased a banner for 14 towns, 3 villages, 1 city and 1 county. Geri Favreau then presented the Village of Champlain with their own banner. Geri Favreau wanted to remind everyone to check the America 250 website for local events.

Geri Favreau left the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

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

No one from the public was in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING: LOCAL LAW #1-2025: TAX CAP OVERRIDE**

At 6:37 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Conner to close the regular meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Trombley to go into Public Hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No one was present this evening to comment. Mayor McFetridge did summarize the tax cap.

At 6:38 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Molinski, seconded by Trustee Herzog to close the Public Hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to return to the regular Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

**REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT**

**Inspections:**

- 215 South St - general building - pass
- 7 Moore St - accessory structure - pass
- 6 Coton Lane – new commercial - pass

**Permits:**

- 11191 Rte. 9 – Demolition – Fee \$50.00

**Violations:**

- 33 Cedar St – in progress – trash piled in makeshift shed
- 19 Locust St – to review – couch in front yard by road
- 130 South St – to review - complaint of no heat in residence with two people living there

**REPORT FROM THE MAYOR**

Upcoming projects in the next months-sidewalks downtown will be replaced, and some crosswalk markings will be painted. The new small park on Cedar and Church Streets will be named and dedicated this spring. Additional benches will be installed in the village. The ash trees are now being removed from the village. We will be planting additional trees in the next couple of months and will celebrate Arbor Day in late April.

The Mayor and the Board continue to consider ways to bring more housing to the village. People ask frequently if there is any housing available and unfortunately, there is very little. One concern is the large number of vacant housings. There are developers who would like to rehabilitate houses and put them back on the market. The Mayor and the board encourage those of you who own vacant properties to consider putting them up for sale if you are not interested in doing the repairs yourself.

The Mayor had the pleasure of attending the Legislative Forum in Plattsburgh last week which was organized by the North Country Chamber of Commerce. Assemblyman Michael Cashman and Senator Dan Stec spoke about important topics that are being discussed in Albany and how they affect us in the North Country. In particular, the cost of electricity and overall affordability are key concerns that both said must be addressed. The Mayor will continue to work closely with our state representatives on issues that Champlain Village residents are facing.

Finally, this is the last village board meeting for two of our trustees who have decided not to run for re-election. Chuck Connor and Joel Herzog have served several terms as board trustees and the Mayor wants to thank them both for their time and commitment. Chuck has been involved in village government on and on for several decades including serving briefly as mayor and longer term as deputy mayor. Joel stepped in four years ago as a trustee and has been very supportive in organizing new activities such as a corn hole tournament to draw more people to village events. They both will be missed by the board, and we thank them for their dedication to the Village of Champlain.

Dates to put on your calendars:

- International Slow Art Day is April 11 at the Champlain Meeting House
- Arbor Day is April 25
- A presentation about the Grange Hall will take place on May 7 at the Samuel de Champlain History Center.

The door is always open and the Mayor and the Board look forward to speaking with you about concerns, ideas, and suggestions.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Water & Sewer Committee:** Nothing to report
- **Streets and Sidewalks Committee:** Sidewalks look good.
- **Equipment & Tool Committee:** Have been having a lot of issues with equipment. The snowplow lost the wing and needs to be fixed. The front loader also needs work done on it.

- **Parks/Recreation Committee:** A dedication for the new park will happen. There is still no official name but the board would like for it to do something with the Grange Hall. A discussion followed and a name was chosen, Grange Hall Park. More information needs to be obtained about the Grange Halls history.
- **Buildings/Property Committee:** Nothing to report
- **Planning Board Liaison:** No meetings planned
- **Zoning Board Liaison:** No meetings planned
- **Champlain Fire District Liaison:** Had a meet and greet with Senator Daniel Stec with a power point presentation on retaining firefighters. The average age of firefighters is going up because of the lack of new members.
- **Recreation Committee:** Nothing to report

**REPORT FROM TRUSTEES**

Trustee Trombley

Nothing to report.

Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski mentioned a few events that are coming up. March 21<sup>st</sup>- 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is a free Easter event at the Champlain library. It is also Mooers Elementary Spring carnival – 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. NCCS National honor society will be holding an egg hunt on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner had nothing to report but thanked the Village for the opportunity of being on the board for so many years.

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog had nothing to report

**REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ**

The board was provided the Expense and Revenue report for Feb. 2026.

Water/Sewer Billing:

Water- \$74,718.85 Sewer - \$83,943.82

Transfers:

TO:	F8320.4	WATER CONTRACTUAL	\$6000.00
FROM:	F8389.4	OTHER WATER EXPENSES	\$6,000.00
TO:	G8110.4	SEWER CONTRACTUAL	\$5,000.00
FROM:	A9010.8	SANITARY SEWER EQUIP	\$5,000.00

Motion to approve these transfers as written by Trustee Conner, 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 \$7,454.86 for a total of \$45,293.88.

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Conner 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.

### **SPDES permit**

SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge elimination System), which is essential to controlling wastewater discharges.

Motion to approve annual payment made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

## **REPORT FROM SUPERINTENDENT**

### **WATER:**

- Water reading equipment has malfunctioned and needs updating, we are in the process of doing so. Had actual readings for two months and some accounts were averaged for the third month for billing.
- Two service laterals froze under Route 9, one we installed a temporary line and the other thawed.
- One meter was changed due to freezing and leaking.

### **STREETS:**

- DPW worked on snow removal on the streets, sidewalks and hydrants.
- Received 1 load of salt and mixed with sand to replenish a shed.
- DPW scraped ice from streets and sidewalks. Drains were cleaned and jettted culverts to help with water flow.
- Cold patching done on potholes.

### **SEWER**

- One side of our clarifier is still out of service, the parts have arrived and it can start running again soon.
- The aeration blower is going down so we need to have the VFD drives repaired.
- Due to high water flow the sewer plant is at maximum capacity.

### **MISC.**

- The backhoe will need to go to the shop for an oil leak near the turbo.
- The plow trucks wing was broke and parts were ordered to fix it. The sander also broke, a sander chain and front drive parts have been ordered to fix it.
- Need to get cutting edged for the Peterbilt but they are two months out. The cutting edge on the loader need to be flipped because it was worn out.
- Supplies has been ordered for street cleanup.

- New pumps, all weather samplers and pump assemblies will need to be ordered for the sewer plant.
- A new control panel for the Rte. 9 lift station will have to be ordered.
- Kael Kravitz had to haul his equipment to another county so ash tree removal has stopped and will be finished at a later date.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence from a member of the village about the codes enforcement officer and economic development. The Board would like to remind everyone in the Village that the door is always open to come in and talk or everyone is welcome to attend the Board meetings.
2. Correspondence from Greg Martin resigning from the Planning and Zoning Boards. Thank you former Mayor Greg Martin for his continued service to the Village.
3. Correspondence from 12 Finley Dr for sewer credit.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Local Law #1-2025 : Tax Cap Override

Motion made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve Local Law #1-2026 Tax Cap Override. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

2. Shared Service Contract with Municipalities for Highway Department

Mayor McFetridge read the shared service agreement to the public. This is a 5 year agreement. Mayor McFetridge would like permission to sign.

Trustee Connor made a motion for the Mayor to sign the shared service agreement, seconded by Trustee Molinski.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. Trex Bench

Trustee Trombley would like to start saving plastic through the program that the Town has been a part of for 2 to 3 years. 1,000 pounds of plastic is equal to 1 bench. Trustee Trombley will track and document all the necessary information for the Village to receive a bench.

4. PERMA training- Mary Spring

Mary Spring would like to attend the PERMA training to learn about the different insurances we offer. Trustee Conner made a motion that Mary Spring be allowed to go to the PERMA training and receive accommodation, food and gas coverage. Trustee Trombley seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote:

Trustee Trombley	Aye
Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Conner	Aye
Trustee Herzog	Aye

Mayor McFetridge                      Aye  
Motion carried.

5. Waste Water Credit – 12 Finley Dr.

Trustee Conner made a motion to allow for a sewer credit of \$202.50 to be given to Jeremy Elsaid at 12 Finley Dr. The motion was seconded by Trustee Molinski.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

6. Floating Holiday change

This will be tabled until the April 2026 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Tree Ordinance

The tree ordinance will be looked at more closely in the spring with the new board. The only concern as of right now that Trustee Trombley brought up is that there should be no new trees added to the side of the street from the curb to the sidewalk as they impede large vehicles. The Village code states that no trees shall be planted 5 to 10 feet outside the right away. The Village also has a tree board set up.

2. America 250 - flags and banners

The Town and the two villages are encouraged to each have their own flag to commemorate America 250. A discussion followed on design and where to place them, no definitive choice was made on either.

Trustee Conner made a motion to spend up to \$2,500.00 on banners and hardware for America 250, seconded by Trustee Trombley.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. TextMyGov

Discussed that a survey should be put forth on how many people it would reach and how it would reach the people. Survey will be done through Village website and Facebook. Tabled for a later date.

Next meeting will be on April 6<sup>th</sup> and it will be the organizational and the normal Board meeting in one.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the board, at 7:46 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Nancy Ducharme, Secretary

