

**Village of Champlain
Village Board Meeting
March 11, 2024 6:30 p.m.**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, March 11, 2024 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Braydenn Spear led the Pledge of Allegiance this evening.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mayor McFetridge called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Trombley, Molinski, Herzog and Conner, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz. Also present were Sonya Hebert, Taylor Spear, Albert Breyette, Braydenn Spear, Jaxx Spear-Breyette, Jennifer Jewett and Jody Perrea.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the February 12th Board Meeting was tabled until our next board meeting.

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

Jennifer Jewett was present this evening to comment on the tether law.

She has found that answers to many questions that have come up about the tether law and can answer any questions that people may have. 90% of the people she has spoken with is in support of this law. She went over many stories she has heard about animals tethered outside in Clinton County in adverse conditions.

1) How will it be enforced?

23/50 states have tether laws in place. 320 major cities and counties have tether laws. Almost half of those do not allow a dog to be tethered or chained at all. They use camera footage, investigations and witness statements to enforce the law. We don't want animal control officers to drive around on patrol looking for dogs tied up in extreme weather, but if they see one, they should enforce the law in place. Eyewitnesses to tethering can call animal control, write a statement and file a complaint. Right now, nothing can be done and you'll watch the dog suffer as the neighbor leaves it outside.

2) Who will pay for the Investigations?

The county is discussing having 2 members of the Sheriff's Dept. on staff to assist animal control officers. Imposed fines and Court costs will help fund the cost of investigations.

3) What if I'm at work for 10 hours and the law says my dog can only be tied outside for 5 hours?

This is a tether law, not an outdoor ban. If someone wants to put their dog outside while they are at work, they can get an outdoor chain link kennel or put up a fence. There will be rules regarding kennels to ensure the dog is safe. This is designed to keep dogs safe from harm.

4) Why are you punishing people who treat their dogs right?

Those treating their dogs properly have nothing to be concerned about. The law is for people who are not doing the right thing; those abusing their animals and leaving them outside in extreme weather, for long periods of time, where it turns into neglect.

We have had animal control officers who are complaining about the new law. I have heard that some animal control officers do not support the change and do not have the time to enforce a new tether law. They aren't going to do the work. If the law is in place, animal control officers will have to do their job. It is in place to stop animal suffering.

Ms. Jewett has spoken with people who live in locations where the tether law is in place. They think it absurd that people can still tie dogs up indefinitely in Clinton County.

We do not expect animal control officers to sit and watch, waiting for someone to break the law. We want to educate people and stop them from leaving their dogs outside for unreasonable amounts of time.

Dog Control Officer Jody Perrea was here tonight to answer any questions the board has about the tether law.

In order to enforce a law in NYS, you would need a violation of the law, a complaint in the form of a statement/evidence sworn by oath, and a violation of law.

Animal cruelty is a misdemeanor and is handled in local court. A violation of town/village ordinance is a fine. If they are willing to pay the fine, he can't do anything more. He can't seize a dog unless it's a misdemeanor.

If it is a misdemeanor, Sheriff's dept. would be contacted, who can investigate a crime, petition the court and get a warrant. They then contact Mr. Perrea to act on the warrant and seize the dog.

If an animal is tied outside and an investigations shows it is emaciated, underweight or diseased, they can be charged with animal cruelty, a misdemeanor, and the dogs seized.

Mayor McFetridge asked if the law deters people from tethering their dogs.

Mr. Perrea said that it does not. The dog can be hidden in back yard.

Mayor McFetridge asked how it would work in the Village?

Mr. Perrea said that he would respond from calls from a neighbor, but they would need to make a statement in order to issue a ticket.

Mayor McFetridge asked how we stop this behavior.

Mr. Perrea said that we cannot legislate or force people to obey the law.

He have several examples of how this law would not work and could not be enforced.

Public Hearing: Tax Cap Override

At 7:06 p.m. motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to close the Regular Meeting and go into Public Hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No one was present from the community to comment.

At 7:07 p.m. motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to close the public hearing. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Hearing: Vacant Building Registration

At 7:07 p.m. motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Herzog to go into Public Hearing.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

No one was present from the community to comment.

At 7:08 p.m. motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to close the public hearing and go into Regular Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Codes Enforcement Officer Matott will provide the board with a Report for February 2024

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor McFetridge congratulated NCCS sports teams for their successes this year. She noted the success of the Model UN Program at NCCS. She also congratulated the Skating Club on their annual show.

The Village will be working on sidewalk replacements in the downtown this summer. We have a grant from the County to help with sidewalks and a grant from AARP for safer intersections.

International Slow Art Day on April 13th from 1-3 p.m. at the History Center and Champlain Meeting House.

Arbor Day celebrations will be held on April 27th.

Elections will be held on March 19th from noon-9 p.m.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Trombley

Trustee Trombley provided an overview of the responsibilities of the Water Board. The board is given information from the Town and the Village and uses that information to create an annual report. It is an advisory board only and does not make any decisions for the Village or the Town. It consists of 3 members from the Village and 2 members from the Town. They are volunteers and receive no payment for their hard work. If you have any questions about the water board, please contact her or someone from the Village or Town offices.

Trustee Molinski

The Easter Bunny will be at the Library on March 24th from 2-4 for pictures, activities and raffle baskets. The first food truck of the season will be on March 20th at the Town office. Trustee Molinski is working on food trucks for the summer concert series. The NCCS drama club will be doing “Annie” coming in May.

Trustee Conner

Trustee Conner reported that there were 6 people at the Game Day in February. He was pleased to see Town Supervisor Trombley working on grants for the old Miramar property.

Trustee Herzog

Trustee Herzog would like to discuss the tethering laws further to find a solution.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ

Water/Sewer billing: Water \$65,948.75. Sewer \$60,880.49.

The Board was provided the Expense & Revenue report for January 2024.

TRANSFERS

TO:	A1410.4	CLERK-CONTRACTUAL		\$4,000.00
FROM:	A1420.1	LAW-PERSONAL SERVICES	\$2,000.00	
	A5142.4	SNOW-CONTRACTUAL	\$2,000.00	
TO:	A8010.1	CODES-PERSONAL SERVICES		\$55.00
FROM:	A8010.2	ZONING-EQUIPMENT	\$55.00	
TO:	G8120.2	SANITARY SEWER-EQUIPMENT		\$2,000.00
FROM:	G9060.8	HOSPITAL & MEDICAL INS.	\$2,000.00	
TO:	G8110.4	SEWER ADMIN. – CONTRACTUAL		\$2,500.00
FROM:	G8130.2	SEWER TREATMENT & DISPOSAL EQUIP	\$2,500.00	

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Conner to approve these transfers as written.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

We will need to issue a check for \$8,000 to R. Deso for cement for sidewalks in order to be reimbursed by the county.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve payment of \$8,000.00 to R.

Decos for cement for sidewalk repairs. 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 of \$25,793.08 was presented with additional invoices of \$13,112.70 for a total of \$38,905.78.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Trombley to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$40,858.65.

Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Water Line f Replacement Project

TJ Fiacco	\$14,250.00
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Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve payment of \$14,250.00 to TJ Fiacco.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Wastewater Plant Disinfection and Upgrades Project

Triangle Electrical System	\$13,800.65
Perras Excavating	<u>56,050.00</u>
Total	\$69,850.65

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve payment of these items for the WWTP Disinfection and Upgrades project. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Purchase Requisition

Xylem Water Solutions USA	Material for pipe & fittings 2 Digestive Tanks	\$23,090.00
Xylem Water Solutions USA	Material for pipe & fittings 6 Aeration Tanks	<u>52,060.00</u>
		\$75,150.00

There is a 10-16 week lead time and Supt. Jolicoeur is looking for approval to order these items.

This can be paid for with Reserves for Repairs.

Motion by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve ordering the WWTP Grid Replacement items. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz provided the board with current & past fund balances for General, Water & Sewer. Due to assessment increases, our taxes collected will increase by \$28,000 from last year.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

Supt Jolicoeur provided the board with a report for February 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of Intent to pursue Pro-Housing community certification.

NEW BUSINESS

1. NYS Pro-Housing Communities Resolution

Motion to approve by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Troy & Banks Utility Audit

Motion by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski to allow Mayor McFetridge to sign contract to allow another Utility Audit from Troy and Banks. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

3. April Meeting Dates

We will hold our Organizational Meeting on April 1st and our Regular Board Meeting on April 15th.

4. Resolution for Increasing AIM funding

Motion to approve by Trustee Trombley, seconded by Trustee Molinski. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

5. Resolution of Commendation for David LePage

Motion to approve by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Dog Law:

Our old dog law is still in effect.

Tether Law

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 8:13 p.m. a motion was made by Trustee Conner, seconded by Trustee Molinski to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mary E. Spring, Secretary

Code Enforcement Report February

- Final Inspection of 1689. CC issued. (Champlain Technology Group)
- Final inspection of 1695. CO issued. (33 Pine St.)
- Unpermitted business operating at Price Chopper Plaza. Customs brokerage. Advised they need to go through special use process. Issued violation notice.
- Submittal of special use permit application for 880 Rt. 11. (Tesla Charging Stations)
- Complaint from renter on Cane St. of missing outlet cover. Minor complaint will be forwarded to landlord.
- Violation letter to 11094 Rt. 9 regarding junk and old furniture. 30 days to clean.
- Questions regarding demo of burning building on Rt. 9 by contractor, plan is to demo it come spring.
- Zoning Board Meeting
- Complaint of fuel tank and trailer on Meadow Lane. Complaint was also submitted in the past. Trailer has an open building permit for a slab, so they have a year to do it. Fuel tank is now said to be leaking and was sent to DEC by the complainant. No evidence found that it is leaking when checked.
- Letter to 11234 Rt. 9 regarding rubbish in yard. 30 days to remove.
- Final inspection of 1681. CO issued. 7 Chestnut St.
- Final Inspection of 1682. CO issued. 11249 Rt. 9
- Issued permit for generator at 22 Butternut St.
- Multiple letters sent regarding expired permits.

Superintendent Report for February. 2024

WATER

- Completed interim water meter readings
- Changed out defective water meter
- Changed out water meter for Town that had frozen and leaked. Service restored.

- Repaired one home PRV that had failed.
- Pumped out the 7 PRV vaults.
- Pumped Town meter vault for Maplefields and repaired PRV.

SEWER

- Started up grit removal, but motor keeps tripping due to high amp draw
- Started up Huber screen, but motor keeps tripping due to high amp draw. Manufacturer is looking into this.
- Contractors are back to work on a few things that must be done before next weeks UV startup.
- Started to wash and vacuum triplex valve vault for Main St. lift station. We need to make repairs and do maintenance on all 3 isolation valves and 3 check valves. Would like to start this week if time allows.
- Waiting on quotes for Main Street lift station control panel.

EQUIPMENT

- Rebuilt 2010 Peterbilt starter. Installation not yet completed.
- Rebuilt mower deck and installed on New Holland.
- Repaired snowblower for Trackless.

STREETS

- We will be putting in some new sidewalks this summer
- Received paint and materials to install for crosswalks.

BUILDINGS

- After PERMA inspection, working on correcting a few items.
- Installed eyewash station in garage and at water plant.
- Ordered door for WWTP office to be installed when it arrives.
- Changed door at the water plant that did not meet code.
- Made a temporary repair on boiler exhaust at the water filtration plant. Parts have arrived but will wait until the boiler is shut down to do repairs.

MISC.

- LCSL inventory.