

**Village of Champlain
Village Board Meeting
August 5, 2019**

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, August 5 2019 at the Village Office, 11104 Route 9, Champlain, New York.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

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

Present were Mayor McFetridge, Trustees Thomas Trombley, Kim Trombley, Amy Gehrig and Nicci Molinski, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz, Codes Officer Tetreault and Secretary Sousa. Supt. Jolicoeur was excused this evening. Present from the public were Edward Carey of NYMEP, Diane Morrelli of Willow Street, John P. Filion representing the Champlain Fire District, Richard Cooke of Willow Street, Pepe Peterson of Willow Street and Myndi Almodovar (and daughter) of Solar Farms of NY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to approve the minutes of the July 8th Regular Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Fire Chief John Filion of the Champlain Fire District made a statement on behalf of the Fire District regarding open burning rules in the Village. There have been some residents not respecting this privilege by burning garbage, etc. The Fire District would prefer no open burning, however they are willing to compromise if the Board and/or Code Enforcement will help with enforcement of these rules. They are not an enforcement and can do nothing legally if they are called out for a garbage fire in the middle of the night. They can put out the fire if it is a safety issue. They can call the police or the Codes Enforcement. They would prefer if we went back to enclosed burn pits.

Mayor McFetridge clarified that previous to the village's lift of the burn ban a few years ago, there was no burning allowed in the village, not even enclosed fires or chiminea's. Mr. Filion and Fire District members feel the rules are appropriate, if they are followed. But there have been fires that are too big and too close to houses.

Trustee Kim Trombley asked if the State Police have been called & these people being ticketed? Mr. Filion said that they have not called the police this year. That seemed to escalate the situation in the past. Codes Officer Tetreault said that the police will not issue a ticket for a local law in the village.

Mr Filion felt that having enclosed fires would be a compromise. If it's in a contained area, there is only so big it can get.

Trustee Kim Trombley asked Codes officer Tetreault that if the police can't respond, if he can do anything.

C.O. Tetreault said that his job is done at 4:00 pm and is not on call all night. He does not believe in open fires in the Village. Houses are too close and smoke gets into neighboring homes. Every time the Fire District is called for one of these fires, they have to roll out equipment and firefighters.

Trustee Thomas Trombley asked how things would be handled if we revoked this rule and went back to no burning at all.

Codes Officer Tetreault said that in the past, a few people had fires and he would let them know that there is no burning in the Village.

Diane Morrelli shared her experiences with a neighbor's campfire, burning garbage 10' from a home, 15' from gas tanks and under dead pine trees. She doesn't mind open fire, but people need to follow the rules. She doesn't want to lose the privilege due to the actions of a few. People are not respectful of their neighbors. She feels that we should have village police come back and make kids and parents more responsible.

Mr. Fillion repeated that the Fire District will support any decision made by the board. Their primary responsibility is to protect life and property, but they need help with enforcement.

Mayor McFetridge stated that the board will discuss this matter further.

Diane Morrelli shared information on local youths on 4-wheelers destroying property at Glenwood cemetery, taunting residents, walking in the road, out late at night, throwing garbage, going onto private property and behaving disrespectfully to all.

Mayor McFetridge said that this is why we need a curfew law. She thanked Mrs. Morrelli for sharing this and said that the board will be talking about all of our options.

Mr. Cooke commented on the size of fires near them. There are burn rules, but people don't care.

Myndi Almodovar was here to let the board know that she and her daughter will be in the village educating residents about Solar Farms of NY. This program offers 5% discount off of NYSEG rates for supply and delivery of solar power. Electric supply and delivery are credited on the NYSEG bill and a separate bill is issued from Solar Farms of NY. In regards to NYSEG's announcement of rate increases, the 5% discount will be off of those new rates. This program was originally for residential only, but has opened up to farms and businesses as well.

Ed Casey was here from NYMEP to explain how the Good Energy program works. This is a national company that started covering mainly large real estate, but have opened up to government in the past ten years. The idea is to buy in bulk and get a discount. That would be what would happen in the village: the residents would be grouped together in order to get a bulk discount. The Village would create and pass a law to have NYMEP come into the village, get data from NYSEG, and make a proposal for cheaper rates for supply. They need a large number of people participating to make this work. All residents would automatically be part of the program unless they opt out, which they can do at any time. There is no contract with the village or the residents. There would be several public hearings notifying the public of this program and how it works. Residents would receive a mailing and Good Energy would advertise and call

centers are available for questions. The biggest complaint is that it is an “opt out” program instead of an “opt in” program. It is new to the state, but many cities are going forward with this program. It offers you a choice of suppliers and lower rates by negotiating in volume. Mayor McFetridge said that she will supply the board with more information and they will discuss this further before making a decision.

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

- Notices of Violation: David Taitt/junk and grass, Richard Pombrio/unsafe structure, Nicole Sass/grass and junk, Nicole Sass/grass, junk and camper, Stanley Hebert/grass, Robert Macrea/grass and brush, Patricia Buritt/burning, Peter Horvat/noise ordinance.
- Spoke with Silvia Trim about Prospect St. grass
- Spoke with Steve Lincourt about pool permit
- Spoke with Francis Taitt about the number of apartments on Cedar St. property
- Verified the number of apartments at Loughans properties on Cedar Street.
- Sent zoning information letter for 5 Coton Lane
- Answered call from Town Court concerning issues with Monahan property, Patterson property and Delafrange property.
- Checked Labarge property for cleanup
- Spoke with Heather Savage about a dangerous tree
- Answered question about multiple signs for internet business
- Spoke with Judy Lussier regarding her concerns with Monahan property
- Spoke with John Canty about his question on greenhouse height
- Answered calls from Fire Control concerning burn pits within the Village, Willow St.
- Checked call on burn pit on Moore St.
- Did inspection at St. Mary’s foundation and related work
- Worked on Willow Street fill site remediation
- Issued pool permit for Moore Street.
- Answered calls on permits, zoning, complaints.

Mr. Tetreault repeated his concerns that houses are too close together in the village to allow burning. He will go to calls for fires until 4 pm but will not go out at midnight. He said that the Fire District is frustrated with these calls when they have to roll out equipment and firefighters.

Notices of Violations were issued to those people on his report that he checked into.

Using the courts to enforce code is very time-consuming and not the answer.

Trustee Kim Trombley feels the court should be enforcing these things.

Trustee Thomas Trombley suggested that if they are let off with a warning, that we continue to cite them again and sent them back to court with additional charges.

Mr. Tetreault voiced his frustration with the court situation.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

We have been working to keep our village safe for all residents as well as build ties between us to strengthen our community. We continue to coordinate with law enforcement to address theft, vandalism, noise and damage to properties. The draft of the curfew law, which is with our lawyer, will soon be back for our review and then a public hearing will be scheduled. This date will be shared in the newspaper and on our webpage. Several people have discussed

the lack of activities for teens in the Village. This is a genuine concern. Currently we have horse shoe pits, disc golf, longboat rowing and a rec trail. We welcome input from our residents regarding other opportunities that we might be able to organize. In addition, in the past we have had a teen liaison to the board who attends meetings and serves as a voice for their peers. In anyone is interested in this position, please contact the office.

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, August 10th from noon-3 pm Ice Cream Social in Bill Earl Park on River Street. The Samuel de Champlain History Center will be open during this time as well.
- Sunday, August 11th: Porch Music with Marilyn Reynolds performing at 7 Chestnut Street at 1:00 pm and Ryan Casey performing at 45 Oak Street at 1:45 pm.
- Final Music in the Park concert on Aug. 18th with *Beartracks* at 5:30 pm.

The DPW crew has been working diligently to prepare streets for paving, which will happen in early September. They have also been repairing sidewalks. Waterline flushing will be taking place in the next couple of weeks. We continue to look for funding for waste water plant upgrades and waterline replacements. Thanks to Mary and Juanita for their assistance in pursuing these monies.

Thank you for your support and suggestions to make our village a good place to live.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Report from Trustee Gehrig

Trustee Gehrig reported that we did not receive funds from the RFA that she applied for.

Trustee Thomas Trombley

Trustee Trombley reported that he and Trustee Kim Trombley met with IMA Committee to discuss the current draft, also attended the Town Board meeting and came up with an agreed path, met again to make changes and then finalized the document. They removed the Town's EDU policy so it is not part of the IMA, but can be referenced as a policy alone. He wants to approve the Village EDU policy tonight as reference as well.

The IMA has come back from their (Town) attorney and Trustee Thomas Trombley wants the board to review their request. The Town has added that the Water board will set rates in proportion to present rates of \$5.25/Village and \$7.22/Town, not to exceed 37.5% (which is at present the proportional difference). They are asking that we cap the difference between Village and Town rates at 37.5%. He said that that is fine right now, but we do not know what circumstances might be in 20 years.

Trustee McFetridge added that the Villages' attorney was leery about that.

Trustee Gehrig does not like the idea of caps at all. We are working to make rates as reasonable as possible.

Trustee Kim Trombley said that this is protection for them that their rates will not skyrocket.

Mayor McFetridge said that the Water Board makes recommendations, but the board is made up of 3 Village and 2 Town representatives and they may feel that the recommendation may come higher on the town. This would hold that down.

Trustee Thomas Trombley said that they need to trust that the water board is going to do a diligent job for both Town and Village rates.

Trustee Gehrig said that we would not want to raise rates on businesses.

The Board recommended that there be NO CAP's on rates in the IMA.

Trustee Nicci Molinski

Trustee Molinski reported that August 18th will be the last of the kids Fun Run's. Summer Camp turnout has been great, with between 8 and 25 kids at each session. Two cooking classes are in the works for this year.

Trustee Kim Trombley

Trustee Kim Trombley announced that we were awarded the AARP Community Challenge Grant of \$6,884. She had a quote from Dock Doctors for a kayak launch, but that it was for residential, not commercial use and will not work for our river. She is looking into other options that stay within our grant amount.

Trustee Kim Trombley will continue as our community liaison with the Clinton County Health Dept.

Mayor McFetridge added that we received three sunscreen dispensers. One is installed at the beginning of the Rec Trail on Elm Street and the others will be installed soon.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ

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

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

There are additional invoices of \$6,890.63 to be added to the warrant for total of \$20,674.64.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$20,674.64, Roll call vote as follows:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

Supt Jolicoeur provided the following report:

- Trash and trees from the end of Cherry St along bike bath were removed and a turnaround was installed. The DPW removed old material from the road base, widened the road and installed road fabric and a new base.
- Supt. Jolicoeur met with the county paving crew. They are scheduled to pave Rouses Point at the beginning of September and will pave for us around the same time. DPW will continue preparing roads for paving. Drainage is still needed on Meadow Lane, Pine Street and Spruce Street.
- The DPW crew dealt with three water main breaks. Two were near 11136 Rt. 9 and one was at the intersection of Elm St. and Walnut St.

- We completed the monthly meter readings. We changed out one defective meter and collected data logging of for residents with high/low usage.
- Put in street light repair requests.
- Cleaned cameras and fixed lights on Gazebo & Pavilion
- Poured sidewalks and aprons that were removed due to water main breaks.
- Backhoe is at the shop for a hydraulic leak.
- Peterbilt has leak on hydraulic dump box cylinder. Needs to be removed and rebuilt.
- When roads are ready, hydrant flushing will be next to get done.

PURCHASE REQUISITION

1. Brake lamp/strobe light Riley Ford A5110.4 \$485.00
 Can only be purchased as a unit with 3rd brake light from the dealer.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the expenditure of \$485 for the purchase of strobe light unit from Riley Ford for the 2016 Ford. Roll call vote as follows:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

2. Auto Dialer for Main St. Lift station USA Bluebook G58130.2 \$2,525.24
 During a recent power outage, we found out that the “chatterbox” was not working when no one was alerted.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve up to \$2525.24 for the purchase of a new auto-dialer for the Main Street lift station. Roll call vote as follows:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

3. Battery Backup for Water Plant Amazon \$164.99

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to approve the expenditure of \$164.99 for the purchase of a Battery backup for the water plant. Roll call vote as follows:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Molinski	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Gehrig	Aye

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp from NYCOM to Assemblyman Billy Jones re: Extreme Winter Recovery Funds
2. Corresp from NYS DOT re: Extreme Winter Recovery funds
3. Corresp from NYS DOT re: CHIPS funding
4. Letter from Mayor McFetridge to Assemblyman Billy Jones re: water line replacement
5. 2nd quarter Sales Tax Revenue from Clinton County
6. JCEO monthly report
7. Corresp from Michel Vendette of 59 Oak St.
8. Corresp from Ken Delafrange

#7. During recent meter reads, we found that there was high water usage at 59 Oak Street. The owner is rarely there and the water usage took place when he was away. Owner says he always turns off the water when he leaves. Several hundred gallons/hour went through his meter during a two-week period. He may have forgotten to turn off the water and something was left on, but we cannot determine where that leak was. Supt. Jolicoeur will try to get another read after the owner comes for the weekend to see if it repeats itself. At this point it does not meet our criteria for a wastewater credit, but we can look at this again next month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hometown Heroes banners

Mayor McFetridge met with committee members Melody Trombly and Diane Morrelli regarding the Hometown Heroes banners. Melody Trombly gathered information on the program and is in the process of setting up the application form to offer this to our local veteran's families. The plan is to start with the Village and expand to the Town. The families will bear the cost of the banners and our goal is to have them out on display from Memorial Day until Veterans Day starting next May.

2. NYMEP Municipal Energy Program presentation

Mayor McFetridge will share more information that she has on this program with the board before a decision is made.

3. Solar Farms of NY

Representatives spoke earlier in the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Curfew Law:

Mayor McFetridge addressed this in her report.

2. NYMIR Requirements

Mayor McFetridge reported that we are getting bids for mulch at the playground. Mulch or wood chips are acceptable to FEMA. We are ordering the two signs needed too.

3. Contamination cleanup:

Parking lot is paved and striping has been arranged and will be done soon. The crew did pilot testing of equipment and will be back next week.

4. Water project negotiations:

Trustee Thomas Trombley addressed this in his report.

5. Willow Street lot:

Mayor McFetridge reported that this is slowly being cleaned up. Topsoil is being brought in, then hydro-seeding and a culvert will be done next.

6. Fund Balance policy:

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to adopt the Fund Balance Policy as written. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Champlain Fire District Project

Codes officer and Fire District member Mike Tetreault provided the board with site plans for the new Fire Station. A county map shows a property line that is not straight along Elm Street. The Fire Commissioners are asking to get that property line adjusted and that property to be given to the Fire District. There used to be an old gully near the firehouse and property lines bow out into the street. If the property lines are moved, the storm pond can be moved forward and they can increase parking. This would be considered a lot line adjustment and we would have to go through legal channels to change this. Board members were okay with the proposed lot line adjustment.

Mr. Tetreault said that the Fire District anticipated a \$50,000 in grant funding from the USDA for this project, but ended up receiving \$279,000. This will impact the fire taxes. They hope to have the design period done by the end of the year and put the project out to bid in December or January, with construction to start in the spring.

EDU Policy

Trustee Trombley asked that the board adopt the proposed EDU Policy so that we have a standard to follow in calculating a correct EDU count. Every year the water board will have this policy to follow to make sure we have the correct EDU count. This policy will be referenced in the IMA with the town. The Town has a compatible policy as they followed our policy with a few changes based on some differences. Trustee Trombley recommended that they take it out of their code and make it a policy so that it can be revised easily.

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Nicci Molinski to adopt the EDU Policy as written. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 pm a motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to adjourn. All members voted aye. Motion carried.