

Village of Champlain Village Board Meeting September 14, 2020

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, September 14, 2020 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 Molinski, Thomas Trombley, Kim Trombley, Gehrig, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz, Superintendent Jolicoeur and Secretary Sousa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the minutes of the August 10th regular Board Meeting. Trustee Gehrig abstained.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the minutes of the August 18th Special Board Meeting. All members present voted aye. Motion carried

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

No one from the community was present this evening.

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Codes Enforcement Officer Tetreault provided the following report for August 2020:

- Handled garbage issue at 11218 Rt. 9 (Sandra Barber)
- Checked on junk on Willow Street property
- Spoke to Sean Monahan (192 South St.) concerning junk, clutter, debris.
- Spoke with Chris Cross concerning locating a single-wide mobile home in the Village.
- Notice of Violation to Nicole Sass (13 Oak Street) junk issues.
- Notice of Violation to Andrew Pawlus, (46 Church St.) debris along street.
- Notice of Violation to Francis Taitt, (11167 Rt. 9) grass not maintained.
- Issued Certificate of Occupancy to Mike Thibodeau for apt/storefront at 11176 Rt. 9.
- Scheduled with Doug Ferris to inspect burned structure (11167 Rt. 9) and report.
- Spoke to Rodney Ducharme concerning junk/scrap yard (34 Maiden Lane).
- Issued permit to Scott Yelle (27 Oak St.) remodeling.
- Handled issue of toilet along Prospect Street.
- Issued permit to Gary Wagoner, (32 Butternut St.) storage shed.
- Helped with JCEO food cleanup weekly.

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Good evening. As summer winds down and we look forward to the beautiful fall colors, we can be grateful that the COVID 19 numbers are down in Clinton County. Schools are back in session, albeit in a different style. I thank all the educators, administrators, home schooling parents, aides, bus drivers, and other essential district employees who are working so hard to teach and support our children during these uncertain times.

Once again, I must stress the importance of completing the 2020 Census. Currently only 54% of Village of Champlain residents have submitted their information. There are about 150 federal agencies who rely on this data to fund many projects and programs that we may need. Please take the time to complete this census. If you aren't sure how to access it or you have other questions about it, call us and we will assist you.

Many residents are still contacting me with reports of ATVs on their property causing damage to lawns and creating noise. After speaking with the New York State police, I advise you to contact the troopers directly with details about the individuals and their vehicles. If possible, take pictures or look at your security cameras, so they can be identified.

I understand that there is concern over the lack of a brush collection site in the village. We are currently working with the Town of Champlain to determine if there is an area where there might be a drop off area, perhaps by appointment only. Right now, I can assure you that we are trying to create a solution before winter. I will keep you informed of our progress.

Governor Cuomo recently signed into legislation laws banning the shutoff of residential utility services during the pandemic and for 180 days beyond when the state of emergency has been lifted. For customers who have experienced a change in financial circumstances due to COVID 19, the Village will work with you to develop a repayment plan. Details on this will be available on our website or by calling the office.

Tomorrow our long delayed election is taking place in the village. I urge you to come cast your ballot between noon and 9 pm here in the Village Office.

I hope that all of you remain healthy and ask that you continue to support one another during these trying times. Thank you.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Molinski

Trustee Molinski had nothing to report this month.

Trustee Gehrig

Trustee Gehrig reported that she is working on a gardening grant for kids, due in November.

Trustee Kim Trombley

The Village EDU assessments for the Water Board were completed by Joe Ashline. They are waiting on the Town assessments from Sara Gonyo. There will be a Water Board meeting tomorrow (9/15/20). Trustees Tom and Kim Trombley are working on a report to present to the Village and Town. Trustee Trombley thanked Mary Sousa and Juanita Munoz for their help.

Trustee Thomas Trombley

Trustee Thomas Trombley has contacted John Trombly at Modern Mechanical about making a railing for the kayak launch. He has not heard back on that yet.

The K of C annual food drive will be held from October 2-4 from 8 am-5 pm at Price Chopper.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ

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

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

There are additional invoices of \$835.07 to be added to the warrant of \$21,649.81 for total of \$22,484.88.

A motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$22,484.88. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

Supt Jolicoeur reported the following for the DPW:

They are getting ready for paving on Prospect Street and have added 1,000 feet of culvert and moved mailboxes back from the road.

The new radar sign with solar panel has been installed on Prospect Street.

The brownout caused damage to wires at the well pump at the water plant which needs repair.

Projects to be done before winter include:

- Delivery and installation of the new generator.
- Flushing to be done in October
- Patching, sidewalks, curbing
- Leaves and Brush cut
- Drain tanks at sewer plant to repair a crack in the wall.
- Put water service in for a resident
- Maintenance done on equipment for winter.

The new plow truck should be in any time, but it will be late winter early spring before it is complete. Mayor McFetridge said that we will talk with the USDA regarding details of the loan and grant. The grant won't be released until the plow truck in complete so we may have to make loan payments on the truck before we get the grant. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp. To Francis Taitt at 11167 Rt. 9
2. Corresp. From NYS DOT regarding CHIPS funding
3. Codes Violation to Richard Lipari
4. Corresp. From Codes Officer to Myron Degenhardt
5. Corresp from Codes Officer to SNJ Group.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Change is water/sewer billing cycle

We currently bill for water/sewer on a calendar year and our budget is on our Fiscal Year. If we changed to a fiscal year schedule, we would bill March 1, June 1, Sept. 1 and Dec. 1st. The biggest concern to this is that two of those billings would be at the same time as Village taxes and School taxes.

Trustee Thomas Trombley said that it would be easier for them (the water board) to see the cost of business against revenues if the billing was on the same fiscal year schedule.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz said that she does monthly reports which can be used to compare monthly expenses and revenues. Discussion followed. Trustee Thomas Trombley will talk with the water board at the next meeting and we will discuss this again.

2. Water Line Replacement: SEQRA Part 2 & 3

The board reviewed the SEQRA/FEAF Part 2.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to accept Resolution #8 “***Determining that the proposed Village of Champlain Water System Improvements Project is a Type 1 Action and will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment***”. Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

3. Policy for “Statement of Change in Circumstances”

Mayor McFetridge provided the board with a copy of an attestation for Village residents, which includes the following language:

Governor Cuomo of New York recently signed legislation banning the shutoff of residential utility services during the COVID-19 crisis. This law also extends the moratorium on utility shutoffs for 180 days beyond when the state of emergency has been lifted or has expired for customers that have experienced a change in financial circumstances due to the COVID-19 emergency. The Village of Champlain will offer a repayment plan with no required down payment of late fees.

If you are experiencing trouble paying your water/sewer bill due to circumstances caused by COVID-19, please complete the application below....

I attest that due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, which began on March 7, 2020, I have experienced a change in financial circumstances.

We must offer residents a deferred payment plan with no late fees and no penalties. Customers don’t have to do this but we have to have it available. We are required to provide notice to our customers that we will offer this. We may request and must accept self-certified statements of financial hardship due to COVID-19. NYCOM is suggesting that we adopt a policy so that we are consistent in how we handle these. We may not have very many people taking advantage of this but have to offer it.

A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley that we have this available to those who have experienced a change in circumstances due to COVID -19. to approve the adoption of this form in order to offer repayment plans to affected customers. Trustee Kim Trombley wanted to add that circumstances should be evaluated the same way across the board and restructuring of repayment plans is done consistently.

All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mayor McFetridge informed the Board that NYSEG should be swapping out the LED lights sometime in October.

The next village board meeting is scheduled for October 12th was changed to Oct. 5th

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 7:39 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Gehrig and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.