

Village of Champlain Village Board Meeting September 13, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/SALUTE TO THE FLAG

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, September 13, 2021 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 Kim Trombley, Nicci Molinski, Thomas Trombley, Charles Conner, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz, Superintendent Jolicoeur and Water Board member Michael Lafontaine.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Trustee Conner and seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the minutes of the Aug 9 Board Meeting. Trustees Thomas and Kim Trombley abstained. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

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

There was no one present from the community this evening.

REPORT FROM CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Codes Enforcement Officer Matott provided the board with a report for August 2021

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

Fall is quickly approaching and many of you will be raking leaves and picking up brush soon. Please remember that we no longer have a public brush pile. Dates for curbside pick-up will be announced at the October board meeting. There will be no pick up until that specific time period. I continue to hear complaints about speeding on all the village streets. We have contacted law enforcement to request increased patrols. But the real solution is for drivers to slow down. We live in a small, densely populated village with many families including small children. Please drive responsibly. With Covid cases on the rise in the county, we have had to reinstate the mask policy in the Village office. When you enter the building, we ask you to wear a mask. This is to keep our village employees safe as well as those we do business with. Thank you for complying. And finally, in honor of Labor Day last week, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the Village of Champlain employees for their hard work and dedication to making this a good place to live. Much of their work goes unnoticed, but I can assure you that they work diligently every day on your behalf. From road repair, to fixing water main breaks, to sidewalk concerns, to sewer and water plant issues, to grant writing, and bills being processed, to accounting, and dealing with the public – just a few of the myriad of jobs performed, these employees are always ready to do their best. It is certainly my pleasure to work with such a group and I ask you to thank them when you see them. May you enjoy the last days of summer and welcome a beautiful autumn. Thank you for being a part of this village.

REPORT FROM TRUSTEES

Trustee Nicci Molinski

- The Fun Run ended with a picnic. They had a large turnout this year.
- The Library is planning a Paint n Sip in October with limited participants
- The Library is accepting used Christmas Decorations for their fundraiser on Black Friday.
- Trunk or Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 30th at 2 p.m. The K of C will be participating.
- Library will be holding a pumpkin decorating contest on Thursday, Oct. 28th starting at 5:45 p.m.

Trustee Charles Conner

- The first Senior Game day will be held on Sunday, Nov. 7th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Meeting House.

Trustee Kim Trombley

- The Water Board has been busy trying to finish their report by October 15th deadline. The Village board was copied with an interim summary and spreadsheet.

Trustee Thomas Trombley

The board is trying to capture every bit of water to reduce high % of loss that makes it look like we are not running efficiently.

Several recommendations were made including installing a remote read meter at the wastewater plant to capture the number of gallons used monthly. They also suggested requesting that the Fire District advise the Village Office when a fire hydrant is used for firefighting. If the water operator is notified within 24 hours, the amount of gallons can be estimated and reported.

The water board found it difficult to determine how to share the cost of the generator purchase as this is a capitol repair and should have been handled differently. The Town had to amortize their cost over 20 years which results in approximately \$2,000/year added to the O&M under the equipment category.

We will now need to determine how we are going to finance the installation of the new generator. We are looking at about \$15,000. In the future, larger expenditures for repairs and replacements to the plant, including equipment upgrades, will need to be handled differently and not just added to the O&M.

The Town adjusted its EDU policy, and they went through every parcel in the Town. As a result, their EDU increased by 112, from 450 to 562. As there was a change of more than 40 Edu's this resets the standard for debt repayment. The Town is now 47.6% and the Village is 52.4%. The O&M owed by the Town will now be \$44,579.38. The Debit repayment for the Village will be \$90,622.58 and the Town will be \$218,907.42.

The previous cost of producing water was calculated at \$5.94/K gal. Now that the water board knows that the nano-flushing is processed water, it will now be included in the calculation and the cost to produce water has been reduced to \$5.16/K gal. There are some variances in the meters which accounts for some differences in numbers. The distribution meter is about 4 years old and has not been calibrated since then. The water board is trying is to determine the cost of finished water which includes cost of chemicals, administration and treatment plant costs. Discussion followed.

Mayor McFetridge questioned the reason for identifying lost water. Is it to reduce lost water or to quantify where it is lost? Trustee Trombley said it is to quantify where it is going and find ways to reduce loss. Mayor McFetridge added that it is also lost revenue for the Village. Trustee Trombley referred to Supt. Jolicoeur's statement of the need for cost of water. There is a difference between what you've made and what you are able to bill. Nano-flushing water is part of the cost of making water. We certainly can't sell it for \$5.16/Kgal. We would be losing money. It is just the cost to make that water. Supt. Jolicoeur stated that some it is used to make the water. It is part of the ingredients. Trustee Trombley agreed. Mayor McFetridge stated that we can account for some at the sewer plant, fire hydrant use and water breaks. Mike Lafontaine said that the amount of water lost has been constant for several years. Mayor McFetridge agreed that it has been consistent for many years prior to this project too. Trustee Trombley said they would like to see our loss closer to 20%. He will try to contact other municipalities to see what their average losses are. There is more work to do for the report and they will be looking at water charges next.

Mike Lafontaine asked about the old generator and if it will need to be decommissioned. Supt. Jolicoeur said that it will just need to be moved, the wiring removed and the cement slab taken out.. No decommissioning needed. We have no use for it ourselves and if the town & fire district has no need for it locally, we can put it out to bid. Mayor McFetridge thanked the water board for all of the hard work they have done. Mike Lafontaine left the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Trustee Trombley had concerns that if the state of emergency is extended for the moratorium on utility shutoffs, we would not be able to relevy water/sewer on 2022 bills. It could be a hardship to some communities.

Trustee Kim Trombley asked if we offer direct pay for our water bills. It is done in Rouses Point and payments are taken directly out of residents accounts. We will check into the possibility of offering this option.

REPORT FROM CLERK/TREASURER MUNOZ

The board has been provided the Expense and Revenue Report for August 2021.

PRESENTATION OF WARRANT AND PAYMENT

There are additional invoices of \$129,317.95 to be added to the \$11,437.71 warrant for a total warrant of \$140,755.66. A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the warrant with additional invoices for a total of \$140,755.66. Roll Call vote:

Trustee Kim Trombley	Aye
Trustee Thomas Trombley	Aye
Trustee Charles Conner	Aye
Trustee Nicci Molinski	Aye
Mayor McFetridge	Aye

Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz stated that we received additional funds from ARPA that need to be transferred into the Water Capitol Project account in the amount of \$437.89.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the transfer of \$437.89 to the Water Capitol Project account at Champlain National Bank. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz stated that we need to pay Barton & Loguidice \$12,028.25 from the Water Capitol Project. We also need to reimburse the village \$1,991.25 for bills paid out of village funds before we received ARPA funds.

A motion was made by Trustee Charles Conner and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve the payment of \$14,019.50 from the Water Capitol Project. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDANT

WATER

- We had a water break on Pine Street which was excavated and repaired
- Water did monthly readings and will be doing meter reads this week for the upcoming billing
- We had an electrical issue with a well pump at the water plant which we fixed in-house.

SEWER

- Muffin Monster at the WWTP is broken. Supt. Jolicoeur is waiting on the cost of parts breakdown. They will try to repair it but we may have to order a reconditioned grinder. He has a quote on this unit. Once plant upgrades are done, this grinder will be changed out for a bar screen for the removal of larger solids before reaching our pumps.
- We had a meeting the engineers for the WWTP upgrades

EQUIPMENT

- The Peterbilt was repaired and is back in service.
- The new plow truck has arrived, and once paperwork is complete, we can pick it up.
- Parts for the bucket truck are in and hopes to get that back in service next week.
- The cutting edge on the loader needs replacing and Supt. Jolicoeur has quotes.

MISC

- The kayak launch was vandalized again, and some parts are missing. We have No Swimming signs, but a group of individuals have ignored them and continue to jump off the dock and launch. All docks and launch were removed.

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STREETS

- We will continue to work on preparing streets for paving with milling done closer to when paving starts.
- We removed asphalt from Cedar Street Extension and put in fabric with a new base of millings and added some large stone on end to help when ice jams up in the spring.
- We removed asphalt from Mill Street and are making a turnaround for our snowplow.
- Sidewalk tree trimming is almost complete, and we will be working on street tree trimming as time allows.

ON SCHEDULE

- Hydrant flushing should be in early October
- Culvert work, tree trimming and sidewalk replacement.
- The new chlorine tank for the water plant has arrived. We will use up the chlorine in the existing tank and change over to a drum. We will have to cut up the old tank to remove it, possibly removing the cement containment as well. The old tank was put in before the building was built and is too big to remove in one piece. Once removed we can pipe in the new tank so it can be used.

Generator Installation Work:

Disconnect power wires from main auto generator switch and remove wire from conduit. Remove existing generator, pump out and remove preexisting fuel tank and existing concrete pads. Build a retaining wall, run conduit for bigger wire, form and pour a 12” thick concrete pad and install new generator. Have electrician pull new larger wire and reconnect to auto generator switch. Schedule Generator Company to do startup. This needs to be completed before winter for our warranty.

We will be doing a brush only pickup in late October. Please have your brush curbside. We will take up to one pickup load per property. Maximum 8’ in length and 4” in diameter. Not leaves or bagged debris.

Trustee Thomas Trombley asked if the broken Muffin Monster is the reason for us no longer accepting sludge at the sewer plant. Supt. Jolicoeur replied that the solids were high in the tank. We were getting more haulers and taking in more sludge. They need to get solids down, but they have been able to press on only one side of the tank because the concrete wall is cracked on the other side. Once the wall is fixed we will be able to press on both sides. It was also not being pressed as often as it should have been. The local haulers have gone to Rouses Point.

Trustee Thomas Trombley asked about the vandalism at the kayak launch. Supt. Jolicoeur said that some parts are gone. Kids have been using the platform to jump into the water. Cameras cannot see over the bank to identify anyone. Mayor McFetridge was there daily to get them off of the launch. The board agreed how frustrating it is to spend so much time and money on something and to have it ruined. There will be further discussion in the spring.

PURCHASE REQUISITION

1) Heated wipers for new Plow Truck

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to approve the purchase of heated wiper blades in the amount of \$222.62. Roll Call vote:

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

Motion carried.

2) Radio Cases (holsters for DPW radios)

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the purchase of 3 radios cases at a cost of \$222.00. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

3) Cutting Edge for Loader

Supt. Jolicoeur provided two quotes:

Beauregards	\$1,486.86
Dragoons	\$1,802.13

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to approve the purchase of a new cutting edge for the loader from Beauregards at a cost of \$1,486.86 plus freight. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

4) Muffin Monster

Supt. Jolicoeur is waiting on the cost of parts to repair our muffin monster. That will determine whether we try to repair this one or get another one. This one was purchased in 2014 as refurbished for \$11,121.00.

We have a quote of \$18,220.00 from GP Jager for a refurbished muffin monster. It would be 3-4 weeks for delivery if we purchase this item. Supt. Jolicoeur is waiting on another quote too. When the sewer upgrades are done in the next few years, we will no longer need a muffin monster. There will be a different process to remove solids.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to approve the purchase of a muffin monster from GP Jager for \$18,220.00, if needed, based on cost of repairs. Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Corresp from Mayor McFetridge to outside sludge haulers
2. Corresp from Mayor McFetridge to Brett Anderson
3. Corresp from CEO to Steven Trombley
4. Corresp from CEO to Mitchell Guay
5. Cable Franchise Fees from Charter Communications
6. Corresp from Mayor McFetridge to Joe Ashline, EDU Assessor
7. Corresp from CEO to Silver Castle regarding property maintenance
8. Corresp from CEO to David Bernier regarding property maintenance
9. Corresp from CEO to Chad Poirier regarding property maintenance
10. Corresp from CEO to Sean Monahan regarding property maintenance
11. Corresp from CEO to Sandra Barber regarding property maintenance
12. Corresp from CEO to Allen Commo regarding zoning violation
13. Corresp from CEO to Steven Trombley regarding code violation

NEW BUSINESS

1. Renaming the Northern Tier Recreational Trail

Mayor McFetridge mentioned that Calvin Castine came to our last meeting and spoke about naming the Northern Tier Rec Trail in honor of Harry McManus, who was instrumental in finding all of the funding.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to rename the Northern Tier Recreational Trail the "Harry J. McManus Recreational Trail".

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

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to rename the Northern Tier Recreational Trail the "Harry J. McManus Recreational Trail". All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

2. Purchase of Electric Vehicle

Mayor McFetridge introduced the idea of purchasing an electric vehicle for the village. There are rebates of \$5,000 to \$7,500 from NYS and rebates of \$7,500 from the federal government. We currently pay mileage for personal vehicle usage for meetings, conferences, bank runs and water testing. A small vehicle costs around \$30,000. We have a charging station in the village and they do come with adaptive chargers. Discussion followed. The matter was tabled until our next meeting.

3. Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption: Resolution #6 of 2021

A motion was made by Trustee Molinski and seconded by Trustee Conner to adopt the Clinton County 2021 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

4. Bids for Installation of Generator

Supt Jolicoeur got a quote for rewiring for the new generator. The cost went from \$9,420. To \$18,320. The power will have to be unhooked from the old generator, a retaining wall built, conduit removed, old generator removed, cement pad removed, fuel tank removed, and pour a 12" cement pad. The new generator can be set. It needs to be put in before winter, otherwise we lose our warranty.

We should bid the site-work out as the DPW does not have time to do this. He will get quotes for the removal of the old generator and site work for installation of the new generator. We have quotes for wiring the new generator and will await to approve both the removal/install and wiring at the same time.

5. Sale of Village Property

We had appraisals done on two pieces of property in 2014 but they were never sold. in order to sell Village property we need to: 1) Determine by Resolution that it is no longer needed and 2) Sell property for fair and adequate consideration. There is someone who has been interested in purchasing the Rt. 9/Moore Street property. The board agreed that \$1,000 is a fair price as there is little that can be done with the property. The buyer should be responsible for closing costs.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski resolving that the Village of Champlain is no longer in need of Village property on Rt. 9/Moore Street under Tax Map # 18.15-3-31 and that this lot can be sold as surplus property for the appraised value of \$1,000 plus closing costs. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Perry Mills Rd. property was appraised at \$25,000 but is currently assessed at \$38,000, which includes the pump house building. We will decide how to advertise for the sale of the property at the next board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to Resolve that the Village of Champlain is no longer in need of Village property at 1141 Perry Mills Road under Tax Map #18.-1-70 and that this lot can be sold as surplus property. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

6. Amendment No. 1 to Owner-Engineer Agreement for WWTP Disinfection/upgrades

Two of the jobs to be done in-house have been transferred to the project: Concrete repair and valves. This added to additional services and there was an increase in costs for the survey/mapping and Subsurface Investigation (boring) in the amount of \$13,100. These services have been performed and we have been billed.

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to accept Amendment No. 1 to Owner-Engineer Agreement effective Sept. 13, 2021. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

7. Dedication of Playground

Trustee Conner read the Resolution for Dedication of the Champlain Recreation Playground in Honor and Memory of Clarke C. Herdic. A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Conner to accept this resolution as written. All members present voted aye. Motion carried. Mayor McFetridge conveyed thanks from her family and herself for this recognition and dedication.

8. Survey of Donated Land

We need to hire someone to survey the land donated to the Village from Manny and Sheila Coupal. A motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to hire a surveyor for property at Tax map #18.20-1-8. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

9. Acceptance of Snow Plow

A motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Kim Trombley to accept the new Peterbilt snow plow into our inventory of equipment. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Sidewalk replacement

No one submitted bids for the sidewalk replacement. This matter is tabled until next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the board, at 8:22 pm, a motion was made by Trustee Thomas Trombley and seconded by Trustee Molinski to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

M. Spring, Secretary