

**Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
December 8, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held December 8, 2025, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey, who thanked everyone, and reminded them of the guidelines for public comment. He stated, please allow the village to get through their business, hold your questions or comments until we reach that part of our agenda. He then welcomed, Norman Shaffer Jr. as a new village board member.

Present: Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey, Trustee T. Lawrence, Trustee L. Matthews, Trustee Shaffer, Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and DPW Supervisor DeBetta.

Absent: Officer in Charge Frank Ventura.

Visitors: Joyce Humphrey, Donald Ouimet, Christopher & Amy Kehoe, Julie Sutton, April Leggett, Joe Hughes, John & Judy Hinman, Ina Marvin, Jason Wicks, Deanna Lawrence, John Lawrence and Daron Schultes.

- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews authorizing Clerk/Treasurer to pay the following audited vouchers. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor motion passed.

General Fund Vouchers # 129 - 154, Totaling \$51,946.92.

Water Fund Vouchers # 68 – 74, Totaling \$3,706.68.

Christmas Parade Fund Vouchers # 9 - 14, Totaling \$1,709.17.

- Motion to accept previous minutes with no additions or corrections made by Trustee T. Lawrence. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Monthly Report:

- DPW/ Water: Verbal report given by DPW Supervisor DeBetta. The Department have been working on getting the trucks ready for the plowing season. They have been taking photos for the new water meter placements. They have been cleaning up the shop and installed new lights.
- Police Department. No report.
- Code Enforcement: No report as there is a vacancy. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey stated that there was a gentleman who had reached out that lives in the village that had been interested in the position, however, something has come up and he's unable to take on the position as this time. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey reminded everyone that the village is looking to fill the position, if anyone, knows of anyone who may be interested. Trustee T. Lawrence asked if we have place an advertisement in the paper for the open position. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey, stated no, but that we can.

- Planning Board: Planning Board Chair, April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees with a number discussions:
 - ✓ Thanked the Village Board of Trustees for allowing her and Jason Wicks to attend a Southern Tier Developers Summit on Workforce Housing and Infrastructure.
 - ✓ Stated that the Village Planning Board will be helping the Town Planning Board to comply with up to date training.
 - ✓ Discussion of Afton Medical Building, They have reached out to UHS and Guthrie with hopes to have them come to the community with a practice at this location. However, the building requires a new air filtration system, which is too costly for them to want to take on.
 - ✓ Ms. April Leggett informed the Village Board of Trustees that she would get the list of the unsafe and unfit homes within the village to them. As she would like to speak with David DeClue from Bainbridge, NY about how they are addressing the burned out homes.
 - ✓ She would appreciate it if the Village Board of Trustee would appoint Ina Marvin as a Planning Board Member. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey stated that it is on our agenda.
 - ✓ Christopher Wright is interested in becoming A Planning Board Member; however, he at this time cannot make the scheduled meetings, due to a conflict with his child's sporting events. A discussion on, possibly changing the meeting night to accommodate Mr. Wright, for the time being.
- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier informed the Village Board of Trustees that we have received the final bond payment for the leaf machine purchase, along with the yearly billing for the retirement.
- Parade Committee: Daron Schultes stated that the Christmas Parade Committee finished with another good year. Mr. Schultes thanked everyone who had a hand in helping with the events. They will be receiving a \$1000.00 donation from the Afton Alumni Association, to be using towards next year's parade. He stated that they did have 4 – 5 groups that did not show; sometimes the colder weather keeps people away. The Parade Committee has already begun to discuss different ideas for next year events. The Village Board of Trustee along with those in attendance Thanked Mr. Schultes for a job well done.
- 4 Towns Forward: Trustee L. Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that that the Guildford Fire Department is selling tickets to raffle off a new UVT to help raise funds to offset the cost to update their fire department building, they has also received grant money for this project. She informed every one of the Toys for Tots Concert, held by Jason Michael Carroll, on Saturday, December 19, 205 at 7:00 pm in the Sidney High School Auditorium; just bring a toy to enter the concert. There is a homeless meeting tomorrow at 8:30 am located in the back of Bob's Diner. She thanked Mr. & Mrs. Hinman for the placement of a truck that collected food donation at the annual Village Christmas Parade for the local food pantry.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey stated that there is no further new information at this time.
- Camera Discussion – Trustee T. Lawrence stated that nothing new, remains the same.
- Charging Station – Trustee T. Lawrence asked Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier if someone has been in contact about setting up the payments that the village will be receiving from The New York Power Authority, for placement of the electric car charging stations. Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier stated yes, we are just waiting on our bank to submit a required letter to move forward. There were many discussions about seeing this new system in use by individuals within the community.

New Business:

- Afton Motorsports Park 2026 Tentative Race Schedule was, distributed to the Village Board of Trustees. There was a discussion that there is a Sunday race on the schedule, in which the village has agreed to in the past.
- Motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$2,113.17, from Capital Reserves Water Improvement Savings Fund for payment of Invoice # 00025 - to Lamont Engineers for engineering services as follows: (F8397.20 - Contractual -Lamont Engineers – for \$2,113.17). Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to sign the warrant for unpaid 2025 village taxes to be, returned to Chenango County for collection. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee Shaffer to purchase microphones at a cost of no more than \$500.00, be to use during village board meeting for those who are have a difficult time hearing. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to appoint Ina Marvin as a Village Planning Board Member. Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitors Christopher and Amy Kehoe expressed their thanks to Village Board of Trustees. They are happy to see new businesses coming into the community. The Christmas Parade was excellent; Bailey did a great job with the snow removal. They stated that they have seen individuals using the electric car charging station; it is nice for the community. However, they feel as though more information should be available to direct to the public about this service. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey stated that the village would make a small profit for the placement of the units; it will also pay for the maintenance and liability insurance that the village must cover for the placement. There were discussion that there are GPS that will direct user to where there are locations for the car charging station users. Trustee T. Lawrence stated that there would be a ribbon cutting in the spring along with educational material. The placement would not have happened if it were not for Joyce Humphrey agreeing to allow an easement; the Village Board of Trustees thanked her for her hand in the helping with the project.
- Visitor John Hinman stated that the Chamber would like to help the business owners who own the land connected to the municipal parking lot obtain funding to have the parking lot paved. Trustee T. Lawrence stated that he thinks that the village can use their chips money as funding to have the parking lot paved. There were discussion as to riser's placement to be use and then filled in, once the paving is

ready to be, done. Trustee T. Lawrence stated that he thinks an easement should be giving to the village if paving is completed. Mr. Hinman gave his thanks and gratitude to everyone for all that they do and have done, The Christmas Parade was amazing, great job.

- Visitor Judy Hinman stated that at a pro-homeless meeting there is discussion of placement of a little pantry for each community. The Southern Tier Community Foundation has donated them; the plan is to place them under cover in a well-lit area. These cabinets consist of four draws that will hold much needed supplies for those who are in need. We will need to decide where the best placement in our community should be, maybe here in this build or perhaps the Hub Building.
- Visitor John Lawrence stated that the bus transit would begin running within the local community soon. They will be providing a point and scan with your phone to allow you see where you can take the bus to and from. He also pointed out that Chenango County pays out over \$10 million dollars in unpaid taxes.
- Visitor Deanna Lawrence stated that the submission for the Toys for Tots program has been under the village over the last 15 years. She had a discussion with the Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier to place the submission process back under the school, in which she has submitted for the toy request. She is happy to say that out of the 93 children they have on their Angel Tree Program all the children have been, accounted for. The Toys for Tots Train will be in Bainbridge, NY on Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 11:50 am to 12:20 pm. She said that if you can you should go and experience it with your family as it really is a site to see. She expressed if you are able to, please volunteer for next years Christmas Parade, as they had only two walkers along the parade route, this is helpful and an extra precaution, especially for the younger kids.
- Trustee L. Matthews informed those in attendance that the Presbyterian Church will hosting a toy give away on Saturday, December 13, 2025. They will be giving away mittens along with raffles to win one of the seven bicycles they have to be raffled off. They have 20 boxes of food that they will be handing out as a first come first serve bases.
- Motion made by Trustee Shaffer to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:45 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer