

Village of Afton
Board of Trustees Meeting
Jack D. Bolster Community Center, Afton, NY
March 9, 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held March 9, 2026, in the Susquehanna Room, 105 Main Street, Afton, NY.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, by Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey, who welcomed everyone, with a reminder that the village needs to conduct their business, after which time the floor will open for public comments.

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: Cheryl Ward, Dale Dewy, Conner Ruttkiewicz, Leilani Crea, Jeffrey Crandall, James Delaney, April Leggett, James Parkinson, Ina Marvin, Becky Komorowski, Joyce Humphrey, Jennifer & Daron Briggs, David Ford, Chris Kohoe, Judy & John Hinman, Julie Sutton, Deanna Lawrence, Brendon Becker.

- 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 # 204 - 223, Totaling \$12,085.17.

Water Fund Vouchers # 91 – 102, Totaling \$98,388.23.

- Motion to accept previous minutes, along with the budget workshop minutes from March 2, 2026, 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, DPW Supervisor DeBetta, stated that the department is wrapping up from the snow, and working on equipment maintenance, while the weather is good. They had a water leak on Blowers Hill, which, has been, fixed. The company that drilled the water well has been out to conduct some testing; this seemed to have remedied some of the reports of sediment. The department has been working with T & K Harrington, LLC, with the installation of the water meters.
- Police Department. No report.
- Code Enforcement: Report distributed.
- Planning Board: Report distributed. Planning Board Chair, April Leggett also addressed the following:
 - ✓ Update on Len Carson from DC Marketing, about placement of a LED sign. HALos's has agreed to have the sign placed on their property. However, the cost for the sign is \$65,000.00. Ms. Leggett would like to apply for grants for the purchase of the sign. Originally, the village was, told that the sign would

be free for placement, that Mr. Carson would give the village a free graphics slot, the remaining slots would be sold to local businesses and organizations for their advertisement needs. The only cost to the village would be the monthly electric required to run the sign. Ms. Leggett was, told to speak with Mr. Carson to figure out what the agreement would like look, as this was not part of the original plan. The village likes the concept of the sign, but not if they have to purchase, where Mr. Carson will be making a profit on it.

✓ Recommends Leilani Crea as a Planning Board Member.

- Finance/Insurance: Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier inform the Village Board of Trustees that the village received a check in the, amount of \$540.00, from the Afton Community Chest for the Christmas Parade.
- Parade Committee: Visitor Deanna Lawrence informed everyone that the Memorial Day Parade is on Monday, May 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM if anyone would like to volunteer, help would be, appreciated.
- 4 Towns Forward: Trustee L. Matthews informed the Village Board of Trustees that she has copies of the 4 Towns Community Calendar for those who are interested. Sidney will be hosting a St. Paddies Day Concert. The Guildford Fire Department is selling tickets to raffle off a new UVT, they will be hosting, and an UTV porker run in April, tickets are available. There is a homeless meeting tomorrow at 8:30 am located in the back of Bob's Diner. All 4 communities are working on collecting no-perishable items for placement in mini-pantries, for those in need.
- Historian Report: No report.
- Dog Control Officer: - Report distributed.

Old Business:

- Progress on the 2 Yellow Houses. – Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey has spoken with Tyler Oliver from Commerce Chenango about CBGB Grant Funds that may be available by April to apply for, for the purpose, of demolishing these properties.
- Trustee T. Lawrence, along with Brendon Becker have come up with an internal water concern report designed to allow for residents to report and document any concerns pertaining to their water. This report will be available on our web page or at the clerk's office. Document your concerns and return, the report to the village office.

New Business:

- Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey is allowing, for Mr. Brendon Becker to answer any questions about the water meter process, for those who have questions. Mr. Becker stated that T & K Harrington has continued to work on the meter installations. Mr. Becker said that the village is looking to improve the water system by placing the water meters, as this will allow them to easily pin point water troubling areas within the village, i.e., leaking toilets, broken water lines. Along with ensuring, that all residents, are charged, equally and fair of the amount of water that is consumed by each individual household.
- ✓ Visitor Christopher Kehoe asked how many people have had their water meters installed. Mr. Becker said that they are about, three quarters, of the way done, with the installations. There were discussions on the two types of meters that are required, as someone who lives in a mobile home, may need a pit meter under their home. Mr. Becker said that the meters would all be cellular read, allowing, for the

village to collect the information in a cloud storage. There will be a sign up app, available for village residents.

- ✓ Visitor Ina Marvin, who is the Chair Person for the Algerine Street Water Association, this association has about 10 residents on their street, who are receiving village water. The association is responsible for the maintenance and repair, and liability of the water lines for the water service that they receive from the village. The village is only responsible for the water curb box; leading up to their water lines, for distributions of the water, each resident is, charged individually for their water. Due to this, the village had planned on, placing one water meter at this location, at the curb box. Mrs. Marvin, expressed that she along with some of the people who are here tonight, that live on Algerine Street, all want their own independent water meters installed. As they do not think, it would be fair for others, on the water line to pay for any under- usage or over consumption of water. There were many discussions back and forth, between the village board, Mrs. Marvin, and Mr. Becker. Mr. Becker said that each meter cost \$150.00 each.
- A motion made by Trustee Shaffer to make a one-time purchase up to 10 water meters for the Algerine Street Water Association, and for each household to pay for their our separate installing cost of the water meter, by hiring their our contractor to do so. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- ✓ Visitor Julie Sutton asked Mr. Becker what the billing time line would look like for the new water meter installs. Mr. Becker, stated, that we need, to collect at least a year of data first, in order to figure that out, this will ensure a fair usage amount throughout the village.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to accept the resignation of Rebecca Komorowski, as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member, effective February 10, 2026. Seconded by Trustee T. Lawrence. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to appoint Jennifer Cordner, as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee L. Matthews to appoint William Hosier, as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee Shaffer to appoint Deanna Lawrence, as a Zoning Board of Appeals Member. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to move \$92,319.03 from General Fund Saving Account # 2, to Water Source Supply, Power and Pumping Equipment, Capital Layout F8320.20, for payment to T & K Harrington, LLC, for Payments 1 & 2. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to set a Public Hearing on April 13, 2026 at the regular scheduled board meeting at 7:05 pm at the Jack D. Bolster Communities Center, 105 Main Street, for the purpose of informing the public of the tentative water & general budgets for 2026 - 2027. Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.

Recognition of Visitors:

- Visitor Chris Kehoe expressed that he thinks the placement of a LED sign is a great idea. However, people coming into the community will likely pass through the business district before seeing the sign. There were discussion that DOT had said no permits would be, issued within the two triangles within the center of the village. April Leggett had reached out to private landowners about possible placement; they too said no thank you. Mr. Kehoe also asked if there were any updated on the sewer project, no, not at this time.
- Visitor Dale Dewey said that he had attended a meeting at Chenango County regarding the Chenango County Public Transit Bus run. He said that the bus run would be serving the Guildford, Mt. Upton, Sidney, Bainbridge and Afton areas. He gave a copy of the schedule to both Clerk/Treasurer Palmatier and The Afton Chamber, Judy Hinman to, be placed on their prospective web pages.
- Visitor James Delaney, who live on Academy Street, expressed his frustration about the three large electric transforms near his home. He said they are noisy and very bothersome, as when your outside all you hear is a constant humming noise. There were discussion as to where NYSEG could have placed the transformers. Trustee T. Lawrence said that he would reach out to the project coordinator, about this concern.
- Visitor Tammy Stevens, who is the present of the Afton Youth Sports Organization, (AYSO), gave an update on Davys Field. They have had help with the resurfacing of the field by Robby Burnett and Joe Bunzey has helped with the pest control. She said that at last month's meeting Jason Wicks expressed interest in applied for a grant to obtain playground equipment for across the Fairgrounds. However, that is an area, which, is prone to flooding. She feels, as though the best-suited placement would be at Davys Field. We would need to apply for grants to do so, along with working with the village to make this happen. The grant in question will open between May 4, 2026 and June 15, 2026 at an 80% - 20% for funds to be awarded.
- Visitor Conner Ruttkiewicz expressed that he would be interested in helping form a technological support program, to help the elder generation within the community to, better understand their electronic devises. He stated that there might even be some high school students looking to earn their 10 hours of required community service, for graduation that may be willing to help. Perhaps this could, be done 2 – 3 times a week. Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey asked that Mr. Ruttkiewicz come up with a plan for dates and times and email, him. Mrs. Humphrey was, asked, if this program can be, held at the HALos's building, she said, yes.
- Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey expressed that he was looking at the idea of placing a bigger , possibly fenced in area for community gardens on the East side of the Village. This location had been, purchased through, a FEMA buyout program and must remain forever green. The thought is that these plots would be available for rent to help offset the cost of the water needed to grow the gardens. There were many discussions, along with the possibility of the Schools, Future Farmers of America (FFA), helping, and the food possibly going back into the community.
- Motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to enter into an executive session at 8:20 pm to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.

- Motion made by Trustee Shaffer to exit executive session at 8:32 pm. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- Grant discussion - Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey received grant information on stream stabilization. He feels that this may be helpful for the continued flooding that occurs at Bums Creek and Kelsey Brooke. Discussion of a plan from DEC along with a report from an engineer should be something that the village looks into to help stop this flooding from happening, for good.
- A motion made by Trustee Shaffer to allow for Deputy Mayor, Trustee Humphrey to look at the submission of a grant for the stream stabilization, for Bums Creek and Kelsey Brooke. Seconded by Trustee L. Matthews. All in favor, motion passed.
- A motion made by Trustee T. Lawrence to adjourn our regular meeting at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Trustee Shaffer. All in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Palmatier,
Clerk / Treasurer