

Village Of Chaumont
Minutes of Budget Work Session
March 12, 2026

Location of Meeting:

Village Office
12175 State Route 12E
Chaumont, New York 13622

Present at Meeting: James Morrow, Jose Sosa, Dori-Ann Froelich, Michael Nichols, Tammy McIntosh, Davi Harris, and Erin Fulton

The Budget Work Session of the Village of Chaumont was called to order at 6:04 PM on March 12, 2026 at the Village Office by Mayor James Morrow.

Budget Work Session Fiscal Year 2026-2027

The Board of Trustees went through the proposed 2026-2027 budget, discussing the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, and Wages & Benefits. Clerk Fulton introduced the official Tax Cap from the Office of the State Comptroller for 2026-2027 as \$200,147. She also offered the preliminary taxable value of the Village of Chaumont from Jefferson County Real Property as \$39,474,452. The Board felt that they would will need to exceed the tax cap for this year, just to operate business-as-usual, as no General Fund monies are being re-appropriated for the next fiscal year. As discussed during last year's work sessions, revenues have not been meeting expenditures, especially with the major operational repairs at the sewer plant in that cut into financial reserves. The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) has continued to raise their flat-rate fees, and the Village of Chaumont continues to pay them for water, the River Crossing Repair debt, and the Sewer System debt. The implementation of capital funds are a necessity for the growth and success of the village in the future. With this as a driving factor, the Board of Trustees decided to make necessary changes to increase water and sewer rates, as well as enact a local law to override the Tax Levy limit. A Public Hearing for this decision is being held on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM at the Village Office.

The procurement of a tiller for sand beds at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, repair of the frame on recycling truck, new roof at sewer plant, and new recycling trailer was discussed. The Board decided against any pay raises for board members or operational staff, and to restructure clerical staff and their payroll, cutting about \$10,000 from expenditure across A, F, and G funds. The future of the Village beach was discussed, with village-only usage or closure and sale as options. Clerk Fulton suggested decreased operational hours, which would save money in payroll of lifeguards over two (2) months. She will call the Beach Director and the Village's insurance broker to get input.

An increase (\$10.00 bi-monthly) in DCC fees paid directly to DANC was discussed for water billing, as well as a \$2.50 increase (bi-monthly) between water and sewer operations and maintenance. A usage rate increase of \$1.00 per 1000 gallons was discussed for water, and \$.50 per 1000 gallons for sewer. This would raise the average user's water/sewer bill (approx. 6k gallons) by \$111.00 year – or \$18.50 each billing period.

A second Budget Work Session was scheduled for March 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM by Mayor Morrow, seconded by Trustee Jose Sosa. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted

Erin Fulton

Erin Fulton, Village Clerk/Treasurer