

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

February 6, 2024

Mayor Kerry Dineen
Trustee Nicholas Fahrenkopf, Absent
Trustee Michelle Ganance
Trustee Tresa Matulewicz
Trustee John Scally, Absent

Patty Blackwood, Clerk
Stacy Tanner, Treasurer, Absent
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works
Paul Miller, Fire Chief
Todd Pucci, Police Chief, Absent
Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel

General Public: 09

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Dineen called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul Miller, Chief Altamont Fire Department: Chief Miller submitted the Chief's report for January. Copy of report included with Official Minutes.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: Department will start reading water meters by the end of the month. Larry's old truck was retired. It was in pretty bad shape, but it's been in the shop. The guys took the body off of it, made a new body for it, did some engine work, and some drive train work. So that's back on the road. It's good for just knocking around the Village.

Mayor Dineen: The new truck is beautiful.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: It's a real nice truck. That salt truck, we went to a bigger size and that works out a lot better for us. The guys have also been working on things in the shop.

Mayor Dineen: We did complete the Rhode Island test on the manganese. We talked about this with Barton and Loguidice. Facilitating this study with the University of Rhode Island. They came in, they did their week of testing, and I think things were going very well from what I was told. We'll get the data back soon, and then they will give us a plan of action to go forward. They seemed very happy about it. I went down to see the system and see how it works, and it was interesting and it's pretty impressive. More to come on that, but I just wanted to acknowledge that that's where we are in the middle of that project.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: Since this is my last meeting, I've been working here probably since I'm about 15 or 16 years old. My father had his own electrical plumbing contracting business, and I grew up in it. One of our accounts was the Village of Altamont, Cobb School, LaSalette Seminary. I can remember when I was probably 15 years old, getting off the bus here to work on water main breaks and work in the sewer plant. It got me going for municipal work. When I got married, my wife and I bought the business and really got into municipal work. We did probably almost 30 years of building pump houses, working on all different water supplies all over the place and kind of full circle. I ended up back here and for my career.

Mayor Dineen: We are going to miss you tremendously. Obviously, the impact you've had on the Village and the community with the work that you've done and the team that

you've led is just so important. And it's been wonderful having you here. And your wife here as well. She's retiring as well, from helping around the buildings. I'm hoping we could call you should we have a problem arises. We can reach out that way if we need you.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: I feel very comfortable because I've got a really good team down there. They're really a good bunch of guys and they care about what's going on.

Mayor Dineen: I thank you for all you've done and thank Colleen too.

Public Comment:

David Bourque, Resident: I appreciate the opportunity to speak and introduce myself. I am the new president, the newly elected president of Historic Altamont. I've been your Altamont neighbor for over 30 years, and I've been living in Guilderland for over 50 years. I share everyone's love of our very unique special Village. I said I'm the newly elected president. And I want to stress, this is the new Historic Altamont. We have completely reorganized. We have four new officers. All four officers are new to the organization. We have a new goal and a new mission simply to preserve the unique character, historic character of Altamont. We are working on an ARPA grant. We're hoping for approval soon, and we want to collaborate with the Village, with the use of these funds. At the Board's convenience. I look forward to sharing the ARPA grant details and I'll answer any questions. The new Historic Altamont will be having our first meeting this Thursday at the Altamont Reformed Church on Lincoln Avenue. The meeting is at 6:45 p.m. All our meetings are always open to the public. Everyone is invited. Please join us. You may be aware that there are other organizations that are currently active in the Altamont area. They're active in the area because they also recognize the special character of Altamont. I have invited representatives from all of those organizations to this meeting with the hope of sharing knowledge, communicating, and collaborating. Some of these groups include the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, the Long Path North Hiking Club, the New York New Jersey Trail Conference, ACT, the Fairgrounds, Open Space Institute and I actually invited some people from the Guilderland Planning Board because they've got a brand-new document that they're having an open house for in about two weeks. Historic Altamont believes that communication and participation with the Village Board and with the local community is essential. That's why I'm here. Our new email address is historicaltamont@gmail.com, and we are also working on a Facebook page that's going to take another couple of weeks. Historic Altamont will always want to communicate, to cooperate, and to collaborate. I'll be staying after this meeting, willing to answer any questions and share contact information. I'll speak with anybody that's interested and I thank everybody. Please come to our meeting on Thursday.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve of Treasurer's Abstracts #15, and #16, and transfer of funds as submitted.

Roll Call: All in favor

Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, opened the public hearing with reading of the Legal Notice to consider Local Law No. 1 of 2024 of the Village of Altamont Providing Real

Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel: The local law would in enact a tax exemption that would be applicable to volunteer firefighters and emergency service responders who own property within the Village of Altamont and also provide those services in the Village of Altamont. It would be a 10% exemption off the assessed value of the property. The property would have to primarily be used as a primary residence. There are some limited exceptions, it has to be located within the Village of Altamont and there's a certification process where the local service providers would certify what members qualify for the exemption. There are also some additional benefits to the law, which would apply for a grant of a lifetime exemption for those who have 20 years or more qualified service and also a benefit to surviving unmarried spouses of volunteer firefighters or ambulance workers. The local law that's before the Village Board tonight was drafted in consultation with the Board members also to follow the model that was adopted by the Town of Guilderland last year. That law is already in effect in the Town of Guilderland. With the adoption of the law, it would now apply to residential properties in the Village of Altamont. Before the Board tonight, we have a resolution to approve adoption of the local law following the public hearing.

Mayor Dineen: This is something we've talked about, it's been some time for this to come around to us but we've all been, and correct me if I'm wrong, we were all supportive of this when it came out and we talked about that. If you have something you want to mention you can come on to the microphone and give us your thoughts on it.

No comments from the public.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve closing public hearing at 7:12 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve Resolution Adopting Local Law No. 1 of 2024, of the Village of Altamont Providing Real Property Tax Exemptions for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Pursuant to Section 466-A of the Real Property Tax Law. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve the purchase of 2013 Dodge Charger Police vehicle, not to exceed \$16,000, per request of Todd Pucci, Police Chief. Funds would be taken from the Police Car Reserve fund and are subject to Permissive Referendum. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve resolution establishing a Sidewalk Capital Reserve Fund. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve update to the Village of Altamont Facilities Rental Fee Schedule. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign RBC Wealth Management letter authorizing RBC Wealth Management to issue payment of \$6,778.09 to John Mahoney, Altamont Fire Department member. Payment represents Mr. Mahoney's December 31, 2023 account balance. Mr. Mahoney is withdrawing amount accumulated in the fund and there is no Village budget impact. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve resignation, with regret, of Jeffrey Moller, full-time Supt. of Public Works, effective March 5, 2024.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve resignation of Colleen Moller, part-time Office Cleaner, effective March 5, 2024.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve resignation of Cynthia Shannon, part-time Deputy Treasurer, effective January 24, 2024.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve resignation of Stacy Tanner, part-time Treasurer, effective February 1, 2024. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve appointment of Catherine Hasbrouck, temporary Treasurer, part time, as needed, at \$30.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve authorizing the acting Treasurer to transfer the sale of the 2001 Pierce Fire Truck (E17) in the amount of \$90,000 received in November 2023 to the Fire Truck Equipment Reserve (A230F).

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve authorizing the acting Treasurer to transfer the sale of the DPW equipment that was received in November 2023 in the amount of \$16,558 from the General Fund to the Water Fund (F200). **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve request of Phil Carducci to hold Benefit Food Pantry Run/Walk, 2nd Leap Day 2.9 Mile, on March 3, 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve of Board Minutes for January 2, 2024. **All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz: I know Facebook isn't the best way to get information, but just a couple of posts about concerning things happening with trucks and people showing up at people's houses at night. Just wanted to reiterate the Chief's request at the second to last Board meeting. That if you see something, say something, make a phone call. If something seems suspicious or not quite right, it's okay to call. If it's nothing, it's nothing and they'll find that out quickly enough.

Mayor Dineen: They can call the dispatch number and they'll send an Altamont Police Officer there, which is 518-356-1501.

Trustee Ganance: Budget workshops will begin in a couple of weeks.

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.
All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk