

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

July 19, 2022

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

Patty Blackwood, Clerk  
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer  
Stacy Tanner, Deputy Treasurer  
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works  
Paul Miller, Altamont Fire Chief, Absent  
Jason Johnston, Altamont Police Chief, Absent  
Gary Goss, Building Inspector/Code Enforcer  
Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, Excused

General Public: 1

7:00 p.m.

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

Paul Miller, Chief Altamont Fire Dept., submitted a Chief's report for June. Copy of report included with Official Minutes.

Gary Goss, Building Inspector/Code Enforcer: It's been a pretty busy building season so far. We've been bringing in pretty good revenue. I've been sending reports to Catherine. Things are going well. It's starting to slow down a little bit with the permits. I've been busy sending out zoning violations and talking to residents in the Village. In the last month, I've sent out or spoken to 13 different residents about some violations that they have. The biggest ones have been some fences going up without permits and there might have been some confusion from the previous building inspector. Replacing a fence in kind in the same place, permits may have not always been issued. The Code is very clear. A permit is needed for any fence, period. I've been sticking to that and making sure that the residents are aware of that. I haven't had any trouble with anybody yet about that either. Which is good. The other big thing is campers, travel trailers, utility trailers, and RVs. A lot of the residents in the Village don't really have room on their property to properly store those trailers to meet the Code. They've been asking for help to try to come up with ways that they could store it without having to get rid of their campers. What I've been doing is directing them to the various local in-season storage locations. I think the closest one is over by 84 Lumber on Western Ave. Most people have been unfamiliar with that as an option. A few of the people that I've spoken to have said they would be open to paying \$500 a year convenience fee to the Village if they were allowed to leave their camper in the driveway all year long. I tried to explain to them that they would pay less if they just took it over to the storage place because it's only like \$40 a month and they can come and go as they please. Everyone that I spoke to about it has been pretty good. No one has given me a hard time about it, not that they really have an option because it is in the Code, but they've been glad that I've been willing to work with them and to make arrangements. I'm hoping by working with folks, they're going to just do it next year and the rest of this year and it won't be a battle anymore.

Mayor Dineen: Patty and I recently were talking about the Village newsletter and that we went to an online format, like many other municipalities for several reasons, we can do it quicker, it's financially a good choice for us, but we're talking about possibly going back to sending them home because that information you're talking about is on there and when people get it, they actually do read it when it comes into their mail. I think when they get

that reminder in the spring, it's helpful. I don't know how you feel about that, but we're thinking that might be a good idea.

Gary Goss, Building Inspector/Code Enforcer: I think it's a good idea. Some of the other issues that have come to light talking to people is there's a disconnect in the Village Code as far as definitions of what a trailer or a camper is versus what the NYS DMV definition is. I had a few residents ask if it is okay if they park their camper, RV or travel trailer on the side of the house, it says in the Code that they can and I tell them, no it doesn't. It says you can park an RV on the side of your house. There's a big difference. Most people don't know that there's a difference, that an RV is one that you actually get in and drive and all the other types, like the pop--up camper style or the actual campers, those are all travel trailers if you look at the definition in the Code. I've been trying to explain that to them; hey, what you think you can park on the side of your home, in the Code isn't allowed, you actually have to park it behind your home. Then I've been asked what's the definition of the rear of the home. I've been trying to explain to them it's basically got to be behind the back line of the house. That's the definition of it. I think people are getting it and they're not arguing with any of that with me.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: I want to remind everybody we're still under water restrictions and really would appreciate it if everybody follows it. Just for an example, we're running about 280,000 to 300,000 gallons a day in usage. Just that little rain event that we had yesterday knocked off like 80,000 gallons. That's five hours of runtime off our usage. It does make a difference if they follow the restrictions. We've been running strictly on Gun Club Road well and we have an observation well, right alongside of it that we dip every day to measure the depth of the water. As of this morning, we're one foot away from being at the lowest points since the late seventies. We're really getting down there. Due to that, we've been in contact with Albany County Health Department and New York State Health Department. We've got an okay to turn on number two well at Brandle Road. We tested at the beginning of last month, as you recall our MCL which is where we can't go past that limit as a 0.3 milligrams per liter. The beginning of June, the number two well tested at 0.2. As of two weeks ago we retested, it was 0.21. We're still below that limit. We got permission to turn that well on and we're going to turn it on tomorrow morning. It'll still be in conjunction with Gun Club. We're going to slow down the pump rate on Brandle so that if the manganese is in the aquifer, we're trying to not draw as much into our well system. It's going to be still mixing with probably one-third Brandle and two-thirds Gun Club. We've also got a test kit that's coming next week. It's not reportable results from this test kit, but we can do it for process control. We can test at various points around our system at any given time and know where we're looking as far as our manganese level. We're going to sample tomorrow morning when that well goes on. We're also going to sample both wells and a week later, we're going to sample again and as long as everything's working out right, it'll be one month sampling after that. The way it stands, if we go beyond our limit, we may still be forced to send notices out and still use that water as we're not going to have a choice, especially with the fair grounds coming on.

Mayor Dineen: Is there anything that happens when you merge the wells? When they're both active, will people notice anything different in their pressure or water?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: No, and according to both the lab and the Health Department, if we're going to have a problem, this is the problem to have as compared to all the other problems that we could have with different chemicals in our water. We can handle this. We just have to send notices out and make sure the public is notified of it. If

we sample tomorrow, we should have the results back at the beginning of the next week and know where we stand. We're also going to be sampling the well that we're not going to be using with hopes that that may be even lower and we could switch off. The Health Department says we don't have to send notices out because we're under the limit. If we go pass that limit, we're still going to have to notify everybody like we did last time.

Trustee Ganance: Is there no ramifications for people that use water when they're not supposed to? Why do we put that out there if nothing happens? It's supposed to be seven to nine in the morning and seven to nine at night. Every other day.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: According to your house number. It's something in the Code where they get a warning, like one or two warnings and then they can be fined a certain amount of money.

Trustee Ganance: Who monitors that?

Mayor Dineen: Do you guys observe it during the day? Then do you let our Zoning Official know or does it come from your department?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: I don't know if it goes to Zoning, or if it just stays with me. I really don't want to turn into water police.

Trustee Matulewicz: Can we send out a Nixle as some sort of reminder?

Mayor Dineen: We could do that.

Trustee Ganance: I'm just thinking because the levels are so low. I'm not talking every year, let's go be water police. I'm just saying there's a reason this year.

Kate Provencher, Resident: With the levels so low in our in our wells, is there a reason that we're allowing watering to happen at all? Should we have a water restriction permanently?

Mayor Dineen: Have we done that before?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: No, I heard on the news either this morning or yesterday that there's a local municipality that banned it completely.

Mayor Dineen: Maybe this is something we can talk about in the next few days. We're most likely having a special meeting next week for things that weren't prepared for tonight and that would be something we could talk about that evening. See what you think and talk with your crew.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: The way it stands right now, if this works out right, we can handle it. I would rather not get into that. People spend a lot of money on their lawns.

Mayor Dineen: Okay, as long as you think we're good at the moment.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We're starting the sidewalks up in Orsini Park. We sectioned off the back part of it behind the gazebo. We'll start tomorrow replacing that blacktop sidewalk with a wider concrete sidewalk and better flares on the ends. We're

going to be doing it in phases so that we can keep the park operational. Some people are going to be inconvenienced a little bit, but we got to do it this time of year. We had planned on doing it last year but there was so much going on in the park that we didn't want to tie it up. We're still working on our I&I problem with the sewer. Any free time they get they're out pulling man holes. It'd be easier if it was raining so we could see more. They've been trimming brush on the line of sights in intersections, so that it's easier for people to see coming out. They've replaced some of the road signs that are faded. On a good note, I don't know if you recall, two months ago, I'd said that we have four SBR basins in the wastewater plant and there's big actuators on the end that raise and lower big skimmers in these big tanks. One of the actuators broke on us. We had the company come out, look at it and they were talking, at the time, that it may have to get shipped back to Germany and they were looking at a six-month lag time and up to \$50,000 to repair it or replace it. They took it out about four weeks ago and sent it to Pennsylvania. They worked on it down there and we got it back last week and it's working fine. So, our sewer plant went from 75% to a 100%. I haven't got the bill yet, but it's got to be cheaper than traveling to Germany.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve Treasurer's Abstract #2 and #3. **Roll Call: All in favor**

**Public Comment:**

No comments from the public.

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve hiring Thaddaeus Rockhill, Knox, and Damian Gizzi, Guilderland, as part-time seasonal lifeguards for Bozenkill Park at a rate of \$14.50 per hour; per recommendation of Adriene Bush, Bozenkill Park Director. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve hiring Jeff Cardinal, Schenectady, as part-time 2022 seasonal gardener, at \$25.00 per hour.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of contract for Village of Altamont's renewal of liability insurance of \$52,394.24 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to decline purchasing of terrorism insurance of \$711.00 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of application from Richard Guilz, Jr., Berne, for Firefighter membership in the Altamont Fire Department, per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve request of Altamont Fire Department to participate in the following events: Movies in the Park in July and August; and National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of Board Minutes for June 9, 2022. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.  
**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk