

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 6, 2022

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

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

General Public: 6

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 reports for July and August. Copy of reports included with Official Minutes.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We finished our sidewalks up in the parks. Meter readings has started and will be ongoing for another two weeks. Hydrant flushing will probably start either at the very end of this month or the beginning of next month and we'll notify by Nixle and we'll try to put it on the board out front too. We're going to be working on patching the streets. That was put off because we were doing the sidewalk project. We are working on our I&I. Another big thing is the EPA has come out and they've changed the lead and copper rule for drinking water nationwide and all suppliers of public water have to develop an inventory of all the service lines from the main into each house. We're going to have to visit each customer in our distribution system; make appointments, get inside and take a picture of their service line. They have a short form they are going to have to fill out. They're also going to be looking at the ground system for their electrical service because we've had problems in the past with improper grounding and it's shot the copper up in their water. We're going to inspect grounding and also the sewer connections. We've had a couple houses in the past where we found open lines where there's actually sewer gas coming up into the house and they didn't know it. Each visit should only take 10 to 15 minutes and we hope to finish our survey by next spring. We've got until sometime in 2024 to finish the survey and then we don't know what's going to happen, whether they're going to make us change certain lines or not.

Mayor Dineen: Jeff and I met with the engineers from Barton and Loguidice on this. They wanted to make sure we knew about these dates and Jeff and Larry had already started this whole project before and they thought we were in pretty good shape already. There's going to be money made available for this, all the communities in the State have to do this. We have to have this inventory first. That's how it starts.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We saw this coming about six months ago, so we got a good jump on it. That's what Larry's been working on for the past two months. He's got his forms in place. He's got a chalk board that he's going to bring with him, put right on the wall with a date, address, and take a picture of it and it will go in a file. Every house is going to have a file and it's just one of the things we're going to have to do.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: Do we have a letter or something we're going to send out to give people a heads up?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: Yeah, I've got a draft on my desk now and we'll put it in the paper and try to get as much information as we can out to the public.

Mayor Dineen: Yes; paper, Nixle, and the website.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We have to have our inventory done by 2024. It's looks like they're going to let us do a percentage of the ones that have to be replaced. It's mostly about the lead and very few houses have complete lead lines, but a lot of them have galvanized and they call it a lead goose neck where if there's a piece of lead that comes up off the main and goes down and then they hook to the galvanized. That's what our big concern is going to be, is that goose neck. We're still waiting to find out.

Mayor Dineen: Hopefully some of this inventory of this project also helps us with the I&I issues that we've been having.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: That's why we're looking at our sewer connections. A lot of people don't know, they buy their house, they move in and they just don't know. Like I said, we've had problems in the past with the grounding too, where it hasn't been properly grounded. There's electrical current going back through the copper pipes and it breaks down some of the copper that goes into the water. We've had a couple hits on that over the years and traced it back to improper grounding. Leaf pickup begins usually early October. We normally flush about that same time too. Since we skipped our first flush program at the beginning of spring because of our problems with the well, we may try to start a little early. We'll have to see what's going on. See how our water supply is.

Mayor Dineen: We have gotten some emails about the wonderful work on the sidewalks that DPW did in Orsini Park, because they're amazing.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: Any update from Barton and Loguidice on the water treatment?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: They just came and took a second round of sampling last Wednesday and we're still waiting.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: What the results are from these samples, is going to depend on what they do?

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: The kind of treatment that we're going to use. What we've been finding because we've been doing our own study in-house and we find that, we have a high manganese and iron reading at the wells, but by the time we treat it and it goes out in the system, it drops way, way down. I think Barton and Loguidice is working on that to try to find out what's causing that and see if we can implement that to hopefully save some money in a big treatment system. There was a hold up on the first series of sampling because the lab couldn't get the right chemicals. It took a month to get the chemicals to do the test.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve Treasurer's Abstract #4, #5 and #6 and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Public Comment:

Edna Litten, Resident: I think it would really benefit the Village, in the long run, if there were money included in every year's budget for planting trees. You look at Maple Avenue and there are the pictures of it before the road was widened back in the 1950s, there are maple trees meeting over the street and now it's just bleak. I thought if they had planted just one tree a year from then to now, how different it would look and there have been studies showing that aside from making places more attractive, having trees makes it cooler. As we're getting hotter summers, that will be appreciated.

Mayor Dineen: It's something we can look at. I know when they did the road construction, we lost, anything we have to plant on is private property, I believe, because the part we have to leave open for snow storage and things like that in some spots with the State. We'd have to figure out if there's a way, we could do a program or something to invest for those who might want a tree. Like a rotation or something. I'm not really sure how it would look, but we could try something like that.

Edna Litten, Resident: I think homeowners would welcome it. Where my daughter lives, in Alexandria Virginia, there is a program where homeowners can buy trees at wholesale cost.

Mayor Dineen: We could probably do something. We have some accounts on a wholesaler that we use for our parks right now. It might be something we can talk about and see if we can budget it next year.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: Essentially last board meeting, we passed the resolution to sign a letter of Intent to Apply for a program called New York Forward. It's a New York State grant opportunity out of the Department of State. Basically, what it is, it's a targeted effort to invest in rural and smaller communities. They already have a program called the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, which they've done for a couple of years now, which has helped larger urban areas. I think Troy won one in the Capital Region. They got however many millions of dollars to beautify their downtown. This year they added the New York Forward component, which is for specifically smaller villages or even unincorporated rural gathering areas. We decided to try to put something together, even though they didn't give a whole lot of notice. The way it works is there are 10 regional economic development councils for New York State. Each council will be awarding two to three winners, I guess, in their area. We're in the Capital Region so the nice thing is there will be at least two or three winners from our region from this program. I have no idea what other municipalities might be competing. Again, there wasn't a whole lot of time. Hopefully it's not very competitive and we'll luck out. The overall gist is to invigorate and liven downtowns in New York, smaller communities like villages, hamlets, and other small municipal centers. We submitted that Letter of Intent to apply, that opened up some office hours and resources for filling out the actual application which is due later this month. One of the key components is to get public feedback. We're trying in a couple of different ways to get feedback on the ideas that we'd like to put into the grant proposal. Mayor Dineen put out a survey, a Google form survey, that's gone out through Nixle and it's posted on our website. We have created a sub-website on our website and we've gotten some emails as well. The purpose of talking about it right now is we wanted to give people who wanted to come and talk in person to give us their feedback. I will note that we don't have a formal plan yet. Right now, we're trying to solicit ideas, the limits that we're placing on the proposal is to try to improve or beautify the area of Main Street between Altamont Boulevard and Gun Club Road. That's what we

chose to define our downtown. The reason for that is we felt that would include the Altamont Free Library, Orsini Park, Angel Park, as well as a lot of the historical homes along Main Street and it covers and includes Village Hall, the community room, and the Crouse House area. It gives us the ability to initiate projects in that physical scope. It's supposed to be things that improve the public's use and access to facilities around here. We had some ideas, but we really wanted to hear what the community was interested in.

Mayor Dineen: There has been lots of interest. There are things like infrastructure it cannot be used for. The webinars were good, but we actually had a chance to meet with them live on a meeting and get some guidance from the people who are helping the State with this. Which I thought was excellent. They told us how we fill out our application and what are some of the things we want to stress, but infrastructure is not something we can use it on. It is to be used on smaller projects, even though they could still be substantial like a pedestrian bridge, enhanced pedestrian safety measures, signage, bike racks, and things like that. A lot of different ideas have been coming in and some I never had thought about, and there's a lot that have things in common. Some of them are in common with the list that we came up with as a committee of our six or seven members.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: That's what I wanted to stress. We intentionally didn't put out the list of ideas that the committee came up with because we wanted to see what other people came up with. I imagine by the end of this week I will update the website and probably send another Nixle of a draft list of projects that we've heard from people. Then do another cycle of soliciting feedback from folks based on that list, based on surveys and emails and things that the committee comes up with and whatever we hear here. Again, there's not a whole lot of time between now and when the submission is due.

Mayor Dineen: We can put out the survey next week and maybe we can talk with the committee sometime.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: In terms of the public, in the next week, look for an updated list and that's where we really need feedback, not just on the projects, but there's also a vision statement that is supposed to guide the project. Whatever this vision statement is, all the projects are supposed to support what that vision statement is. Currently I pulled from the most recent comprehensive plan and am using that as the basis for a vision statement. That's the other part that we would solicit feedback on. Does that make sense? Is that still accurate? Not trying to redo the comprehensive plan at this moment, but that's the closest thing that I think we have for a vision for what our community's supposed to be.

Mayor Dineen: I like the vision statement on there. If you came to share any additional feedback or you had other ideas that you've thought of, please come up and share those with us. We'd love to hear them. We'll include them in our list. You can also go to the website for the survey or send an email.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve request for Village water for single family dwelling at 6569 Dunnsville Road, Guilderland, Tax Map #37.00-1-27.120 per request of Justin Mullen. Capital charge for new service connection to water is \$3,000. Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, has reviewed the application and recommended the connection. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign Proposal Task Order for Engineering Services, not to exceed \$8,000, with Barton and Loguidice Engineering for Fairview Avenue Sidewalks.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Scally to approve hiring Wayde Bush, Altamont, as part-time Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and Laborer at \$25.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign RBC Wealth Management letter authorizing RBC Wealth Management to issue 2021 Service Award one-time payments of \$700 to David Cowan, William Ernest, Mark Huggins, and Thomas Person, AFD members.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign Albany County Inter-Municipal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding to Continue an Existing Coalition for Cooperation on Issues Related to Storm Water Management. Effective date is January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027, per recommendation of Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve request of Altamont Fire Department to participate in the following events: 9/11 Memorial Ceremony on September 11th; and Comedy Night on November 5th, per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve request to dispose of records according to the NYS Retention and Disposition Schedule for NY Local Government Records (2020) as recommended by Kelly Best, Administrative Assistant. List of records on the attached document. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorization to expend up to \$5,000 from the General Fund Reserve, subject to permissive referendum, for repairs of the firehouse veneer area by AJS Masonry, LLC.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve of Board Minutes for July 19th and July 26, 2022. **All in favor**

Trustee Scally: I would like to thank the public for going to the Scottish Games this weekend. It was a pretty successful event. A lot of pipe bands, athletics, dancing, solo piping, and solo drumming. It was well received event and thank you very much.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: We mentioned before the 9/11 Ceremony. If folks are available Sunday around 8:30 a.m., people usually start gathering outside across the street from the firehouse for the 9/11 Ceremony. If you're around, please join.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.
All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk