

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

July 20, 2021

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

Patty Blackwood, Clerk  
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer  
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, Absent  
Kyle Haines, Altamont Fire Chief, Absent  
Todd Pucci, Altamont Police Chief  
Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel

General Public: 16

7:03 p.m.

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

Kyle Haines, Chief Altamont Fire Dept., submitted a Chief's report for May and June. Copy of reports included with Official Minutes.

Mayor Dineen reported Department of Public Works finished up their work at Bozenkill Park and camp is going well. DPW put in a sidewalk on Lark Street and are preparing Lark Street and Lincoln Avenue for paving which will take place in August. Culvert work and patching will take place on Lincoln Avenue prior to paving. DPW will begin a project in August in Orsini Park replacing the sidewalks with stamped concrete. DPW replaced the fire department lights in the truck bay with new efficient lights.

Todd Pucci, Chief Altamont Police Dept., reported that tonight's meeting will be his last meeting before retirement. Chief Pucci thanked the Board, Village staff, fire department, DPW, Altamont Enterprise, and his family for their support throughout his time with the Village. Chief Pucci thanked Mayor Dineen, former Trustee Christine Marshall, and the Howie's for recommending him after the interview process for Chief and former Mayor Gaughan for appointing him. Chief Pucci stated National Night Out is on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Altamont Fair is later in August and then he will be happily turning the reigns over to Jason Johnston and the Village couldn't ask for a better person to be taking over for Chief.

Mayor Dineen thanked Chief Pucci's wife for allowing him to be in the position with the Village. For over twenty years, he has dedicated himself to the community and to the Boards that have come and gone. Chief Pucci understands Community Policing and has worked with the department and the community on any issue that has come up. Mayor Dineen stated that they are going to miss Chief Pucci terribly.

Chief Pucci stated he is going to miss the Village, the residents and the whole community.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve the Treasurer's report; Abstract #27, #2 and #3 and transfer of funds as submitted.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

## **Public Comment:**

No comments from the public.

Girl Scout Troop 1171 gave a presentation to the Board requesting to install a free little library in a park in the Village with leftover funds they weren't able to spend on travel last year.

Mayor Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to accept proposal from Girl Scout Troop 1171 to create a little book house for the Village of Altamont and DPW will work with the Troop leader for finding a placement for the library.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve of contract for Village of Altamont's renewal of liability insurance of \$50,085.86 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to decline purchasing of terrorism insurance of \$680 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve resolution to affirm Mayor Dineen's appointment of Jason Johnston, Rexford, to the position of Police Chief effective September 1, 2021, at an annual salary of \$45,000.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Dineen stated there were two trustees and herself that went through the Police Chief applications. Two trustees and two Village residents were on the interview committee. Mayor Dineen thanked Trustee Ganance, Trustee Fahrenkopf, Carol Lennebacker and Michael Murphy for being on the interview committee. Mayor Dineen stated the interview committee sent candidates forward for a round two interview process. Their choice for the position was Jason Johnston. Jason has been with the Altamont Police Department since 1997 and is a retired Detective Lieutenant from the Cohoes Police Department. He most recently worked on the police collaborative on redoing both the book and working with the community members on the collaborative. He has a very large list of specialized certifications and a vast amount of experience. It's really impressive. Mayor Dineen stated she was thrilled that Jason accepted the Village's offer and expects a smooth transition because Jason has been working with the police department and with Chief Pucci. The Board is very excited to have Jason and thanked him for taking the position.

Jason Johnston stated he's from the area and grew up on Knox Cave Road up on the hill. He grew up going to the Altamont Fair on a daily basis. He's worked for the Village since 1997 with Chief Pucci and they attended the academy together. They both started their careers together and both retired from the City of Cohoes on the same day. Most of his career in Cohoes was spent in the detective bureau. Mr. Johnston got promoted to detective in 2005 and worked his way up through the ranks. He was the public information liaison and worked on thousands of different kinds of cases. Mr. Johnston thanked the Village, Mayor Dineen, and the Board for putting their faith in him. He's hoping it will be a smooth transition. Mr. Johnston thanked his family for letting him come out of a very short retirement to come back to work in Altamont and he looks forward to many more years with the Village.

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign Letter of Intent to Option and Lease with Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign Proposal for Professional Structural Engineering Services, not to exceed \$7,000, with Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. for repairs to the existing fire department/Village Hall facility. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1) issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve of Department of Public Works Clothing Allowance Policy. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve salary increase of \$.25 per hour for Alexa Johnson, Lifeguard, effective June 19, 2021. Ms. Johnson successfully completed the Lifeguard Management training that is a requirement by NYS Dept. of Health for the Bozenkill Park summer recreation program.  
**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of schedule change for Planning Board Meetings. Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month effective Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.  
**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve resolution to affirm Mayor Dineen's appointment of Robert Freeman to Planning Board member. Position was previously held by Dan Hitt and has a five-year term which expires March 2025. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve resolution to affirm Mayor Dineen's appointment of James Sullivan to Zoning Board of Appeals alternate member. Position was previously held by Gary Goss and has a five-year term which expires March 2023. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve of applications from Thomas Burns, Altamont, and James Verner, Altamont, for Firefighter memberships in the Altamont Fire Department per request of Kyle Haines, Chief.  
**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign RBC Wealth Management letter authorizing RBC Wealth Management to issue lump-sum payment of \$19,416.88 to William Hoogkamp, Altamont Fire Department member. Mr. Hoogkamp is withdrawing amount accumulated in the fund and there is no Village budget impact. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Matulewicz made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign RBC Wealth Management letter authorizing RBC Wealth Management to issue 2020 Service Award one-time payments of \$700 to David E. Cowan, William H. Ernest, and Thomas J. Person, AFD members.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve for the Altamont Fire Department to host a movie in Orsini Park on August 6, 2021.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to approve of Board Minutes for June 1, 2021. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally thanked Chief Pucci for everything and stated he is looking forward to working with new Chief Jason Johnston in the future and enjoyed working with Mr. Johnston on the police collaborative project.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Matulewicz to adjourn at 7:31 p.m.  
**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk