

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
July 21, 2020

Mayor Kerry Dineen  
Trustee Nicholas Fahrenkopf  
Trustee Michelle Ganance  
Trustee John Scally, Absent  
Trustee Dean Whalen

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

General Public: 5

7:01 p.m.

Mayor Dineen called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting was held online using Zoom Video Communications due to the Coronavirus.

Mayor Dineen reported that the Census response is at 70%. That number is low. Please fill out your Census material if you haven't already done so. The Village website has some updates. The Village office is open to the public and court will resume on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, submitted Department of Public Works written report for June. Copy of report included with Official Minutes.

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

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve the Treasurer's report: Abstract #26, #2 and #3 and transfer of funds as submitted.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

**Public Comment:**

No comments from the public.

Mayor Dineen asked Trustee Fahrenkopf to give a summary regarding Local Law No. 2 of 2020.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated the fire department brought to my attention that there's not currently a requirement for commercial properties in the Village of Altamont to have a Knox Box. This is different from the rest of the Town of Guilderland and probably most towns in New York State. They have had some instances where having a Knox Box would have sped things up or made things easier. Those of you that don't know what a Knox Box is, essentially, it's a small box, you probably may or may not have noticed them on commercial or larger buildings and essentially emergency responders have access to those boxes. Inside that box are keys to unlock the doors in a building. The idea is if they get called there and there's no one on site, if it's after hours in the middle of the night, they can get into the building to verify if there is an emergency condition or not without having to break the door, because then if the door is broken, then they have to wait for somebody to be able to secure the property once the call is cleared. This only applies to commercial buildings that have an automatic sprinkler or an alarms system.

The emergency services could be called to that location and there could be nobody there. I know we had some questions before about do we need to require it. Can we just have the discretion of the building inspector require it, but I wanted to propose having it codified in law, again consistent with the Town of Guilderland and other areas. So that as building inspectors come and go or in case they forget or in case they don't realize, it's on the books as something that commercial properties have to do.

### **Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.**

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, opened the public hearing by reading the Legal Notice regarding the consideration of Local Law No. 2 of 2020 to Require Emergency Knox Boxes for Commercial Buildings Within the Village of Altamont.

Mayor Dineen stated I know part of our discussion when we were talking, I think at the last meeting, just something to point out to the public, cause there's always been concern about the costs of doing this initially and saying to a business next week you have to do this, they have 18 months to comply with this and it'd be a one-time investment for them.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated as a reminder that the cost is something on the order of \$400 or \$500.

Mayor Dineen stated it is a one-time investment and gives them plenty of time to take care of it.

Danny Ramirez, Zoning Board of Appeals Chairperson, inquired if this would also apply to multifamily homes or should apply to multifamily homes, senior citizens homes where there's more than four apartments.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, stated this local law was drafted to cover just commercial buildings located in the Village to be consistent with the local law that's in place in the Town of Guilderland. But my understanding is under the most recent update to the NYS Uniform Building and Fire Code that our local building inspector does have the discretion to require Knox Boxes on other facilities. This local law just covers commercial buildings, but I believe under the NYS Uniform Code, the code enforcement officer does have discretion to require it in other situations.

Trustee Whalen stated that is correct. That's where I was coming from when I was asking last meeting. He can require that on any building.

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

Village Board; and Allyson, Phillips, Legal Counsel, discussed SEQRA review on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2020 a Local Law to Require Emergency Knox Boxes for Commercial Buildings Within the Village of Altamont.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, read into the record Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance. The proposed local law would require all commercial buildings located within the Village of Altamont having an alarm system or a fire sprinkler system to be equipped with a Knox Box. The purpose of the local law is to expedite the access to buildings for emergency first responders and limit the amount of potential physical damage to structures brought about by the need to access a commercial

building or structure promptly to save lives, prevent injuries and protect property. The adoption of the proposed local law is administrative in nature and will not directly result in any land development approvals, permits or subsequent land disturbance and development. For these reasons, the reasons set forth in Part 2 of the EAF, the proposed local law will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve resolution adopting a negative declaration for the SEQRA review. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve Local Law No. 2 of 2020 a Local Law to Require Emergency Knox Boxes for Commercial Buildings Within the Village of Altamont. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve contract for Village of Altamont's renewal of liability insurance of \$50,757.52 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to decline purchasing of terrorism insurance of \$709 from Marshall and Sterling. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign escrow agreement with Anthony Vaccarielli, Schuyler, LLC, for technical and legal services on water and sewer applications for a project on Agawam Lane. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve of application from Ethan Jubrey, Altamont, as Apprentice Firefighter membership in the Altamont Fire Department per request of Kyle Haines, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve hiring Anthony Kossmann, Knox, as part-time senior van driver, at a salary of \$12.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign new Street Lighting Purchase Sales agreement from National Grid contingent on review and approval of Village Counsel. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve of Board Minutes for July 9, 2020. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk