

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2019

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

Patty Blackwood, Clerk
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works
Paul Miller, Altamont Fire Chief
Todd Pucci, Altamont Police Chief
Justin Heller, Legal Counsel

General Public: 16

7:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Dineen reported they have received some emails regarding the Crouse House. They have met with the Town of Guilderland to discuss the next steps with the house because they have exceeded previous deadlines on the house. They came back after the first recent meeting and Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, was asked to go out to get quotes from companies to take the house down. They forwarded the quotes to the Town of Guilderland. The Board has received some emails for ideas for the Crouse House but they are waiting to hear back from the Town of Guilderland regarding the quotes to take the house down. The Village would like to maintain the site and do something special on it for Museum in the Streets. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated the Town of Guilderland was looking into if their Highway Department or Parks Department could do some of the work and cut down on the costs of taking down the house. Mayor Dineen stated the costs to take down the house came in lower than they planned. The next step is to wait for Supervisor Barber to follow-up with them.

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

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, reported last week a hydrant was replaced on Dunnsville Road. The water line had to be shut down for the better part of the day. They have to go back and regrade the property effected. The neighbor had some damage to his driveway as a result of replacing the hydrant. They will have to go back and fix his driveway. DPW has been working on Bozenkill Park and they have a pool inspection coming up this week. Mr. Moller stated the leak on Dunnsville Road is still on going. Next week the department will be working on patching streets and milling on Sunset Drive. Hopefully after working on the streets they can start working on the sidewalks. Department is still picking up yard waste.

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve the Treasurer's report; Abstract #23, #24 and #1 and transfer of funds as submitted.

Roll Call:

Trustee Whalen	In favor
Trustee Ganance	In favor
Trustee Fahrenkopf	In favor
Trustee Scally	Abstain
Mayor Dineen	In favor

Motion Carried: 4 In favor/1 Abstain

Public Comment:

Tom Capuano, Brandle Road, asked the Board to consider one last idea for the Crouse House. Historic Altamont, Inc. has found a grant that is of considerable amount and if they get the grant, they could start working on the house right away. They can't apply for the grant without the support of both municipalities. They need a resolution from both municipalities approving the application for the grant by the July Board meeting. The grant awards would be announced by late Fall. Mr. Capuano asked the Village Board to wait just a few months more and postpone the demolition.

John Sands, Grand Street, stated he agrees that there is no rush to rip down the Crouse House. Waiting a few more months won't make any difference whatsoever. Mr. Sands expressed concerns again of the noise ordinance in the Village, speed limit on Village streets, and mailboxes throughout the Village. Mr. Sands inquired about a dog park. Trustee Scally stated there is a committee with Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Village Board members on it. Many of these items have been discussed. The committee has discussed if there could be a slight standard with the mailboxes. The committee has discussed speed limits around the Village. Mayor Dineen stated there are three people who are going to start doing the research on the dog park and the Village follows Town of Guilderland noise ordinance.

Public Hearing 7:25 p.m.

Justin Heller, Legal Counsel, read the Legal Notice regarding consideration of Local Law No. 2 of 2019 of the Village of Altamont Amending the Zoning Law to Incorporate the Bozenkill Annexation.

Mayor Dineen stated I'll just give a couple of notes on this before we go into the public comment part of this. This wasn't anything that we went out and said we have to make changes. We found the information was missing within our code for the new district that was annexed in some years ago. The reason we found that was through the new assessment Guilderland did. They had questions about the zoning. When we looked at it to answer that question, we said we don't have it listed in certain areas. For instance, we have a Use Chart for R20, R40, whatever our districts are, central business district, etc. There are permitted uses throughout there. It talks about subdivision, things like that, what's permitted, what's not, what you need permits for, et Cetera. The document that was available to everyone basically includes that development into what everyone else has. We didn't want to leave you out. If you come down for a permit for something, Mr. Moore is not going to know possibly what your use is supposed to be, because you weren't on our chart yet. That's why we're doing this. We had our planner, Nan Stolzenburg, who helped us with the original comprehensive plan and the zoning changes. She submitted to us, the changes she had suggested back when. The board reviewed them. This is where we're at today just to look at those differences. I don't know if anybody here has questions, but, if you had a chance to look at it and you have any questions or you have a comment, we'd love you to come up and share it with us at this time.

No comments from the public.

Mayor Dineen stated I'll just make one note. I guess everything is exactly what I was just saying. That one different amendment we had in our original zoning part of this is we had

language saying anything annexed in would automatically be R 40. We changed the wording. She amended the wording on that. Basically, the decision will be made by whatever the board is at that time of annexation. Say there's another piece of property that comes in. That's the only thing that didn't have to do with the development that I think is included in this.

Mayor Dineen asked if the Board has any questions on this. Mayor Dineen asked for a motion to close the public hearing since there weren't any questions from the Board.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve closing the public hearing at 7:27 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to table, until July 16, 2019 Board meeting, the SEQRA review of the proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2019 for Proposed Amendments to Village of Altamont Zoning Law to Fully Update and Incorporate the Bozenkill Road Annexation Called RCD – Residential Conservation District. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Public Hearing 7:30 p.m.

Justin Heller, Legal Counsel, read the Legal Notice regarding consideration of Local Law No. 1 of 2019 of the Village of Altamont Keeping of Chickens and Regulation & Responsibilities of Homeowners.

Mayor Dineen stated we've talked about this a little bit. There was the zoning committee that we just made mention to Mr. Sands about. Its Zoning, Planning and Village Board members. This was one of the formal requests we did receive some time ago and we've had some informal requests as well for the keeping of chickens within the village limits. So, the committee worked on it. One of the members from the Planning Board, Deb Hext, she did a lot of research and drafted a possible law based on some of our surrounding municipalities. Then the committee gave input and we talked about it a couple of times and when we met, we went back and forth with drafts. This was the draft that the committee put forward for our consideration. Not endorsing it, but just saying this would be a law that would cover some of the areas we thought were important for our municipality. If you have any comments that you'd like to come up to the microphone and talk about that or give us a question or comment on that we'd love to hear from you.

Mayor Dineen read a letter submitted by William Hannah, Main Street, asking the Board to decline the request to raise chickens in the Village of Altamont. Copy of letter included with Official Minutes.

Mayor Dineen asked the Board if they have some comments they would like to share.

Trustee Scally stated there are some good ideas.

Mayor Dineen stated there are some good ideas since we've put that out, there were a couple of things that I read that I have some concerns about personally. I was reading how one thing that's not been given a consideration is most municipalities seem to write ordinances that have to do with controlling the nuisance part of it. I think that is what we have done modeling ours after the Town of Guilderland and Village of Voorheesville. It talked about how there are some health issues that need to be addressed, such as there are

vaccinations, chicken should have yearly, there are things with the vets that should happen yearly. I don't know about birds. It's not my thing. But when I'm reading it, it does make me concerned. I know it was very popular coming out in 2008-2009, a lot of people are into raising their own food and that's great. I do wonder about our residences being as close as we are and then having a building inspector who right now, we have at six hours a week. A building inspector to try to regulate that as well as people parking commercial vehicles on their lawns. Those things that he's doing all the time. Issuing permits all those things.

Trustee Scally stated most of the residences are in the village proper, not R10.

Mayor Dineen stated I didn't know how the rest of you felt about it. Obviously, we only received one letter. To me if we don't even have support or enough of either way, it's kind of hard to push something on. That would just be my thought. I don't know chickens. I know horses.

Trustee Ganance stated it attracts a lot of rodents.

Trustee Scally stated there was a post on the Altamont Community page of a rooster running around.

Mayor Dineen stated he was just across the street from me. He was really cute though. I thought someone was punking me at 6:20 a.m. I took his picture because I heard a rooster cock-a-doodle-dooing. I thought, no, somebody's doing that purpose. But no, it was the real thing.

Trustee Ganance stated I think it would be hard for a guy working 6 hours a week to control this.

Mayor Dineen stated I don't know that many people would jump on board with this.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated to play devil's advocate. I don't expect everybody to go buy a chicken coop.

Mayor Dineen stated no I don't either.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he isn't going to have to do daily inspections.

Mayor Dineen stated obviously you have to go through the building inspector, you have to have setbacks that go with our accessory structures. We tried to align it with things that were already in our code. We were trying to make a good attempt at if you want this, these are the hoops you have to go through. I don't think there was a lot. I also feel strongly that if I don't have a lot of say on either side that I don't know that's something we have to push forward right now. I mean if someone comes back later.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated you said this didn't come out of nowhere.

Mayor Dineen stated I had a formal request because I had been asked several times and then they said, what do we need to do? I said I think you need to make a formal request to us at the Village and then we brought it to the committee.

Trustee Scally stated we have to follow the accessory structure.

Mayor Dineen asked Trustee Whalen how he feels about chickens.

Trustee Whalen stated he wanted to thank the Board and our counsel for writing this into the format. I was concerned about how it was coming across. Personally, I'm not that interested in entertaining it. We did discuss this, although it's been quite a while. Back when we were looking at the ordinance changes in 2009. It was discussed at length and there was concern at that time. Similar to this. I think the point that Michelle makes is very valid. Lance, particularly in the summer, is already pressed to keep up with all that goes on in his role. I do wonder if he's able to take on, even if it's only one or two a year, that additional burden especially when it spools up before people really learn what they should be doing and then the rules and all of that.

Trustee Ganance stated this is a village full of children. This is going to attract predators of chickens.

Trustee Whalen stated I do see the value of it. It makes a lot of sense. Just how do you control when someone just lets things slip. House full of cats.

Judi Dineen, Sunset Drive, stated I just think in a village, some of you know, I'm a real farmer at heart, having had the farm for so many years, I've always loved chickens, but in deference to neighbors who live very close together. I would love to have them. I got to tell you, but I wouldn't do that to my neighbors were close next door. I think it's a lot to ask. I think they can make a lot of problems between people that are just unnecessary, you don't have to do it. I do worry a little bit about the Salmonella thing. The health thing. You don't know that everybody's going to abide by the care and inoculation and all that stuff that they're supposed to do. I personally would say, even though I would love to have been, I don't think we should do it in a village this small.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve closing the public hearing at 7:40 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to not consider Local Law No. 1 of 2019 of the Village of Altamont Keeping of Chickens and Regulation & Responsibilities of Homeowners. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve amendment of Village of Altamont Fee Schedule. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Streetlights and the License Agreement for Customer Owned Streetlights and Attachments, between the Village of Altamont and National Grid for the lightning aggregation project with surrounding municipalities. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve hiring the following individuals for Bozenkill Park Summer Recreation Program: Natalie Russo, Guilderland, Camp Counselor, at \$12.60 per hour; Rosa Luna Guzman, Altamont, Camp Counselor, at \$12.10 per hour; Ryan Kapusinsky, Altamont, Camp Counselor, at \$11.35 per hour; Owen Van Duesan, Guilderland, Camp Counselor/Lifeguard, at \$13.50 per hour; Courtney Reilly, Voorheesville, Lifeguard, at \$15.50 per hour; Caleb Rockhill, Guilderland, Lifeguard, at \$14.00 per hour; Lucas Staubach, Altamont, Lifeguard, at

\$15.00 per hour; Craig Gehres, Guilderland, Lifeguard, at \$14.00 per hour; Dylan Mosbey, Berne, Lifeguard, at \$13.50 per hour; Collin Kapusinsky, Altamont, Lifeguard, at \$13.50 per hour; Alexa Johnson, Altamont, Lifeguard, at \$13.50 per hour; Tessa Buckey, Altamont, Lifeguard, at \$16.00 per hour; Samantha Staubach, Altamont, Booth Attendant, at \$11.10 per hour; and Daniel VanDuesen, Guilderland, Booth Attendant, at \$11.10 per hour, per recommendation of Patty Blackwood, Village Clerk.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve hiring Vicki Bastian, Duanesburg, Water Aerobics Instructor for Bozenkill Park at a flat rate fee of \$420 from June 18th through August 8th per recommendation of Patty Blackwood, Village Clerk. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve of applications for Dillon Wachter, Guilderland, and Patrick O'Hare, Guilderland, for Firefighters in the Altamont Fire Department, per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve request of Phil Carducci, 35 Whipple Way, to hold annual Altamont 5K Run/Walk along the streets of Altamont on August 24, 2019. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve of Board Minutes for May 7, 2019. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Village Board of Trustee and Tom Capuano had a brief discussion regarding the Crouse House. The Board stated they welcome more details from the group. Mr. Capuano will provide the Board will additional information on how much money would they be applying for, what are the past awards, what is the resolution that they're going to need, who's going to own the property, who's going to run it, who's going to maintain it, and what is the group going to do when they run out of money.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.
All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk