

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2021

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, Absent
Kyle Haines, Altamont Fire Chief, Absent
Todd Pucci, Altamont Police Chief, Absent
Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel

General Public: 8

7:00 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.

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

Mayor Dineen reported the Village Board held their first Budget Workshop meeting on February 24th. All the departments presented their draft budgets to the Board. There will be follow-up meetings on March 10th and possibly on March 17th. The Police Reform and Review Committee will be hosting a public forum on March 4th at 7:00 p.m. The remote link for the meeting is on the website along with additional information. Mayor Dineen stated that Albany County Health Department has put up a link today regarding additional vaccinations that are going to be available at the Times Union Center.

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve the Treasurer's report; Abstract #18 and #19 and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Public Comment:

Kate Provencher, Thatcher Drive, stated she appreciates the meetings held over Zoom and appreciates the minutes coming out. Ms. Provencher asked if the department reports could be posted each month also. Mayor Dineen stated we will post the department reports with the agenda each month. Ms. Provencher noted that Trustee Whalen wasn't running for the Board again in the upcoming election and wanted to personally thank him for his dedicated service to the Village. There are a lot of things that Trustee Whalen has done behind the scenes besides the Village Board meetings including Chairing the Comprehensive Plan Committee and being the liaison to the Zoning and Planning Boards for the Village for the past 16 years.

Public Hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, opened the public hearing by reading the Legal Notice regarding adopting Local Law No. 1 of 2021 Amending Chapter A405 of the Code of the Village of Altamont to Modify the Capital Charge for New Water and Sewer Connections for Users Outside the Village.

Mayor Dineen stated this is a public hearing tonight to amend A405 of the Village of Altamont Code to modify a charge for new water and sewer connections for users outside

of the Village. Not for residents inside the Village. The changes would be \$3,000 for water hookup and \$7,000 for wastewater hookup. While working through the budget this year, the Board realized they have to take more preventative measures to bring revenue into the Village. We've seen that the revenues have been going down and the expenses have been going up. The connections aren't going to be a constant as the Village has only so much water to give to outside users but this will be another revenue stream. Mayor Dineen asked if anyone from the public or the Board would like to express their thoughts.

Trustee Whalen stated that Mayor Dineen might want to clarify the revenue that she is talking about is for water and sewer revenue and not for the general fund.

Mayor Dineen stated that anything for water goes into the water fund and anything for sewer goes into the sewer fund. The revenue for this doesn't go into the general fund. It doesn't get spent on road, banners, etc.

Ted Neumann, Lark Street, inquired how the \$3,000 and the \$7,000 were arrived at and is that an average price in the region.

Mayor Dineen stated we were at \$2,500 and increased that to \$3,000. Talking to Jeff Moller, Supt. of Public Works, he thought that was a fair charge and he knows about the water hookups.

Trustee Whalen stated when Jeff looked at both the fee structures, he realized it has been quite a while since they have been raised. \$500 may seem like a lot, but it's been quite some time.

Mayor Dineen stated when we hook up outside users, we gain the water and sewer revenue but not property taxes from them. They are getting a utility from us that is very valuable from the Village but the Village isn't getting anything after that initial charge.

Ted Neumann, Lark Street, stated he doesn't think that it sounds like much of an increase at all. It seems that if someone wants to hook up, that a higher price might be in order. He doesn't see that as being that expensive for what we're offering.

Trustee Fahrenkopf asked Mayor Dineen to clarify that this is just the fee to hook up but the applicant would have other costs associated with getting the actual connection.

Mayor Dineen stated the applicant would also have to pay for a tap-in fee.

Trustee Whalen stated these are the administration fees and the tap-in fees are the actual costs to do the connections.

Trustee Fahrenkopf inquired if this cost covers the cost of the work and lining up all the permits to dig. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated the applicant would still have to pay for the cost that it takes to do the actual connection and inquired if anyone knows what that adds on to the cost.

Mayor Dineen stated she didn't know the total cost.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he knows the cost probably varies based on how close someone is to the line.

Kate Provencher, Thatcher Drive, stated one of the other things that always gets considered is that if we're still able to support water outside the Village. Ms. Provencher stated there's a formula that's been put in place to determine if the Village can allow the hookup.

Mayor Dineen stated around 2008 the Village reexamined the capacity of the water. Tim McIntyre, former Supt. of Public Works, worked with the Village engineers to determine this formula. They calculated what is the capacity of inside and outside users. Jeff Moller, Supt. of Public Works, has a process he follows to see if there is enough capacity before he approves and then sends it on to the Board for approval.

Trustee Whalen stated to Ms. Provencher that further down on the agenda is an example of a request to the Board.

Danny Ramirez, Maple Avenue, stated he understands this is Trustee Whalen's last official meeting and he wanted to thank him for his years of service and good guidance.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve closing public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Village Board; and Allyson Phillips, Village Counsel, discussed the SEQRA review on proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 amending Chapter A405 of the Code of the Village of Altamont to Modify the Capital Charge for New Water and Sewer Connections for Users Outside the Village.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Ganance to approve a resolution to adopt a negative declaration pursuant to SEQRA for proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 Amending Chapter A405 of the Code of the Village of Altamont to Modify the Capital Charge for New Water and Sewer Connections for Users Outside the Village.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2021 Amending Chapter A405 of the Code of the Village of Altamont to Modify the Capital Charge for New Water and Sewer Connections for Users Outside the Village. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign escrow agreement with Prime Capital Development for technical and legal services on water and sewer application for a project located on Gun Club Road, Town of Guilderland, NY, Tax Map #37.00-2-25. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Ganance made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve resignation of Lucinda Flower, Senior Van Driver, effective February 22, 2021. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve holding Annual Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve holding Budget Public Hearing prior to adoption on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve of Board Minutes for February 2, 2021. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Dineen stated the Board wanted to thank Trustee Whalen for all his work over the past 16 years. Trustee Whalen and Mayor Dineen met 18 years ago while working on a police review committee. The knowledge that Trustee Whalen brought to the Village, committees and all areas talked about tonight, was very much appreciated. Trustee Whalen will be irreplaceable and she hopes that he continues to come to the meetings and lend his expertise.

Deb Hext, Planning Board Chairperson, thanked Trustee Whalen and stated they have known each other a long time and that Christine Marshall, former Trustee, thought the world of Trustee Whalen. Ms. Hext thanked Trustee Whalen from the bottom of her heart, for everything he's done for the Planning Board and all the time he's given to the Village.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he met Trustee Whalen through ACT before joining the Board. Trustee Fahrenkopf thanked Trustee Whalen for all the things that he's done for the Village, both on and off the Board. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he mentioned to Mayor Dineen that he's particularly going to miss Trustee Whalen's professional expertise on the Board. Not that a music teacher and a semiconductor engineer aren't useful, but sometimes having an architect's opinion is even more useful. For that, they will especially miss Trustee Whalen and hope to see him around.

Trustee Scally thanked Trustee Whalen. Trustee Scally stated he had the chance to get to know Trustee Whalen on ACT and his tenure on the Planning Board. Trustee Scally stated he learned a lot from Trustee Whalen and even more on the Village Board. It has been an invaluable experience and they hate to lose him.

Trustee Whalen thanked everyone for their thoughts and thanked his wife, Kelly, for the last 16 years of putting up with all his biweekly and monthly meetings. Trustee Whalen stated being on the Board has been a really neat way to learn about government. It really takes a village to build a village.

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to adjourn at 7:36 p.m.

Roll Call: All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk