

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
May 03, 2022

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

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

General Public: 9

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 report for April. Copy of report included with Official Minutes.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We were working on drainage on Euclid. We've got that just about wrapped up. We had some issues with some drainage through the yards and we were able to work with Guilderland and they sent a Jetter up and jetted out a storm sewer for us, and we managed to put a catch basin in and we're going to divert the water into that catch basin and keep it off the road and keep it out of the people's yards. Got some issues up on the Boulevard. It's goes back to the State culvert there by the American Legion. There's a washout in the driveway right alongside. That goes back to when FEMA and the State redid that culvert underneath there, they never tied in right. We've been kind of fighting with them to come back and fix it and they don't really want to, but that's why every once in a while, under heavy rain, the water washes down the Boulevard and gets in some people's basements too. We got some patching to do. We hoped to have started by now, but the blacktop plant, out in Princetown, which is handy for us because it's close by, it's not going to open this year. So, we've got to haul our blacktop from Kings Road. In years past, we mill and cut and haul blacktop the same day. So, we don't have a lot of open holes in the roads. This year we're not going to be able to do that. We're going to have to spend a couple days boxing out and milling the potholes out and cone them off. On certain streets, people are going to have to understand that they're going to have to drive around cones for a couple days. Then once we get a whole bunch boxed out, then we're going to spend one whole day hauling blacktop and really go after it. The pool, I got a quote back yesterday from the paint company, ordered the paint this morning. Still waiting to find out what the lead time is to get it. We're coming under the gun now because of time wise, because of the weather, we haven't been able to go after it before now. Last week we were able to pressure test all the underground lines and found out there's no leaks, which we thought there were because we've lost a lot of water every year. Last year we changed two skimmers out and this year we're going to see if we can seal the two remaining skimmers up and see if we can save some of that water. As soon as we get the paint, it's a two-part epoxy paint, we need a week of solid, good weather with night temperatures above 50 degrees. The problem with the pool is the finish is starting to go and it's getting really rough, like course sandpaper. We've had a quite bit of complaints about it. With this epoxy, we have to have really good weather, otherwise it won't adhere right and it'll start blistering on us. They guarantee if for five or six years and hopefully we can get 10 years out of it. Fingers crossed. Leaf pickup is going on now. Next week we are going to start mowing. We haven't been mowing yet,

but they've got all the mowers in shape. We've got a company coming into the wastewater plant. We did our base coat blacktop last year. Did it ourselves and behind our shop, we're putting in a big wash rack. For washing equipment and probably for the fire department too, because eventually washing out front here, your wash water goes out into the State MS4 System and they're going to have a fit about it one of these days. After we have that blacktopped, the fire department can go down there and access that too. We'll have the hoses out and they can go down anytime and wash equipment.

Mayor Dineen: I was just thinking about the State culvert. I don't know if a letter from the Board would help. If there's someone you want to send something to saying this was discussed at our meeting. We could do that.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: We went after them two weeks ago because we've had ongoing problems and then we had a wash out or a sinkhole a couple weeks ago. We talked to the road foreman and he was going to contact the resident engineer and we just haven't heard back from him.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: So, they haven't said no yet.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: No, but the last time they were pushing back, but we're also not dealing with the engineers, we're dealing with the crews that are out here, working with the road foreman.

Jason Johnston, Chief Altamont Police Dept.: I wanted to mention that it's past May 1st, so obviously the winter parking restrictions have been lifted. Also just talking with other agencies in the area here, I wanted to remind everybody not to leave anything valuable in your cars. We haven't had an issue specifically here yet, but it's warmer weather and thieves don't like coming out in the cold either. The opportunistic stealing of things from unlocked cars is something that just comes in cycles and they go from neighborhood to neighborhood. I want to try to remind everybody to be diligent in that, lock your car doors, don't leave keys in your car. Don't leave your wallets and purses. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, they won't break a window if they don't see anything that they don't want in the car. Just keep that in mind. We have seen a big uptick in tickets because people are driving faster, because that always tends to happen in the Spring. I just want to remind everybody to maintain the 30 miles an hour in the Village.

Mayor Dineen: I'll just make mention, because both with you and Jeff are here, and to the audience, I think everybody knows that this Saturday is the garage sale day so please drive even slower. There will be some spots labeled no parking just because of trying to make sure there's no blind spots when people are pulling out of intersections.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve the Treasurer's report; Abstract #22 and #23 and transfer of funds as submitted.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer: The end of the fiscal year is this month. Department heads, please get your vouchers in.

## Public Comment:

Judi Walters Dineen, Resident: Just want to remind everybody, May 22nd, not too far away, is our Memorial Day Parade. I expect everybody to come out and put your flags out in front of your houses and have them in your hand. Support everybody that is in the parade. We're going to have a great program in the park, at the end of the parade, done by the American Legion and VFW. It's really good. I've read it. It's about the history of the flag. It's wonderful. There's a beautiful poem at the end. That's really worth listening to and we encourage you to come and stay. That's going to be just after the wreath laying. Of course, the pipers will play Amazing Grace. Everybody liked that last year. We'll have a new thing this year, the pipe and drum corps coming as well as the Schenectady Pipe Band. We're really excited about this. At the end of all the program for Memorial Day, then we will have festivities. We're going to have a community field day. We're hoping that everybody that has been out at the park and watched and listened to the program will stay and they'll enjoy free hot dogs made by our wonderful Altamont Fire Department followed by free drinks and ice cream. The ice cream was donated by Stewarts. We're going to have games and music and all kinds of good stuff. So, it'll be fun to come and we hope that you will all come and support it.

Mayor Dineen: I'm just going to mention that the parade starts at two o'clock.

James Catalfamo, St. John's Lutheran Church: I'm from the men's breakfast at St. John's Lutheran Church and that's our new pastor Eric, and one of our members, Steve. We are here today to thank you and the trustees for giving us the permission to have this table built for the park. We're very excited about that. To move forward instead of, of sitting here, trying to discuss this, that, and the other thing, we didn't know if you had anybody, that you could appoint that could work with us to make sure we stay within specs. We don't want to build something and then all of a sudden say, ah, I don't like it. That's one thing and we just wanted to come here, instead of going through the email, sometimes translations get lost. We wanted to see if you had any other questions or anything like that, that you would like us to answer.

Mayor Dineen: I'm going to let the folks know what we've been talking about through email. Which is, that they'd love to donate a chess board. We talked about Angel Park and this was an idea that I know was floated some years ago that never was followed through on. So, when you brought it up, I thought this is great. This is the opportunity people wanted before and I don't know what happened to it. That's what we've been discussing and I sent it out to you all as well. I think the idea is great. I'm going to ask Jeff Moller, Supt. of Public Works, or Larry Adams to be the point person.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works: It'll be me.

Mayor Dineen: Jeff will be your contact. He's here full-time all week. Most likely what will happen even though I'm not sure, but Jeff will know better, is we will have to put down some kind of a cement base for it too.

James Catalfamo, St. John's Lutheran Church: If you want to have it secured. We were trying to come up with a table that also has multiple uses. If somebody just wants to sit over in the park and read a book or have a sandwich and a coffee. Also, the main purpose is to play chess in the park and hopefully have that small town feel. Hopefully that would gather people around and bring a little more interest in the town or discussion or people or strangers getting together. We're very grateful and thankful that you guys approved it.

We're looking forward to working with Jeff. We also want to make it handicap accessible too.

Mayor Dineen: We appreciate it very much. Your offer and the work you're going to put into it. We envision something to secure it, but again, Jeff will know, depending on what you guys talk about the best way to go about that and find a nice spot.

Maurice McCormick, Resident: One thing I was wondering, do you have any more information as far as chickens in the Village.

Mayor Dineen: We have no updates at this time. I think you were here for the meeting where the applicant at that time was going to talk with our Zoning Official. They did. He gave them the application. They talked a few times and nothing came back into the Village. The next step was he was going to bring the stuff back to us. That's where we stand.

Danny Ramirez, Former Chairperson of Zoning Board of Appeals: In light of speaking about that, even though he was rejected, there were some laws that you were putting together that no action was taken some years ago. Is that going to be brought back up?

Mayor Dineen: You know what, we'll have to discuss it. I personally, I'll give you, my opinion. I see it a couple ways because we did all that work. The first time when we were asked, this was something people wanted. We paid an attorney and you know how that goes. And a lot of work was put into that. The Village actually spent a lot of money to develop the first local law a few years ago. Then unfortunately the people who were advocating for it, didn't come to the meetings and speak at all. We were ready to listen either way. But the only comments we got were anti that local law. So, it was tabled. I am hesitant personally to do that same process again, if I don't know that there are people that are going to come here to support it.

Trustee Scally: Yeah, we went through a few meetings.

Mayor Dineen: We went through several meetings and I just felt like that puts a lot on the Village. It's an expense for the Village and a local law is not super inexpensive to do, that's just my hesitancy personally, to do it on our own. I was hoping because there was such support, it seemed anyway, when he was here. But no one has come back. I don't know how you want to proceed with that.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: He's not doing a referendum; they need an application. If someone really wants it, just fill out the application.

Mayor Dineen: We need to have an applicant for that law and then someone to actually show up. People to come to the hearing to support it when they want it. That was what happened last time we had the public hearing, we announced it, we put ads in the paper, we paid our attorney to do all that. I just don't know if it's really financially a good decision for us to do for the Village again, if we don't have the support behind it.

Trustee Scally: We set up the meetings and got the information together, we had the attorney do everything that needs to be done for a local law, we had our meeting and then people were opposed to it.

Danny Ramirez, Former Chairperson of Zoning Board of Appeals: Basically, the protocol, if anybody's interested in supporting that law to be able to have chickens, to raise chickens for personal use in the village, they would have to address it and come to the Village Board.

Mayor Dineen: Yeah, if we know the support is there and the people are going to come to the meetings to speak on behalf of a new local law, we will redraft a little bit of what we had, it's not like we have to do everything over from scratch.

Maurice McCormick, Resident: Could you have someone who wanted chickens to maybe come before the Zoning Board?

Mayor Dineen: No, that's what recently happened and they had those hearings. Because it's a change of use, Danny would know it better than I, they went through the legal end and it couldn't meet the criteria for the change of use. Allyson was very clear in what could pass and that it didn't work for the Zoning Board. That's why it had to come to the Village Board. We'd have to do a local law to change it because changing a use schedule for one person, it sets a precedent that you don't want to do. Changing the use in a certain area is a big deal.

Trustee Fahrenkopf: We have the local law from years ago. If somebody stopped by and talked to the Gary, he could set them up with the paperwork. It's not a heavy lift if somebody actually really wants to do it.

Mayor Dineen: Yeah, if they want to do it. I think they need some support to come with them, to the public hearing because I think you're going to have people that have opinions on both sides. You definitely want to have people here to support what you want.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve appointment of the following Zoning Board of Appeals members:

- Deborah Hext, Chairperson, 3 years, to expire March 31, 2025
- Danny Ramirez, Member, 3 years, to expire March 31, 2025
- James Sullivan, Alternate Member, 3 years, to expire March 31, 2025
- Barbara Muhlfelder, Member, 2 years, to expire March 31, 2024
- Simon Litten, Member, 2 years, to expire March 31, 2024
- Robert Freeman, Member, 2 years, to expire March 31, 2024
- Sal Tassone, Member, 1 year, to expire March 31, 2023
- Laura Murphy, Member, 1 year, to expire March 31, 2023

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve Zoning Board of Appeals Schedule of Meetings. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorization to enter into an agreement with the Albany Municipal Cooperative Health Benefit Plan for New York State Shared Municipal Services Program. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve updates to the Village of Altamont Personnel Policies. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve request of Ryan Miller, 106-108 Helderberg Avenue, for refund of \$107.73 for water and sewer penalties.

**Roll Call:**

Trustee Fahrenkopf      Opposed

Trustee Scally              Opposed

Mayor Dineen              Opposed

**Motion Denied:              0 In favor/3 Opposed**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve authorizing Mayor Dineen to sign Proposal for Professional Services, not to exceed \$21,500, with Barton and Loguidice Engineering, per recommendation of Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works. Barton and Loguidice will prepare a Technical Memorandum summarizing water quality data due to manganese maximum containment level exceedance at Brandle Road wells. The Technical Memorandum will serve as the basis for a Preliminary Engineering Report that would position the Village for financing the project through the State Revolving Fund and any opportunity for grant assistance.

**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: Altamont Memorial Day Parade on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; Berne Memorial Day Parade on May 30<sup>th</sup>; and Knox Memorial Day Parade on May 30<sup>th</sup>; per request of Paul Miller, Chief.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Judi Dineen, Resident: Cindy Pollard is going to be the Grand Marshall of the Altamont Memorial Day Parade on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve of Board Minutes for April 5, 2022. **All in favor**

Mayor Dineen: After 5 years of planning and talking about it, we are getting very close to the new LED lights that we are hoping to have up in Altamont. We are the first municipality that is getting them put in, out of the four that we're working with. They're supposed to start in May. We should have that done by the end of May; it takes about two to three weeks.

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

**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk