

Approved BOARD MINUTES October 27, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Casell, who led the pledge to the flag.

Due to Covid-19 this meeting was conducted wearing masks, and social distancing.

The public was invited to join by following social distancing guidelines.

PRESENT: Mayor Casell, Trustees Warmus, Prucnal, Kibbe & Overhoff, Superintendent Sitzman, CEO Czechowski, Clerk Galbraith, Attorney Trapp, Patrick Cavanaugh, Eugene Nuwer, Brett Sitzman, Chief Greis and Lee & Vikki Weisbeck, Alden Advertiser.

MOTION by Trustee Overhoff, seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to approve the minutes dated October 13, 2020. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Prucnal, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated October 27, 2020.

Payroll \$45,910.69

Abstract \$37,235.68

On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus seconded by Trustee Prucnal, to approve the following monthly reports: fire, DPW, Planning Board and FreedMaxick AUD

On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence from: Pempsell -rescinding request for fence on Exchange, Town of Alden – excluding the Alden Hook & Ladder Company from the 2021 Fire Protection Contract. Alden State Bank – displeasure with Broadway streetscape, sidewalk to bank and topsoil/grading/seeding. WHY Life Ministries – offering financial and manual labor to repair bandstand. RBC Wealth portfolio, Town of Alden minutes. NYS: DOT snow & ice control report, NYCOM webinars, DOH vaping hotline, NY Planning Federation newsletter. Erie County: Assoc. of EC Government & Village Officials minutes, mental hygiene law information, back to business grant program and new criminal justice bail & discovery resolution.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to file as received all correspondence.

Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for October 27, 2020

MOTION by Trustee Warmus and seconded by Trustee Prucnal, to approve the floating holiday to be used for November 27, 2020 for all village offices, at the discretion of the department heads. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to approve the fire/ems calls for September 26- October 12, 2020. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to approve the annual court audit year ending May 2020, to the State of NY Unified Court System, composed by FreedMaxick. Carried.

On the question: Mayor Casell – done annually, needed to meet requirements.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to approve changes to Chapter A220, Fee Schedule, to include new fees for Chapter 166, Short Term Rentals. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to approve the following

Amendment to 2019-20 budget:

Due to auditor adjustments the following amendments need to be made to the 2019-20 budget as of 5/31/20:

Ambulance Fund: Increase Revenue accounts – 2705 Donations by \$30,567
2665 Sale of Equipment by \$6,000
5031 Interfund Transfers by \$6,000
Increase Appropriation account 4510-215 Emergency Vehicle by \$42,567

Water Fund: transfer \$3,000 from 8320-438 to 9901-920

Sewer Fund: transfer \$3,000 from 8110-433 to 9901-920 Carried.

On the question: \$30,567 for Chief's vehicle, \$6,000 trade in on old chief's vehicles, 9901-920, changed acct. #

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR-

Mayor Casell – read the 10/26 letter from the Town Supervisor Dean Adamski, concerning fire dept. redistricting, to exclude the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company. The three remaining companies: Millgrove, Townline & Crittenden would cover the town, excluding coverage in the village. “No longer part of the town's fire district, and we will not be the first call, but if someone needs us, we will be there, safety #1 priority”.

For 70+years we have contracted with the town, according to the 1951 district map. At the meeting 8/12 all fire departments were represented, for 1-year extension (verses the typical 3 yrs.) at an increase of 1.5%. 8/26, received Attorney Jennifer Strong's draft of the contract between town & village, Alden Fire Dept. mentioned on training portion only, village change requested to have Fire Chief's signature as opposed to Hook & Ladder Corp. President.

Attorney Trapp – sent all requested information, validity of fire dep., non-profit, proof fire dept. was a fire dept., tax exemption for Station II.

Mayor – disappointed that after 70 years, the Alden Hook and Ladder which is composed of very hard-working volunteers is not included. The Substation/Station II on Broadway was not built by any tax money, but by volunteers and donations.

Chief Greis – have had countless conversations with the town board. It was a unanimous decision and is disappointing and will influence the public safety on the town. Level of care will decrease; it is a bad decision. The Village of Akron is going thru the same scenario with the Town of Newstead. Need to inform the public, town board doing a bad job representing the people. I have never heard anyone complain about paying fire tax.

Brett Sitzman – public safety is our main concern; Station II operates to serve the community. January 1, 2021 will be waiting for someone to respond. What is the cost of property or a life?

Mayor Casell - on the old contract all 4 companies received \$150,000, regardless of the amount of calls. The town paid 35% of the LOSAP (firemen's Length of Service Award Program) amount. The town people need to know, Fire insurances may increase and iso ratings.

Trustee Overhoff – does Station II belong to the village?

Brett - no it is owned by the fire department; equipment belongs to village.

Trustee Kibbe – will 911 dispatch change? Chief – yes.

Superintendent Sitzman – AH&L cannot respond anywhere out of the village for mutual aid, unless asked to help.

Brett – increases time for response, greater loss of life and fire damage. Townline had 80 calls in Alden, Crittenden about 50, AH&L had 500 calls (250 in town, 250 in village).
Mayor – great impact, did not even find out from other 3 fire companies on the contract, but from a neighboring fire company. The village and AH&L were not invited to the 10/12 meeting when the re-districting was announced. It appears money is not the deciding factor, so what is? we will continue to operate & maintain the equipment.
CEO Czechowski – so if McDonald’s is on fire, they will have to wait for Town Line to respond. Village residents do pay town tax, but do not pay fire tax to the town.
Mayor – need to maintain the same level of professionalism after 1/1. No animosity towards other fire depts., stay positive. The village is blessed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT

Attorney Trapp – looking into samples of Local laws on fireworks. Moratorium by the CDC on evictions, can only be evicted if destroying property. Personnel manual, last update 2007
Looking for easement for bike path.

Superintendent Sitzman – streetscape wrapping up, streetlights and return benches. Refuse bids 11/19.

Clerk Galbraith – water bills Nov. 1

Trustee Overhoff – there are 6 wells Keith? All treated, all monitored. All in use? Sitzman – yes 6 wells, but only using 4, well site 1-3 use one at a time. 1 well does not produce enough, will seal it up.

Trustee Warmus – spoke with Town Supervisor for 2 hrs. concerning fire districts. As of 10/22 he told me no decision was made yet. No money coming from town for fire budget, heck with contract, we should still cover the town for no money.

Mayor Casell – addressing letter from the town concerning fire dept. redistricting, to exclude the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company. The three remaining companies: Millgrove, Townline & Crittenden would cover the town, excluding coverage in the village.

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

Emergency Contact System

Bike Path

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Kibbe, seconded by Trustee Prucnal, to adjourn from the Regular meeting at 8:45 p.m.

I respectfully submit

Sue Galbraith,
Village Clerk