

Approved BOARD MINUTES July 14, 2020

The Village Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Manicki, 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 Manicki, Trustees Warmus, Daluisio, Overhoff & Casell, Superintendent Sitzman, Attorney Trapp, Clerk Galbraith, Loren Prucnal, Patrick Cavanaugh, Eugene Nuwer, Shawn Eastland, Chris Whittingham, Ralph Sharpe, Steve Resetarits, Tom Kirstenstein, John & Cindy Kincaide, Theresa & Warren Drew, Kathy Esack, Kristen Hutchinreuter, Diane Casell, Doug Becker, Patti Wagner, Sharon Kupkowski, Sheryl Fatig, and Sue DeWitt, Alden Advertiser

Absent: CEO Czechowski

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to approve the minutes dated June 23, 2020. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes

MOTION by Trustee Overhoff, seconded by Trustee Casell, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated July 14, 2020.

Payroll \$37,931.50

Abstract \$46,473.14

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

MOTION by Trustee Warmus seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to approve the following monthly reports: June-DPW, Court, Fire fuel, CEO. DPW Addendum – April & May

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

COMMUNICATIONS

NYS: Senator Gallivan, CHIPS Funding, NYCOM Criminal Process update. Erie County: Crittenden Rd. rehabilitation non bid/no construction this year due to decreased funding, 2nd quarter sales tax Correspondence: Emerling Insurance name change, rate increase Charter Comm. RBC Wealth portfolio, NYS Troopers concerning bench and CEO letter to Alden Village Estates co. modified lots. Request Hook & Ladder BBQ

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Daluisio to file as received all correspondence. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes. Carried

Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for July 14, 2020

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to amend the Service Award Program Point System by adding a new point system category under which up to 5 points per month could be awarded to active volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers during the COVID-19 pandemic period. no comment, 5 ayes. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to set a Public Hearing on July 28, 2020 at 7:35PM in the Village of Alden Municipal Building, 13336 Broadway, Alden,

NY, regarding Local Law Number 7-2020 to amend Chapter 165 of the Village Code pertaining to Sewers, specifically waiver of penalty fees. no comment, 5 ayes. Carried

MOTION by Trustee Warmus and seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to approve the Alden Hook & Ladder request as follows: permission to use Village Firemen’s Memorial Bandstand Park on Sept. 13 for their chicken BBQ, place a sign in the park from September.3- 13, close Church St. from 6 am – 6 pm, use of garbage truck. Carried

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR-

Sheryl Fatig, 118 Birch Creek Run - two streetlights are out on their street and it is very dark/dangerous, been complaining to Severyn since Sept, no results. Mayor Manicki – it is a private road but will send Severyn a note.

Kristen Hutchinreuter – 1528 Willow Woods – water bubbling up for 2 years. Sitzman – is aware of situation, will notify.

Superintendent Sitzman read the following statement:

July 2020 E-Coli Positive Summary

Initial routine sample date: July 7, 2020

3 samples required monthly

- Sites; 13336 Broadway (Municipal Bldg.)
- 13395 Railroad (DPW)
- 1592 Crittenden

We thought we needed 5 samples due to last month E-Coli positive in well #1 raw, so we also tested well #3 final, well #1 final, and well #1 raw.

Samples sent to Pace Labs 7/7/2020

Sample results received 7/9/2020

| | Total Coliform | E-Coli | Chlorine Residual |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1592 Crittenden | <u>Present</u> | <u>Present</u> | 0.49 ppm |
| 13336 Broadway | <u>Present</u> | Absent | 0.32 ppm |
| 13395 Railroad St | Absent | Absent | 0.46 ppm |
| Well #3 Final | <u>Present</u> | <u>Present</u> | 0.99 ppm |
| Well #1 Final | Absent | Absent | 0.77 ppm |
| Well #1 Raw | <u>Present</u> | <u>Present</u> | 0.00 |

We were initially contacted that we had 4 positive total coliform samples, no E-Coli. Approx. 1 hour later we received a call that recheck showed 3 showed the presence of E-Coli. Presence of Total coliform/ E-Coli triggers repeat sampling plan

Boil Water Notice issue by request of ECHD, although not required until repeat sample analysis received to confirm positive. Issued on a precautionary basis because 2 samples indicated the possibility of E-Coli in the distribution system. Notice issued via website, Facebook pages, and Ch. 2,4 7 news media. We also attempted to have a reverse 911 call from Lancaster Fire Control but were told later on that the system is not setup for the Town/ Village of Alden, also attempted to get one out from ACS. We need to look into a more direct way to contact our customers. We hand delivered the Notice to all of the Critical Business users in our Emergency response plan.

Repeat samples taken and delivered to local lab Biotrax on Thursday 7/9/2020

Repeat Sample Results received 7/10/2020

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1592 Crittenden | Negative | Negative | 0.67 ppm |
| Within 5 services upstream | | | |
| Alden school Bus garage | | | |
| 1648 Crittenden Rd | Negative | Negative | 0.69 ppm |
| Within 5 services downstream | | | |
| A-Plus Sunoco | | | |
| 13320 Broadway | Negative | Negative | 0.21 ppm |
| 13336 Broadway | Negative | Negative | 0.60 ppm |
| Within 5 services upstream | | | |
| A-Plus Sunoco 13320 Broadway - Above | | | |
| Within 5 services downstream | | | |
| 13350 Broadway | Negative | Negative | 0.39 ppm |
| Well 3 Final | Negative | Negative | 0.77 ppm |
| Within 5 services upstream None exist | | | |
| Within 5 services downstream | | | |
| 13132 W. Main | Negative | Negative | 0.44 ppm |
| Well #1 Raw | Positive | Negative | N/A |
| Well #2 Raw | Negative | Negative | N\A |
| Well #3 Raw | Negative | Negative | N\A |
| Well #4 Raw | Negative | Negative | N\A |
| Additional samples taken | | | |
| Well #1 Final | Negative | Negative | 1.38 ppm |
| Well #2 Final | Negative | Negative | 0.90 ppm |
| Water Tower | | | |
| Maple Ridge | Negative | Negative | 0.07 ppm |

Repeat Samples indicated no E-Coli in the distribution system. Boil water notice cannot be lifted until second set of samples are collected and are negative. Three (3) samples minimum required.

Second Repeat samples taken 7/11/2020 and taken to BioTrax lab;

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1592 Crittenden | Negative | Negative | 0.80 ppm |
| 13336 Broadway | Negative | Negative | 0.42 ppm |
| 13395 Railroad St | Negative | Negative | 0.51 ppm |
| 13259 Colonial Woods | Negative | Negative | 0.55 ppm |
| 1750 Meadow Dr | Negative | Negative | 0.42 ppm |

Results received 7/12/2020. Contacted ECHD that we were lifting Boil Water Notice, they concurred.

Investigation findings;

Inspected all well sites and water tower with ECHD. Nothing found to be the cause of the initial positive test results. We found 2- 2 hr. instances where well #3 had an issue with chlorine feed but the condition was corrected quickly and we don't believe caused any problem in the distribution system as the other wells were on providing chlorine for disinfection.

Contacted Pace Lab to see if there was a possibility that there was a lab error. They reviewed with their lab technician and reported in their opinion no lab analysis error.

Finding nothing wrong in the source or distribution system, and that the chlorine residual levels at sample collection times were all within acceptable levels to indicate proper disinfection we believe that the water supplied to our customers did not contain total coliform or E-Coli.

This being said we investigated sampling techniques by Water Dept staff and believe samples were collected properly, although we made changes to our procedures to further prevent the possibility of sample contamination during the collection process, by having the operator wear a different pair of gloves for each sample, using a flame on the sample tap as well as alcohol wipes to insure tap disinfection, and placing each sample container in a secondary plastic bag to insure the outside of the sample bottle doesn't become contaminated.

Investigated sample handling/ transportation process. It was found that water and sewer samples are collected on the same day and stored together for common transport to the lab. While the samples are kept segregated, the handling and transport is handled by the labs courier. Since the samples are taken to Syracuse, and the fact the courier no doubt retrieves other samples along the way there is always the possibility that the sample containers may become contaminated along the way. In addition, we have no control what type of samples were previously in the coolers the samples are transported in as they are provided by Pace. In order to remove this risk of contamination we are going to sample water and wastewater at different times, get our own cooler specifically dedicated to water samples, and are going to transport them ourselves to Biotrax lab in Cheektowaga. This will keep the sample containers completely in our control from sample collection to delivery at the lab. In addition, the sample processing time can be reduced by almost 24 hours which is critical should a true positive condition exist.

Conclusion.

We believe the most like cause of the initial positive tests to be sample or sample container contamination and not a contamination of the distribution system. We feel the corrective actions we are implementing will prevent this from happening in the future.

Trustee Casell – in June it was in the raw/untreated water, but the finish water/treated was negative for -E-Coli, correct? Sitzman – yes

Mayor Manicki – the village works off an aquifer. It is groundwater that is treated We have filters on wells to remove iron, sulfur, and manganese. It began in 1899 and has many upgrades. We need to apologize we had notification issues. We have used Lancaster dispatch – reverse 911 in 2014 for snowstorm and 2012 for e-coli but were told we could not use the system this time. It would cost us \$5,000/year and the town were not interested in splitting the cost. The other problem is the information with people not having land lines is antiquated. We are currently working with the school to use their system.

Fatig – 118 Birch Creek Run – did not know it was well water when I moved here, water is not clear and has a bad taste. Paid \$5,000 for water softener and reverse osmosis system, for unhealthy water. Why not go to ECWA?

Mayor Manicki - the water is healthy but hard. We have been trying for 4 years to make 2 permanent connections to ECWA.

Kupkowski – 105 Birch Creek Run – my water bill is \$140/quarter, I used to pay \$40/quarter in Akron.

Mayor – check your tax bills, most sewer charges are on taxes. If we go to a bulk purchase from ECWA the price for water is \$2.40/1,000 gallons which would be added on to our current \$.610 price or \$8.50/1000 gallons.

We voted 10 years ago on whether to upgrade the system for over \$2 million or switch to ECWA, we had no public comment at the hearing.

Trustee Casell – it would cost over \$8million for upgrades to turn our system over to ECWA.

Trustee Daluisio explained if we join the ECWA we would be responsible for any cost for repairs, water leaks, upgrades occurring anywhere in the system. For example, a \$17 million watermain break in the city would have been reflected proportionally in our bill

Sharpe – 1657 Willow Woods – Keith, you are blaming everyone but the wells. What is the cost of a life? Poison to babies and immune compromised.

Trustee Casell – in Dec. 2019 ECWA had an E-Coli positive, did anyone hear about it?

No, they have different requirements. Read the quality report – the water contains: fertilizer, mercury, pharmaceuticals, chemicals.

Our system is an aquifer with natural filtration for over 100 years and this is only the second time for e-coli.

Trustee Overhoff – wells 3&4 had a septic smell according to the Chief Engineer of the health dept. People want ECWA

Wagner – 109 Birch Creek Run -so you do no switch due to a cost to resident issue? How much do our ruined appliances cost?

Kincaide -1562 Crittenden- I live 3 doors down from the positive on our street, have had an upset stomach since Thursday. Need contact system. I found out from my daughter.

Kupkowski – I have an 86 year old mother who has a UTI, which can be caused by E-Coli. Health issues.

Sitzman – wells chlorine levels tested daily.

Esack – 1599 Emerson – proper notification is most important, 3 people I know got sick. Need more testing

Sitzman – tested for e-coli 3 samples monthly.

Wagner – need to test for E-coli once a week minimum

Mayor Manicki – we can do more testing.

Prucnal – 1602 Westcott – have had my washer for 25 years.

Theresa Drew – 13389 Park St. – we should vote. we need another survey, I never received one.

Mayor – not allowed to have a vote. We received about ½ the surveys back. 54% wanted ECWA, 47% wanted village, but we do not know what the other ½ wanted.

Drew – majority rules.

Hutchenreuter – need better communication, awareness. Need an action plan, more testing.

Trustee Overhoff – can save \$50,000/year on chemicals by switching and not lose any employees.

Kincaide – 1 have been here for 40 years & 1st boil water notice I remember.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:

Attorney Trapp working on code revisions. No longer have to extend Public Hearings for comments.

Trustee Overhoff – Keith any garbage bids? Sitzman – not yet.

Trustee Warmus- thank you Keith & team for all your hard work during E-Coli situation.

Trustee Daluisio – thank you Keith & staff.

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Trustee Warmus seconded by Trustee Casell, to adjourn from the regular meeting 9:00 pm with a moment of silence for Betty Eastwood and Joan Gadd- Joan was he Alden Village Clerk for 8 years and the Deputy Clerk for 19 years. – no comment, 5 ayes. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Daluisio seconded by Trustee Overhoff, to adjourn into an Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation & Negotiations 9:01 pm, – no comment, 5 ayes. Carried.

I respectfully submit

Sue Galbraith,
Village Clerk