

Approved BOARD MINUTES November 23, 2021

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Becker to enter into an executive session at 7:14 p.m. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Becker to exit the executive session at 7:29p.m. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

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 with social distancing.

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

PRESENT: Mayor Manicki, Trustees Prucnal, Becker, Refermat & Pruitt, Clerk Galbraith, CEO Czechowski, Attorney Trapp, Superintendent Pruitt, Eugene Nuwer, Shawn & Cameron Eastland, Patrick Cavanaugh, Albert Boucher, Kevin Wypij, Howard Sweet, Laura Loehr, Melissa Goff, Katie Herch and Lavien Lopez.

MOTION by Trustee Becker, seconded by Trustee Prucnal, to approve the minutes dated November 9, 2021. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Pruitt, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated November 23, 2021.

Payroll	\$43,652.71
Abstract	\$49,159.31

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

MOTION by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Pruitt to approve the following monthly reports: Fire Department for October and Public Works for September and October. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Minutes from the Town of Alden and Alden Substance Abuse & Prevention Coalition, Erie County – name of new liaison, notice concerning the Erie County Home is being marketed by CBRE, sales tax is up 20% and they are offering micro grants to businesses. The mayor met with Hearts & Hands a volunteer organization, offering transportation and other services for seniors in need. Encourage residents to volunteer if they can.

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

Motion by Trustee Pruitt and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to exit the regular meeting and enter into the Public Hearing at 7:40 pm. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

The Public Hearing is to consider an increase in the water rates for all users within the corporate limits of the Village, and for those out of district users. Increase to be reflected in the February 2022 billing quarter

Water charge within village-increase from \$6.30 per thousand to \$7.05 per thousand.
Water charge outside village-increase from \$9.45 per thousand to \$10.58 per thousand.

Mayor Manicki started the discussion with the following comments: The village board is conducting this public hearing to hear comments on a proposed increase in the water rate

from \$6.30 to \$7.05. Our connection to ECWA on Exchange St. has been in use for several months. We are currently drawing about 20% of our water supply from this connection. The cost of buying this water is \$2.80/1000 gal. That price will rise to \$2.98 on January 1. The current cost of producing our own water is \$.80 /1000 gal. We have been consistent in our message that because of this difference, the water rate must increase accordingly. A second connection on Broadway at the village line is in the engineering stage and we hope to begin construction next year.

While the current ECWA residential rate is \$3.57/1000 gal., this amount does not include items such as water district debt service and hydrant fees which are charged on the customer's property tax bill. By contrast, your village rate includes all costs for providing water service. Town of Alden residents on Exchange St. pay over \$1,000 per year on their town taxes for their water district. We will also be incurring additional expense soon on the engineering for the second connection on Broadway.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Pruitt to exit the Public Hearing and re-enter into the regular meeting at 7:43 pm. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for November 23, 2021

Motion by Trustee Pruitt and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to approve the fire/Ems calls for November 6-19. 2021. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Refermat and seconded by Trustee Pruitt to approve recommendation of Cameron Eastland to fill the open position of laborer, effective 11/29/2021 at a rate of \$21.85 per hour. Vote – Becker abstain, Prucnal – nay, Manicki, Refermat and Pruitt -aye. Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Pruitt to participate in the Vendor Agreement for the NYS Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Refermat and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to adopt the adjusted Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Exemption, to reflect the town's standards. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Pruitt to make an adjustment to the water /sewer billing at 1724 Crittenden Rd. to reflect a total of \$208.00 total due. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Pruitt and seconded by Trustee Refermat to authorize the mayor to sign the application to approve Simon Ellis into Fire & EMS membership as approved by the membership of the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR-

Melissa Goff – questioned the progress on the fire contract with the town. Mayor Manicki explained there has been no progress, a counteroffer was made in July and that was the last negotiations with the town. The Supervisor has gotten all the required information. In the town meeting the Supervisor said that the NYS Comptroller said not to contracting with us, although

this could not be confirmed. Attorney Trap said it is unusual for the Comptroller to comment as it is not their jurisdiction. Mayor Manicki- it is an unfortunate situation. I will have more to say in my committee reports.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT

Clerk Galbraith – thank you Mayor Manicki for coming back to the position. We will miss you. (Mayor Manicki will be away till March 1, but will be available by phone, email or text, Deputy Mayor Prucnal will be in charge).

CEO Czechowski – file paperwork and notice to paper for rezoning, ACC rodeo

Superintendent Pruitt – updates Phase III working on final paperwork, ECWA should be closed before winter, Elm St. drainage wrapping up, DPW roof underway.

Attorney Trapp – preparing paperwork for local laws #4 & #5. 12/9 to seek petition for referendum. Will check sign ordinance/code with Joe for updates.

Trustee Prucnal – encourage residents to partake in the Hazardous Waste Program thru the county.

Mayor Manicki – Nov. 23, 2021, STATUS OF FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT WITH TOWN OF ALDEN In December 2020 the village signed a one-year contract with the town for \$35,000. The contract contains a clause allowing a negotiated increase. This was far below the \$155,000 the town was paying Townline, Crittenden and Millgrove fire companies. In July I contacted Supervisor Adamski to resume the negotiation. The offer he made on July 13 was not acceptable to the village board and a counteroffer was made on July 30 asking for the same amount the other three companies were getting. At the town's public hearing in August, Adamski stated he would not negotiate with the village unless a large number of documents were provided to the town. Even though we have provided all documents required by the contract, (the same ones supplied by the other companies) I offered to allow a town representative to review these documents at our office. To date Adamski has not availed himself of my offer and continues to stonewall further negotiations On November 10, I again emailed him reiterating our position and asking that he respond to our offer of July 30. He replied that the proper documents have not been provided. Unfortunately, unless a satisfactory agreement is reached the Village of Alden will cease serving the portion of the town of Alden it currently covers on January 1, 2022. We will serve the village only. Mutual aid will no longer be provided in the town. Because of his personal animosity to the Village of Alden and the Alden Hook & Ladder, Supervisor Adamski continues to use misinformation and diversions to eliminate the Alden Fire Dept. from providing fire and EMS protection in the town. Town residents will soon face a serious public safety issue. In addition, their fire insurance rating and premium may change depending on their location. On December 7 at 7:05 PM, the town board will hold a hearing on the contracts for the other three companies. I urge town residents to attend and voice your concerns. Your safety and that of your property is at stake. Mayor Michael Manicki Village of Alden

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

Bike Path- on hold, need cooperation from the town

Emergency Contact System – no further progress

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Pruitt, to adjourn the meeting with a moment of silence for James Uebelhoer and Ken Weir, at 7:57 pm and enter into an Executive Session to discuss negotiations, litigation and personnel. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Becker to adjourn from executive session at 8:21 p.m. On the question –no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Becker to approve the appointment of Dawn Stover as Alternate Court Clerk on an as needed basis, as recommended by Judge Cole at a salary of \$16.48/ hour.

On the question-Trustee Refermat expressed her concern that neither an ad nor an appointment of a Village resident was done and that the Board should first consider Village residents for any Village position and that she would not be voting in favor of the appointment, Refermat – nay, Becker, Manicki, Prucnal and Pruitt - aye Carried.

Motion by Trustee Prucnal, seconded by Trustee Becker to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

I respectfully submit.

Sue Galbraith,
Village Clerk