

**Approved BOARD MINUTES February 13, 2024.**

The regular meeting of the Village of Alden Board of Trustees was held in the Municipal Building, 13336 Broadway, Alden, NY 14004.

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

**PRESENT:** Mayor Prucnal, Trustees: Kibbe, Casell Refermat and Becker, Attorney Trapp, CEO Czechowski, Clerk Galbraith, Superintendent Fleck, Patrick Cavanaugh, and Brenda Cieszki.

**MOTION** by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell, to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2024, meeting as amended. On the question – had to change motion correcting Austin Kremer’s rate of \$24.53 instead to \$27.43. 5 ayes, Carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to approve payment bills on abstract dated February 13, 2024.

Payroll	\$43866.29
Abstract	\$158,648.48

On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve the following monthly reports: Safety Committee, Public Works, RBC Wealth Management Portfolio statement, Building Inspector, Court, and Fire Dept.

On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**Public Hearing – Local Law #1, 2024, 2% Tax Cap**

**MOTION** by Trustee Refermat and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to leave the regular meeting and enter into the Public Hearing for Local Law#1-2024, 2% Tax Cap. 7:35 pm.

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

A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established under General Municipal Law section 3-c by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Alden. It is the intent of this local law to allow the Board of Trustees of the Village of Alden to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2023, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law section 3-c. The purpose of this local law is to provide flexibility for the Board of Trustees and to protect both the Village and the residents from any actions of the State of New York. The board is not anticipating exceeding the tax cap, but needs to protect themselves if they cannot stay under the cap. They can repeal the local law if it is not necessary. There was no public comment.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to leave the Public Hearing and re-enter into the regular meeting. 7:37 pm. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, Carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Request: from a resident to reduce water/sewer bill, cannot do that, or else other residence pay for it. Resignation from Paulette Hastie, Erie County – re-imburement for election, meeting notice for Village Officials, sales tax remittance, inter-municipal agreement, and Association of EC Governments meeting notice. NYS – NYCOM statement notice for dues, Senator Gallivan – round table notice and legislative update. Town of Alden agenda and minutes, Alden Hook & Ladder request, and Girl Scout Troop. Copy of Storm Water Agreement with Birch Creek Run. On the

question Trustee Casell – why did we receive Birch creek Run agreement? Do we have responsibility? CEO Czechowski – we maintain a copy to validate. If they are not doing everything, we will have to enforce it if they fail.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Refermat, to file as received all correspondence. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

#### **Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for February 13, 2024**

**MOTION** by Trustee Kibbe, and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve Superintendent of Public Works Fleck, to upgrade the recording system through Ritec, for water (\$10,380) and sewer (\$5957) for a total of \$16,337.00. This is not a budgeted item. The \$5957 will be paid out of the G8120.428 – upgrade list station appropriation. The \$10,380 will come from the fX 8320.454 Stationary Plant & Equipment appropriation. On the question: Superintendent Fleck – acquired 2 quotes, only 2 companies. Attorney Trapp – if no one else, this is acceptable. 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Casell, to approve Superintendent Fleck’s request to advertise to hire a part time DPW Clerk, at a rate of \$19.00/hr., ON the question: Trustee Refermat – 19 hours, no benefits – correct. Trustee Casell – we need to create a job position. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Refermat, to create the position of Part-time DPW Clerk, no benefits. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Becker, to accept with regrets the resignation of Alternate Crossing Guard Paultette Hastie, effective 1/29/2024. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to allow Junior Girl Scout Troop 31905 to use Firemen’s Memorial Bandstand Park to sell cookies on March 23, from 10am- 4pm. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Refermat and seconded by Trustee Casell, to approve Superintendent Fleck’s request to promote Patrick Cavanaugh to General Crew Chief, effective 2/14/2024 at a rate of \$38.10/hr. On the question - no comment 4 ayes,- Casell, Kibbe, Refermat and Prucnal, Becker-abstain. Carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve the following: Change Order #1, concerning the Exchange St. Water System Interconnection from Mar-Wal to accept the contract reduction from \$114,666.00 to \$96,676.00. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Becker, to declare the ambulance account balance deemed uncollectible by the Village Attorney, in the amount of \$150 On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Refermat, to approve filling the open position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief by Austin Kremer as approved by the fire company membership. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Casell, to authorize Mayor Prucnal to sign the 2023 sponsor authorization form for LOSAP for the Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company Inc. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker, seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to approve Superintendent Fleck's recommendation to promote Austin Kremer to the position of MEO (Motor Equipment Operator) effective 1/24/2024 at a rate of \$24.53. Should be \$27.42. approved with this correction. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT**

**CEO Czechowski** -meetings for Comprehensive and Records grants. RFP for Comprehensive Plan out. Meeting with county Friday.

**Superintendent of Public Works Fleck** – well #1 Continuing, snow & ice management, guys doing a great job.

**Attorney Trapp** bankruptcy notices.

**Trustee Casell** – a concerned citizen asked to change the way absences are recorded in the minutes. I would like it stopped. Trustee Refermat – I agree.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Refermat, to no longer reflect in the minutes, the absence in column form. Ayes - Becker, Refermat and Casell, Nay – Prucnal and Kibbe. Mayor Prucnal – only two meetings a month. Taxpayers are paying for you to be here. If there is not a quorum, no business can be addressed. Trustee Casell – can we request a structural study of the bandstand? NYS architect or engineer?

Superintendent Fleck will check with engineers.

**Mayor Prucnal** – our NYS Assemblyman Mike Norris's area has been redistricted. Our new Assemblyman is now David DiPeitro

**Clerk Galbraith** – election March 19, 1 four-year term for Mayor, all positions are being challenged. Budget work sessions Feb. 20, 6 pm. Water bills are due 2/28.

#### **UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:**

Motion by Trustee Refermat, seconded by Trustee Becker, to enter into an Executive Session 7:59 p.m., to discuss personnel. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

Motion by Trustee Refermat, seconded by Trustee Becker, to exit the Executive Session at 8:10 pm., and return to the regular meeting. On the question – 5 ayes, carried.

Motion by Trustee Becker, seconded by Trustee Refermat, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:14 p.m., with a moment of silence for Dennis M. McCarthy and Catherine “Corky” Boling. On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

I respectfully submit.

Sue Galbraith,  
Village Clerk