

Approved BOARD MINUTES March 26, 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 and Refermat, CEO Czechowski, Clerk Galbraith, Attorney Trapp, Superintendent Fleck, Ralph Airey, Tim Renaud, General Crew Chief, Patrick Cavanaugh, Dick Kegler, Randy and Debra Crist and Brenda Cieszki.

Absent: Trustee Becker

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell, to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024, meeting. On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Casell to approve payment bills on abstract dated March 26, 2024.

Payroll	\$53,141.08
Abstract	\$22,902.31

On the question - no comment 4 ayes, carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Notice of nonrenewal of insurance from Trident. Request from Arc of Erie County for support of their project on Slade Dr. Notice from Modern Disposal – recycling going up again to \$93.50/ton. Resignation from David Metz from the OEM position. Information concerning 2 seminars from Chris Trapp- village dissolution and design for public infrastructure. Resume from Herb Schmidt. NYS – NYCOM – budget update, unemployment information, information on disability resources. State Comptroller – fiscal stress score is 0, no designation. Town of Alden agenda and Association of Erie County sales tax remittance.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to file as received all correspondence. On the question - no comment 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Kibbe to enter into Public Hearing #1, 7:35 pm, Garbage/Refuse increase from \$260.00, to \$275.00/per unit.

Dick Kegler – Mechanic St.- did we order a new garbage packer? Mayor Prucnal – yes, we are paying for it through a 5-year BAN. Lower interest rate and saved money by ordering it when we did. We do not have \$350,000 in reserves and we need to save the reserve money if we go to totes.

Dick Kegler – previous budgets a lot of money to repair the trucks, one is usually out of service for repair.

The packers are not made for bulk trash pick-up. Not made to pack that kind of material – used to use a dump truck & high lift for the big stuff – mattress & couches, etc. repairs always after junk day. Mayor Prucnal – at one point the hydraulic unit went and as the vehicles get older, parts are harder to find.

MOTION by Trustee Casell seconded by Trustee Kibbe to close Public Hearing #1, 7:40

MOTION by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Casell, to enter into Public Hearing #2, 7:40 to adopt the following rate changes, reflected in the August billing: Water charge within village-increase from \$7.40 per thousand to \$7.55 per thousand .

Water charges outside villages increased from \$11.10 per thousand to \$11.33 per Thousand.

Water Capital charge increase from \$27 to \$37

Sewer charge within the village increase from \$9.30 per thousand to \$11.35 per thousand.

Sewer charge outside of village increase from \$13.95 per thousand to \$17.03 per thousand.

Sewer Capital charge increased from \$30 to \$37.

Dick Kegler – in 2023-2024 budgeted \$70,000 for ECWA purchases, This year \$30,000. Superintendent Fleck – Well one off-line for 10 years, now repaired and it is our largest producing well. Trustee Casell – need to purchase a minimum amount from ECWA. Kegler – in 24-25 used \$14,000 for sewer and \$28,000 in sewer for fund balance, last year was \$147,000 and \$181,000, why so much of a difference? Mayor Prucnal – do not want to use all the fund balance. Underfunded the enterprise funds for years. Need to raise cap and O&M fees, just to cover the debt payments.

Tim Renaud- Willow Woods – why increase so much? 18% this year and 8% last year. These are crazy increases – next year the same? Mayor Prucnal – we need to charge enough to cover the debt. This should take care of it for a while. Renaud – no upgrades? Trustee Casell – we sealed the sewer pipes, grants are not always matching, have to produce money to pay what they don't. Superintendent Fleck – We cannot turn our service over to ECWA without upgrades costing \$4-\$6million. Our whole budget is \$2 Million. We do need to make repairs to the infrastructure, costly, not visible and doing it the cheapest way possible while still providing a service. The cost of all this is only spread to our users. Renaud – I go through a hot water tank every 3 years. Superintendent Fleck – we have to follow regulations. Amherst had an 18% tax increase. Kegler – is the sewer lining complete? Superintendent Fleck – nearly complete, grant money was used. Kegler – 1 million gallons of water treated, 10 million gallons of sewer. Superintendent Fleck – I&I, reporting to DEC, closely monitored and that ratio is shrinking. Trustee Casell – used to be 4-5x as much but now closer to double. Down spouts are going to sewer. Kegler – needs to educate residents and explain the cost associated with it. Randy Crist – lining for sewer lines, how are the water lines? Superintendent Fleck – currently checking for lead, report needs to be finished by October, have to put out money to accompany grant award. Debra Crist – ECWA purchase? Mayor Prucnal –it is pumped into the holding tank on Maple Ridge when needed. Exchange St. residents get a mix of Erie County & village water. Superintendent Fleck – need to maintain tank level, we buy the minimum now. Well 1 is a good producer Kegler – Slade Dr. purchases water. Do they pay for sewer? I use 6,000 gallons to water my yard and pay sewer on it. Mayor Prucnal – they pay 1 ½ the regular rate for municipal projects, used for dust control. We no longer fill pools.

MOTION by Trustee Casell seconded by Trustee Refermat to close Public Hearing #2, 7:55

MOTION by Trustee Refermat seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to enter into Public Hearing #3, 7:55

The Public Hearing will consist of the General, Water, Sewer, Garbage and Ambulance Fund budgets. Kegler – Engineering budget line A1440.450 , what s CMOM? Mayor Prucnal – it is a report required by the DEC 6 years ago. Thanks to Superintendent Fleck assistance, he is working with the engineer, which saved us \$20,000. Trustee Casell – it is a sewer master plan. Kegler – increase in building computer – Trustee Casell – replacing computer infrastructure and back up. Kegler – safety/building dept. increase in salary – no money for that in this year's budget. Also increased the amount for salaries. Trustee Casell – paid through fees from work. Accounts for CEO's raise and Assistant CEO's salary. Kegler – sidewalk maintenance - \$132,000 for sidewalk plow. Superintendent Fleck – one is not useable, and it is coming out of reserves, so no increase in tax. Kegler – blower not deigned to push, mention to drivers. Kegler = Planning is up \$30,000 – CEO Czechowski – we received a \$30,000 grant. Kegler – court expenditures \$40,000 budget revenues \$15,000, that is a \$100,000 loss in the courts over 4 years. That is a lot of money, how long are we putting up with this? Attorney Trapp – fines are lower than any county in WNY. Trustee Casell – ambulance loses money. The courts f they go to town, the town gets the money. Attorney Trapp – town chares village and take the fines now that it is a class B town Trustee Refermat – why are fines less? Attorney Trapp – judge sets and makes recommendations for fees. Kegler – I liked the way attendance was reported in February in the minutes, I cannot believe you voted to go back. That is why you were elected, if the board members are not at a meeting, they do not get paid.

MOTION by Trustee Casell seconded by Trustee Kibbe to close Public Hearing #3, 8:12

Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for March 26, 2024

MOTOIN by Casell and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to approve the appointment of Herb Schmidt to the Planning Board, term to expire 3/31/2030. On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Refermat and seconded by Trustee Casell, to adopt the 2024-2025 village budget at a tax rate of \$7.330583 per thousand.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Becker – absent

Trustee Kibbe – aye

Trustee Refermat – aye

Trustee Casell - aye

Mayor Prucnal – aye On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Reformat and seconded by Trustee Kibbe, to adopt the following rate changes:
Water charge within village-increase from \$7.40 per thousand to \$7.55 per thousand .
Water charges outside village-increase from \$11.10 per thousand to \$11.33 per Thousand.
Water Capital charge increase from \$27 to \$37
Sewer charge within the village increase from \$9.30 per thousand to \$11.35 per thousand.
Sewer charge outside of village increase from \$13.95 per thousand to \$17.03 per thousand.
The Sewer Capital charge increases from \$30 to \$37.
Roll Call Vote: Trustee Becker – absent
Trustee Kibbe – aye
Trustee Reformat – aye
Trustee Casell - aye
Mayor Prucnal – aye On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell, to adopt the following rate change:
Garbage/Refuse increase from \$260.00, to \$275.00/per unit.
Roll Call Vote: Trustee Becker – absent
Trustee Kibbe – aye
Trustee Reformat – aye
Trustee Casell - aye
Mayor Prucnal – aye On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Reformat, to approve the following company to perform electrical inspections in the Village of Alden for the period January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, as per submitted application:

- Atlantic-Inland Inc. On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell, to accept with regret the resignation of Dave Metz from the OEM (Office of Emergency Management) position On the question – no comment. 4 ayes, Carried.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT

Superintendent of Public Works Fleck – completed LED Lighting, Waer line flushing will begin. Back to one day garbage and recycling on Wednesday. Parking ban ends April 1.

Clerk Galbraith – renewing banners now. Thank you to Mayor Prucnal and Trustee Kibbe for their service to the village. You will be missed. Congratulations to Trustee Casell on another 4-year term and welcome Mayor elect Retzlaff and new Trustee Cieszki. We have eclipse glasses in our office, from Legislator Todaro.

CEO Czechowski- received 3 bids for the Comprehensive Plan. Will work with Attorney Trapp on a contract. Should take a year from start to finish.

Attorney Trapp – will file Local Law #1 with the state. The Legislation concerning windmills was affecting all towns and now villages.

Trustee Kibbe – strongly encourage capital plan – equipment & deficiencies, accrue & replenish reserves.

Trustee Reformat April is coming, need employee evaluations in. Thank you, Loren and Theron, welcome Mike, and Brenda.

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

Motion by Trustee Casell, seconded by Trustee Reformat, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. with a moment of silence for Sylvia Nevin and Elaine Covers (Mayor Prucnal’s mother-in-law). On the question - no comment 4 ayes, carried.

I respectfully submit,
Sue Galbraith, Village Clerk