

**Approved BOARD MINUTES August 27, 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 6:30 pm by Mayor Retzlaff, who led the pledge to the flag.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Retzlaff, Trustees: Cieszki, Becker, Casell and Refermat, Attorney Trapp  
Clerk/Treasurer Galbraith, Deputy Attorney Joseph Greco-Trapp, and Assistant CEO Twaragowski.  
**Absent:** CEO Czechowski and Superintendent Fleck

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2024, meeting. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker and seconded by Cieszki, to approve payment of bills on abstract dated August 27, 2024.

Payroll \$47,906.60

Abstract \$38,782.02

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

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell, seconded by Trustee Refermat, to approve and file the monthly reports as submitted and reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

Planning Board minutes

On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Casell, to file the following correspondence:

Notification: concerning Pump Station Rehabilitation. Cost is \$2.7 million. WIIA grant application has been submitted, waiting on results, if approved would cover 25% of the cost. Municipal Solutions recommends we get an RFP for engineering. They would then recommend we submit for a 50% interest rate subsidies loan for the \$2.2 million we would then need to borrow. Trustee Casell – have we applied for any grants? Mayor Retzlaff -Municipal Solutions does that for us. Will talk to Phil.

Mayor Retzlaff has a meeting on Sept. 18 from 2-3:30 with NYSEG to discuss increased electric bills. He will call the NYS Public Service Commission.

Complaint from an Emerson St. resident who expressed concerns that we do not care and doing nothing about the unlicensed minibikes on the sidewalks and street at all hours and the noise they produce. Law enforcement has spoken to the parents, but it has not improved. If noise ordinance, would need training for CEO Dept. If they are on the streets, can make civil penalty. Would need witnesses to come forward, then law enforcement can write a citation. Could charge parents with violation: fine of \$250 or 15 days in jail for breaking peace and good order.

**MOTION** by Trustee Becker, seconded by Trustee Refermat, to open the Public Hearing at 6:35PM for Code changes to Chapter 200 of Village Code – Vehicle & Traffic On the question - no comment 5 ayes, carried.

Proposed Changes:

- Remove current parking restrictions on the north side of Broadway in front of Alden State Bank property.
- Add prohibited parking restrictions on the north side of Broadway in front of Alden State Bank property.
- Remove current parking restrictions on Railroad Street.
- Add prohibited parking restrictions for both sides of Railroad Street, entire length.
- Add parking restrictions on both sides of Baxter Avenue at Crittenden Road to match the current restriction on Mercer at Crittenden and Park at Crittenden.

The board would like to see the state paint the arrows back in between the medians. Trustee Cieszki – this has ben an issue for years, people do not understand the traffic pattern. Suggest someone draft an article explaining it. Mayor will contact NYSDOT, as Broadway is a state road. Suggested that there be a stop sign placed at the banks egress.

Trustee Becker suggested Railroad go to no parking 7 am – 5 pm, weekdays on north side. The board would like to review the parking proposed for Railroad and Broadway. There will be a Work Session on Tuesday September 3 at 5pm . meeting at the bank. No public comment. On the question - 5 ayes, carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to close the public hearing 6:40 pm.

**Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for August 27, 2024**

MOTION by Trustee Reformat and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve Alden Hook & Ladder Fire Company's request to hold a chicken BBQ, in the Firemen's Memorial Bandstand Park on Sunday September 8, 2024, and a sign in the park from August 30- Sept. 9, 2024. .  
Ayes – Becker, Cieszki, Reformat and Retzlaff, opposed Casell. 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_, to approve Alden Central School's request to place one sign in Firemen's Memorial Bandstand Park from May 12-20, 2025. This is to advertise the annual budget vote and elections.  
Motion dies on the table due to lack of second.

MOTION by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_, to approve Alden Central School's request to place one sign in Firemen's Memorial Bandstand Park from November 7-16, 2024. This is to advertise their vendor fair by the PTO. Motion dies on the table due to lack of second.  
On the question: some of the Trustees feel it clutters the beauty of the park, by putting signs in it. It is suggested we offer from now on to put the information on the digital sign in front of the Municipal Hall instead of approving large signs in the park. Trustee Casell – beautiful park, should split any motion into two: requesting use of park and placement of sign.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve the Mobile Home Park License for the period of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025, for Alden MHC LLC, 13535 Broadway, with the following conditions:

- 1) Drainage work at 1322 East Drive, 1309 Village Park Drive, 1327 Village Park Drive and 1308 Amber Drive must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 2) Replacement of the storm grate/road gutter at 1459 Holly Lane must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 3) Drainage work at 1367 and 1353 East Drive must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 4) Drainage work at 1486 Chestnut Street must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 5) Electrical panel work at 1444 Chestnut Street must be completed by October 18, 2024.

The Village of Alden will perform inspections as necessary to determine completion of the above items. Failure to complete said items within the required timeframes may affect the status of the Mobile Home Park License. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve the Mobile Home Park License for the period of September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025, for Bayview of Alden, 13391 Broadway, with the following conditions:

- 1) Potholes/patching/paving work must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 2) Skirting and house numbering work must be completed by October 18, 2024.
- 3) Remove debris on vacant lots and re-grade/seed all disturbed areas by October 18, 2024.

The Village of Alden will perform inspections as necessary to determine completion of the above items. Failure to complete said items within the required timeframes may affect the status of the Mobile Home Park License. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to adopt Local Law #3-2024, as modified, for revisions to the Code of the Village of Alden Chapter 210, Zoning. On the question – Trustee Casell – would like the code description changed to allow houses to be built at less than 1,000 sq. ft. Fells it is discriminative, does not agree with increased sq. ft. 4 ayes-Becker, Cieszki, Retzlaff and Reformat, 1 nay - Casell, carried.

MOTION by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by Trustee \_\_\_\_\_, to adopt Local Law #4-2024, for revisions to the Code of the Village of Alden Chapter 200, Vehicles and Traffic.  
This motion has been tabled, until more information is available.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve the following:  
**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A GENERAL FUND BUDGET TRANSFER**

**WHEREAS**, the air conditioning unit at the Village of Alden DPW Building has ceased working, and

**WHEREAS** this unit needed emergency replacement, but funds were not included in the 2024-2025 General Fund budget for this expense, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Village Clerk/Treasurer is hereby directed to transfer \$13,251.00 from Appropriation Account A1990.4 Contingency Account to Appropriation Account A1640.208 Equipment-A/C unit in the 2024-2025 General Fund budget. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve the following:

**RESOLUTION TO AMEND 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Alden has received funds from the American Rescue Plan, and

**WHEREAS** there were unspent funds of \$15,497.90 remaining on May 31, 2024, and

**WHEREAS** the Village wishes to use those funds to complete a water improvement project, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the Village Clerk/Treasurer is hereby directed to amend the 2024-2025 General Fund budget as follows:

Increase Revenue account A4089 – Federal Aid in the amount of \$15,497.90 and

Increase Appropriation account A9950.9 – Transfer to Capital Projects in the amount of \$15,497.90. On the question – no comment, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve the MOA between the Village of Alden and the Alden Central School District to provide for the services of a crossing guard at the intersection of Crittenden Road and Park Street in the Village for the 2024-2025 academic year. Average 3.25/hours daily for maximum 180-days, cost not \$14,650.00.

Roll call vote: Trustee Becker – aye  
Trustee Cieszki – aye  
Mayor Retzlaff – aye  
Trustee Refermat – nay  
Trustee Casell – aye 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve the MOA between the Village of Alden and the and Teamsters Local 264 to temporarily modify Section 20.6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by providing that the Village will provide and pay for the cost of the required Department of Transportation physical examination, as required by civil service job classification, or with the recommendation by the Superintendent of Public Works, and Village Board Approval. MOA to expire May 31, 2027.

Roll call vote: Trustee Becker – aye  
Trustee Cieszki – aye  
Mayor Retzlaff – aye  
Trustee Refermat – nay  
Trustee Casell – aye 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Becker and seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to approve the MOA between the Village of Alden, Teamsters Local 264, and Daniel P. Czelusta, Sr. water / sewer operator, to return to work effective Wednesday, August 28, 2024, under light duty, until such time as Mr. Czelusta can return to full duty. And the parties agree that the allowance for such light duty shall not constitute a precedence in the Village and same shall not be used in any tribunal or in any circumstance in the future with respect to an employee seeking to work a light duty schedule or position. On the question: Mayor Retzlaff spoke with the union, and they understand this is a unique circumstance.

Roll call vote: Trustee Becker – aye  
Trustee Cieszki – aye  
Mayor Retzlaff – aye  
Trustee Refermat – nay  
Trustee Casell – aye 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Reformat and seconded by Trustee Becker, to approve Mayor Retzlaff's signature on the Managed Services Agreement between the Village of Alden and Technet MSP with regards to computer, network, and internet support services to the Village of Alden, for the 2024-2025 budget year. On the question: Mayor Retzlaff – the bill is higher because we have more computers than originally thought. 5 ayes, carried.

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

none

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Galbraith – new Deputy Clerk working out well. Bulk trash is Sept. 30

Attorney Trapp – the sign code refers to the form and requirements. Trustee Casell – it is a beautiful park.

**UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Reformat seconded by Trustee Casell, to exit the regular meeting and enter into an Executive Session at 7:34 p.m., On the question: 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Reformat seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:54 p.m., On the question: 5 ayes, Carried.

Motion by Trustee Reformat seconded by Trustee Cieszki, to adjourn the regular meeting 7:55 p.m., On the question: 5 ayes, Carried.

I respectfully submit,

Sue Galbraith,  
Village Clerk