

Approved Minutes 10/28/2025

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting was called to session by Mayor Retzlaff leading the pledge to the flag at 6:30am.

In Attendance: Mayor Retzlaff, CEO Czechowski, Superintendent of Public Works Czelusta, Crew Chief Cavanaugh, Village Clerk Kaluzny, Trustee's: Cieszki, Kibbe, & Casell, Village Attorney Trapp.

Absent: Trustee Prucnal

MOTION by Trustee **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting dated 10/14/2025. On the question, Trustee Casell would like the word "concealed" changed in the previous meeting minutes to containers. 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee **Cieszki** and seconded by Trustee **Casell** to approve the bills on abstract dated 10/14/2025 totaling \$59,276.78. On the question, 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee **Casell** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to approve the monthly reports including The Public works report from September 2025 and The Fire/EMS calls for payroll # 22. On the question, 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Casell** to approve Payroll #22 totaling \$51,687.06. On the question, 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee **Casell** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to enter the Public Hearing regarding Local Law #4 at 6:35pm. On the question, 4 ayes, carried.

CEO Czechowski-Local Law #4 is to modify the Village Code and update the parking signs on Arlington, Colonial Woods, Elm, Kellogg, Lafayette, Mechanic and Mt Vernon.

Kyle Cavanaugh inquired about the type of parking modifications. CEO Czechowski advised that it is to keep vehicles further away from the intersections for safety reasons.

MOTION by Trustee **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to return to the regularly scheduled board meeting at 6:38pm.

MOTION by Trustee **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to approve Local Law #4-2025 regarding modifications to Chapter 200, Vehicles and Traffic, regarding no parking areas within the Village.

MOTION by Trustee **Casell** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to authorize Mayor Retzlaff to submit the following projects for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Application.

- Kellogg Street: Milling and Paving
- Kellogg Street: Sidewalk (Re-Engineer) Replacement
- Slade Drive (Old Section) Milling & Paving
- South Westcott Ave: Milling & Paving
- Rusher Drive: TENTATIVE: Milling & Paving

All estimates include material and engineering and will exclude Village labor costs.

On the question, Trustee Casell inquired whether the Village can apply for all projects or if we have to have a narrowed down list. Collectively, the Board and Superintendent Czelusta numbers the proposed projects in priority order resulting in Kellogg St milling and paving being priority #1, Slade Dr. milling and paving #2, and South Westcott milling and paving being #3. Kellogg street does need to be done, but will require re-engineering. With South Westcott, there are plowing issues at the end of the road where the last residence is. During snow removal season, the last residence driveway becomes a safety issue as there is nowhere for the plow to turn around and the pile builds up there. Superintendent Czelusta will meet with the Engineers to discuss the potential of extending that section of road to allow for a turn around point. 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee and seconded by Trustee to approve A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY'S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R. 3699, S. 1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS-**Tabled until next meeting**

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)**, which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the **Energy Choice Act (H.R. 3699, S. 1945)**, federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an “all-of-the-above” energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Alden Board of Trustees strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R. 3699) and Senator Justice (S. 1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State’s natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Alden Board of Trustees urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Kibbe:

Trustee Cieszki:

Trustee Prucnal:

Trustee Casell:

Mayor Retzlaff:

Business from the floor: Mr. Doug Becker advised the Board that his water bill is excessively high and wondering if it was a bad read. He indicated he was out of town for a duration during the quarter. He would also like to know why he is charged double for O&M and Capital charges when the restaurant (Whistle Stop) is no longer in use. Mayor Retzlaff advised that we would look into it and get back to him.

Reports from Committees/Departments/Trustee’s-CEO Czechowski will be looking into getting estimates for the Clerk’s window and potentially the court Clerk’s window. Crew Chief Cavanaugh will be looking into getting key fobs installed in Village Hall to tighten security and ensure doors remain locked at all times to the office’s.

Trustee Casell-noticed in the communications that there will be a CPR class held coming up in December and would like to be added to the list of attendees.

Mayor Retzlaff-would like to know if we can include Narcan training within that CPR class? CEO Czechowski believes that shouldn’t be a problem to have that minimal addition.

For the record, Mayor Retzlaff-we will not be having a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on 11/11/2025 due to Veteran’s day. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 11/25/2025.

MOTION by Trustee **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to approve Robert Owens as a member of the Fire Department with the provisions that he passes his background check and drug screen. 4 Ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee **Cieszki** and seconded by Trustee **Kibbe** to adjourn the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 7:10pm. 4 Ayes, carried.