

Village of Alden

Board Meeting 1/27/2026

Approved Minutes

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting was called to order by Mayor Retzlaff leading the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm.

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

Residents: Susan Bolis, Bonnie Hy, Doug Becker, Louis Backlas, Michelle Backlas, Mary Yoder, Marlene Roll

MOTION by Trustee: **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee **Cieszki** to approve the minutes from the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting January 13, 2026. On the question, Trustee Casell abstain, 4 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee: **Casell** and seconded by Trustee **Prucnal** to approve the bills on abstract # 16 totaling \$36,797.35. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee: **Cieszki** and seconded by Trustee **Kibbe** to approve the monthly reports consisting of the DPW December Report as well as the Fire/First Aid calls associated with Payroll # 1. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee: **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee: **Prucnal** to approve Payroll # 1 totaling \$54,328.20. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee: **Kibbe** and seconded by Trustee: **Casell** to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation for an extension of the deadline for completion of the conditional items for the previously approved Mobile Home Park License for Alden MHC LLC, 13535 Broadway, as follows:

- 1) Drainage work at 1322 East Drive, 1309 Village Park Drive, 1327 Village Park Drive and 1308 Amber Drive must be completed by July 31, 2026.

Note: 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.

The extension is necessary and the complexity of finishing these items will require additional engineering to resolve the drainage issues.

MOTION by Trustee: **Cieszki** seconded by Trustee: **Casell** to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to approve the Alden Community Scholarship Foundation's Annual 5k Race on Thursday, June 4, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30pm (Race starts at 6:00pm), and to authorize them to utilize Village Streets as designated on the official map outlining the racecourse. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: The Village DPW, Fire Department, Erie County Sheriff's and NYS Police to be notified of race date, time, and course.

MOTION by Trustee: **Prucnal** seconded by Trustee: **Kibbe** to authorize Mayor Retzlaff to sign the Memo of Agreement between the Western New York Stormwater Coalition and the Village of Alden for a period of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee: **Casell** seconded by Trustee: **Prucnal** to approve DPW Superintendent Czelusta's recommendation to switch from 3G style residential water meters, to the new Allegro style water meters moving forward, as needed for new installs / replacements. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: The price is comparable and is a budgeted item.

MOTION by Trustee **Cieszki** and seconded by Trustee **Casell** to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to authorize Alan Hake, DPW Laborer to use up to three sick days from his pending sick day allotment.

Note: Mr. Hake will be required to repay all sick days used if he leaves his employment at the Village prior to the end of his probationary period. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Business from the floor: Bonnie Hy addressed the Board with her concerns over the noise and increased traffic created with the Rodeo that takes place in the summer at the corner of Broadway and Sullivan.

Susan Bolis addressed her concern that the appearance of the Rodeo could cause decreases in value for nearby homes.

Ms. Hy then expressed they not only does the rodeo take place on Saturday, but last summer, there were also events taking place on Sundays.

Trustee Kibbe inquired as to what was taking place on Sundays, whether it's every Sunday, and when this began.

Louis Backles-runs/organizes the rodeo. He did share that they had some trainings on Sundays last year, but it was not every Sunday. There was no livestock on Sundays. He then shared that they plan to operate on a reduced schedule this year. They plan to hold the event in June, take July off, and then run August through Labor day. He does not feel that there is a traffic concern. There is often a police presence to assist with trailers and traffic pulling out at the end of the event so that there is no safety issue.

Trustee Casell suggested the board take the letters and thoughts and form some sort of even committee with parties on both sides.

Mayor Retzlaff asked CEO Czechowski when the planning for this event usually takes place in the way of permitting. CEO Czechowski responded that he usually sends out the information mid February.

Trustee Cieszki advised that the Board was not aware of the residents' concerns prior to today.

Ms. Bolis suggested people who don't pay taxes should not have access to hold this event just because it is a prime location.

Doug Becker addressed the Board regarding his double water charge. He has attended previous Board Meetings and raised concern that he is paying a double water fee for a restaurant that is no longer in business. Mayor Retzlaff asked whether that building is ever used for food prep, dishes,

or anything else. Mr. Becker responded in saying that any time he does have a catering event, he preps and cleans everyone onsite, usually at a firehall. Trustee Casell indicated that we do owe Mr. Becker an answer as he has been asking the question since the last billing cycle. Mr. Becker then shared his kudos to the Department of Public Works with the latest winter storms and the snow removal efforts. Mayor Retzlaff addressed Mr. Becker in saying the Board would have an answer regarding his double water fee's at the next board meeting.

Reports from Committees:

Superintendent Czelusta wanted to remind residents not to blow snow into the roads and to clear snow around any hydrants. Also, please do not ride snowmobiles on sidewalks.

Trustee Kibbe-Also recognizing the Department of Public Works for a job well done with the snow cleanup.

Trustee Prucnal-Great job DPW

Trustee Casell-Great job DPW. Also, prior to organizing a meeting regarding the rodeo, he would appreciate a look at all supporting documentation regarding the event.

MOTION by Trustee **Ciezski** and seconded by Trustee **Kibbe** to adjourn the regularly schedule Board Meeting and enter into Executive Session at 6:53pm.

MOTION by Trustee **Casell** and seconded by Trustee **Prucnal** to exit the Executive Session at 7:50pm.