

Village Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

APPROVED 6:30PM

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mayor Retzlaff who led the pledge of allegiance.

Attendees: Mayor Retzlaff, Trustees: Cieszki, Prucnal, Kibbe, & Casell, Crew Chief Cavanaugh, Village Clerk Kaluzny, Village Treasurer Melock, Superintendent of Public Works Czelusta, Residents: Marlene Roll, Doug Becker, Margaret Jean Rose, Dick Kegler, Fred Mitchell, Kevin Wilson, Mary Yoder, Lindsay Saunders, Hal McWilliams

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Cieszki to approve the minutes from Board Meeting dated 3/10/2026. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to approve the bills on abstract # 20 dated 3/24/2026. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by and seconded by Trustee to approve the DPW monthly report for February 2026. Motion dies due to incorrect information listed on the report.

MOTION by Trustee Cieszki and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to approve Payroll # 5 totaling \$51,208.47. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to authorize the Village Treasurer to increase the following equipment reserves based upon funds received from auctioning surplus equipment: On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

- DPW equipment reserve (Refuse/Garbage): Account: CL230 \$22,190.00
 1. Sale of 2012 Freightliner Packer: \$ 17,670.00
 2. Sale of 2024 Autocar Packer: \$4,520.00
- Emergency Equipment Reserve: Account: A231 \$4,520.00
 1. Sale of 1997 KME Pumper Fire Truck: \$4,520.00
- DPW Equipment Reserve (General): Account: A230 \$6,570.00
 1. Sale of Sterling Condor Vac/All Street Cleaner: \$6,570.00

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Cieszki to authorize Mayor Retzlaff to sign the MS4 Annual Report and Interim Progress report Certification. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Kibbe and seconded by Trustee Casell to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to authorize the Kiwanis Club of Alden to host their annual Duck Race on

Saturday May 2nd to be held at Well Site #1 located on Crittenden Rd. Flood date is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: Insurance is on file with the Clerk's office.

MOTION by Trustee Cieszki and seconded by Trustee Casell to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to extend the appointment of Ashley Kaluzny, Village Clerk / Deputy Treasurer to April 11, 2028. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: Previous appointment was set to expire March 31, 2026.

MOTION by Trustee Casell and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to authorize Superintendent of Public Works, Dan Czelusta to attend the 2026 Stormwater conference & Tradeshow to be held on March 31, 2026 at the Buffalo Convention Center at a cost of \$135.00. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: This is budgeted training.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Kibbe to approve Mayor Retzlaff's recommendation to adopt the "Guidelines for Public Comment" to the Board of Trustees. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Note: These guidelines are based upon NYCOM Handbook for Village Officials (2025): Section 5.7- Guidelines for Public Comment.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Casell to enter into the Public Hearing at 6:35pm regarding Local Law #1-2026 to authorize the 2026 property tax levy in excess of the limit established under General Municipal Law second 3-C.

Barry Horton requested an explanation regarding what services would be cut in order to maintain the 2% tax increase.

Trustee Casell indicated that the least priority services would be cut such as street repair, summer help etc.

Mayor Retzlaff-Covid caused everything to increase in pricing. He explained how the Village saves money on purchasing used equipment as opposed to new and how the Village applies for grants to cover costs of major projects.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Kibbe to return to the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 6:40pm. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

MOTION by Trustee Cieszki and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to approve the proposed site plan changes by The ARC of Erie County for a greenhouse addition 151 Slade Drive, submitted on February 5, 2026, with the following conditions: On the question, Trustee Casell advised the public the change in site plans was relating to the greenhouse proposal only. 5 ayes, carried.

- 1) All existing service connections for the previously approved art & craft building must be removed to the satisfaction of the Village of Alden.
- 2) A backflow device, acceptable to the Village of Alden, shall be installed as required in the Storage Building.
- 3) Before flushing the greenhouse wastewater discharge system into the Village sewer system, the property owner must ensure the Village of Alden is notified and the discharge is coordinated to take place during non-peak hours.
- 4) Grant a parking waiver, as data has been submitted showing there are already 10 off-street parking spaces provided, compliant with Village Code, to support the vehicles needed for operation of the Storage/Office/Greenhouse facilities.

MOTION by Trustee Prucnal and seconded by Trustee Casell to adopt Local Law #1-2026: Authorizing the 2026 property tax levy in excess of the limit established under General Municipal Law section 3-C. On the question, 5 ayes, carried.

Business from the Floor: Mr Becker inquired as to why the Board never discusses dollar amounts or percentages. The posting on facebook regarding the public hearing never indicated 2%. When there is any discussion surrounding new positions, the rate of pay is never discussed with the public, it is always a reference to the union contract.

Attorney Trapp advised that with respect to the tax cap increase, you don't always know the percentage needed at the time of the Public Hearing.

Mr. Kegler wanted to address the "rules and regulations" that were set forth in regards to public speaking at Board Meetings and Public Hearings. He received a revised list of the "rules". He would like to know if the Board is able to impose a this list of "rules". Attorney Trapp advised that they are in fact legally able to enforce any regulations in the way of public speaking as the Board would like.

Mr. Becker-Inquired as to whether the communications are ever going to be read at Board Meetings. Mayor Retzlaff indicated that they are discussed during the work session which is also open to the Public.

CEO Czechowski-Burn ban is in effect until 5/14/26, though there is a no burn policy in the Village.

Treasurer Naumovski-Budget prep is underway.

Trustee Prucnal-attended the NEST meeting-Erie County is selling rain barrels. There is now a ban on Styrofoam coolers, as well as a ban on the mini bottles of soaps and shampoos in hotels.

Trustee Casell-will be attending the Association of Erie County Government meeting next Thursday.

MOTION by Trustee Cieszki and seconded by Trustee Prucnal to enter into Executive Session regarding possible Litigation at 6:55pm.

MOTION by Trustee Cieszki and seconded by Trustee Casell to adjourn from the regular Board meeting at 7:34pm.

I respectfully submit,

Ashley Kaluzny

Village Clerk