

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 5, 2010

Mayor James M. Gaughan
Trustee William F. Aylward
Trustee Kerry Dineen
Trustee Christine Marshall, Absent
Trustee Dean Whalen

Michael Moore, Legal Council
Patty Blackwood, Clerk
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer
Donald Cropsey, Jr., Building Inspector
Timothy McIntyre, Supt. of Public Works
Paul Miller, Chief AFD Guests 12

7:30 p.m.

Mayor Gaughan called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Gaughan reported due to efforts from Village Board, Altamont Free Library and generosity of Key Bank wireless technology will be available in Orsini Park in the spring. Mayor Gaughan thanked Key Bank and Altamont Free Library.

Paul Miller, Chief AFD, reported new American flag for Village Community Room is on order. Altamont Fire Department responded to 96 calls in 2009. Several calls in month of December lasted 4-5 hours. Chief Miller to calculate how many calls in 2009 were inside and outside the Village.

Donald Cropsey, Jr., Building Inspector; reported Planning Board and Zoning Board members attended two-hour educational seminar regarding SEQRA. Mr. Cropsey stated he met with members of SEFCU Bank regarding their outside lighting. SEFCU Bank is looking at a number of different options including going from mercury vapor lighting to high pressure sodium lighting which is softer lighting and SEFCU Bank is possibly going to consider a different lighting fixture. Mr. Cropsey reminded residents to number their homes so that the house number is visible to the fire dept, ambulance service and building inspector.

Anthony Salerno, Commissioner, stated American flag being removed from the Community Room has sentimental value and he requested the flag be hung in police department.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve the Treasure's report; Abstract #14, Abstract #15 and transfer of funds as submitted.

Roll Call: All in favor

Public Comment:

Barbara Quackenbush, Euclid Avenue, reported Altamont Free Library is able to sponsor 5 concerts this summer. The Library received grant of \$1903 from Community Art\$Grant 2010 and \$500 from Village of Altamont. Concerts will start on July 13 and continue weekly through August 10, 2010. Concerts include "Jazz Latino Sextet", "Renee Lussier and Branchwater", "Kim and Reggie Harris", "Fairview Avenue Band" and "John Kirk and Trish Miller". Altamont Free Library did not receive full funding applied for from Community Art\$Grant 2010 for summer concerts and will acquire additional funding through fundraising.

Harvey Vlahos, Main Street, inquired why there were five Altamont Police officers at the most recent Village of Altamont election. Mr. Vlahos stated he was given the reason of public safety. Mr. Vlahos stated the recent school board election held in the Village did not have any police officers and Town of Guilderland election had one police officer after 3:00 p.m. Mr. Vlahos stated police department seems like a political instrument and he would like an explanation as to why there were no police officers at school board election and only one officer at Town of Guilderland election. Mr. Vlahos asked the Board to set a policy of what constitutes, if any, police presence at elections.

Trustee Dineen stated running for her first term as Trustee, over five years ago, there were four officers present at the Village election. Trustee Dineen stated Village Board can take the request for a policy under consideration and make a decision at a later date.

Trustee Aylward recommended Harvey Vlahos address his concerns with Board of Elections in Albany County. Trustee Dineen stated Mr. Vlahos' question was asked and answered one year ago. Trustee Dineen recommended Mr. Vlahos follow Trustee Aylward's suggestion to contact Albany County Board of Elections.

Barbara Quackenbush, Euclid Avenue, stated as former superintendent of schools it is the school board or superintendent that would request police coverage at a school election.

Trustee Aylward stated it is a logistical issue. Town of Guilderland has over 30 election districts and it is illogical to think Town of Guilderland can have police presence when they don't have the logistical strength to do it. Trustee Aylward stated no citizen has ever told him they feel intimidated by the Altamont Police.

Trustee Whalen stated it appears there wasn't a request for police force from the school and Town elections. Trustee Whalen stated he does not want to micromanage the police department.

Commissioner Salerno stated the police dept. would normally monitor the Village election but police presence was requested because of the situation that had escalated with an individual. Commissioner Salerno also stated he informed Albany County Board of Elections regarding incident that occurred. District Attorney's office responded and documented what had occurred and told Commissioner Salerno that Altamont Police Dept. should continue with practices that were being done that day for public safety.

Mayor Gaughan stated he agreed with Trustee Whalen and this would be discussed as we get into the next election. Mayor Gaughan stated that there was a serious incident and police were brought in to escort someone out who was swearing and saying awful things to the poll people. Commissioner Salerno had a responsibility to respond. Mayor Gaughan stated he didn't want it to be thought that there were five police officers present for the entire fifteen hours of the election, as has been claimed. There was a conference that evening that the officers attended at the Village office and police officers stayed to hear the election results. Policy we are following right now is that we respond to requests by appropriate officials. It was in Commissioner Salerno's best judgment, given the situation and the large amount of people coming in the afternoon, to have additional police officers present to avoid further incidents. Mayor Gaughan stated he feels the decision was reasonable and was done in the best interest of public safety.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve adoption of Local Law #2-2009 to provide for the codification of the local laws, ordinances and certain resolutions of the Village of Altamont into a municipal code to be designated the "Code of the Village of Altamont". **Roll Call: All in favor**

Richard Straut, Barton & Loguidice, reported on Sanitary Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration annual SPDES report prepared by Barton & Loguidice.

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve Sanitary Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration annual SPDES report prepared by Barton & Loguidice, P.C. to NYSDEC by January 31, 2010 for regulatory agency review.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve authorization to expend up to \$3,745 to "Virtual Town Hall" for new website for the Village.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve of Board Minutes for December 2009. **All in favor**

Trustee Aylward, Trustee Whalen, and Norman Bauman, Maple Avenue, acknowledged the great success of Altamont Community Tradition's 8th Annual Victorian Holidays held in the Village on December 5-6, 2009.

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.

All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk