

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
February 2, 2016

Mayor James M. Gaughan  
Trustee Kerry Dineen  
Trustee Nicholas Fahrenkopf  
Trustee Christine Marshall, Absent  
Trustee Dean Whalen

Patty Blackwood, Clerk  
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works  
Paul Miller, Altamont Fire Chief  
Todd Pucci, Altamont Police Chief  
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer  
Marijo Dougherty, Archives & Museum, Absent  
Glenn Hebert, Building Inspector, Absent  
Jason Shaw, Legal Counsel, Excused

General Public: 20

Attending: Don Fletcher, Barton & Loguidice

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gaughan called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Paul Miller, Chief Altamont Fire Dept., submitted Chief's report for January and noted the next Town Chief's Commissioner's meeting is at North Bethlehem's Fire Department on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Chief Miller reported the number of calls for the month of January was ten not seven as the report reflected. Copy of Chief's report included with Official Minutes.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, reported the department has received requests for water sample results. The Annual Drinking Water Report is on the Village's website and contains the water sample results for the year. The next annual report will be out May 2016.

Todd Pucci, Chief Altamont Police Dept., reported parking regulations are in effect until April.

Keith Lee, Long Grass Lane, reported the director of the Archives, Marijo Dougherty, is always looking for ways to enhance the history of the Village. A couple of years ago the museum put out an Arcadia book. A concept that is being looked at now is called "Museum in the Streets". It's an idea by a gentleman in Maine and he has offered it to several sites. The idea is to create an outside walking museum where there are panels that would describe a site and would have a central map showing where the different panels are located around the Village. The museum is partnering with the Altamont Free Library and Altamont Community Tradition. The committee met two weeks ago to put together some concepts of where they would like it and how they would put it together. The originating website is [themuseuminthestreets.com](http://themuseuminthestreets.com). Mayor Gaughan stated there may be some local funds devoted to this project and a portion of a grant provided by Assemblywoman Fahy could possibly be a source for this project.

Mayor Gaughan reported Altamont Free Library Gala will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve the Treasurer's report; #16, #17 and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

**Public Comment:**

No comments from the public.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve the following individuals as Election Inspectors for Village Special Election Registration Day, March 5, 2016 and Village Special Election, March 15, 2016; Monica Bush, Patricia Dover, and Deborah Hext at \$12.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve the following resolution: WHEREAS, the next general Village Special Election will be held on March 15, 2016, and WHEREAS, no person shall be entitled to vote at a Village Special Election whose name does not appear on the register, and WHEREAS, Section 15-118(4) of the Election Law requires that every Village hold a Registration Day for each general election. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT; First: The Inspectors of Election shall meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2016 for REGISTRATION Day to prepare register. Second: Such Registration Day will be held at Village Hall from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. Third: Voting for the forthcoming special election shall be conducted at the Village Hall, 115 Main Street, Altamont, NY on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 from 12 noon to 9:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve resignation, with regret, of Jamie Mazuryk, part-time police officer, effective February 1, 2016. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve appointment of Thomas Ross to part-time police officer position, not to exceed 20 hours per week, effective February 10, 2016 at a salary of \$15.00 per hour per recommendation of Chief Todd Pucci. Position is probationary for a period of up to one year. After successful completion of probation, salary will be increased to \$16.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve of Firefighter's Service Award Credits listing per recommendation of Paul Miller, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve of application from Micah Ilowit, Altamont, for Firefighter membership in the Altamont Fire Department per request of Paul Miller, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve request of Paul Miller, Chief, to attend NYS Association of Fire Chief's Conference in Verona, NY on June 17, 2016. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve for Altamont Fire Department to hold or participate in the following events: Annual Fireman's Ball on March 5<sup>th</sup>; Village wide garage sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>; and AFD family picnic on July 16<sup>th</sup>. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve holding Budget Workshops on February 23, March 22, and March 29 (if needed) at 6:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve of Board Minutes for January 5, 2016. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Gaughan reported he met with Supervisor Barber and discussed Mr. Barber's views on the Crouse house property. Mayor Gaughan stated he received an email from Kristen Casey, acting on behalf of a citizen's group, who has expressed interest in preserving the property and the Board has received a report from Barton & Loguidice titled "Structural Assessment Report Crouse House Stabilization".

Don Fletcher, Barton & Loguidice, stated the primary structure is in generally good to poor shape. There are some sections in the back of the house that have collapsed, that the engineers couldn't get to, and that are in poor shape. The engineers took photos that are included in the report. Barton & Loguidice gave two alternatives: 1) Demolition of the Collapsed Structures and Reinforce Primary Residence which would cost approximately \$53,000 or 2) Rebuild Kitchen Structure and Reinforce Primary Residence which would cost approximately \$112,000. For each of the options it doesn't include: interior renovations, finishes to walls and floors, improvements to plumbing, or electrical and mechanical systems. The asbestos abatement is covered in each of the two alternatives. Alternative number two includes everything from alternative number one.

Mayor Gaughan read a summary from the meeting he had with Supervisor Barber and read a letter from Kristen Casey asking the Board if the public could present alternative opportunities for the Crouse house property at future Board meetings. The summary of the meeting with Supervisor Barber is included with Official Minutes.

Trustee Dineen stated the report on the Crouse house solidified things the Board has been discussing. Trustee Dineen stated it's too much money to invest in a house that has been talked about as not being historic. She is not in favor of investing into the house and would like to see if some of the grant money left over could help with the demolition of the house that the Town of Guilderland would be included in.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he echoes what Trustee Dineen has stated. He was hoping the house could be saved but can't see spending at least \$40,000 just to get the building in a position where it's not going to further deteriorate. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he is interested to see what the plans or ideas for potential use of the property are from the Town of Guilderland. He would also like to have the color photos of the Crouse house made available to the public. The black and white photos from 2006 don't do the building justice with how poor the condition of the building is. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he believes everyone agrees that we need to honor and memorialize Dr. Crouse in some way.

Trustee Whalen stated he isn't surprised by the report. It formalizes what he already knew and a lot of people perceived. Trustee Whalen stated he has no interest in getting rid of the property. He believes there is an opportunity to do something with the property as a gateway to the Village with a memorial to Dr. Crouse. Trustee Whalen asked that everyone keep in mind that there will be significant numbers for the demolition hopefully shared by the Town of Guilderland. It won't be as expensive as trying to salvage the house though.

Mayor Gaughan stated the preservation of Dr. Crouse's legacy and the gateway of the Village is most important to him rather than to drive them crazy about saving a building that's in such bad shape. He stated he likes the idea that the Town of Guilderland is going to discuss ways to look at the property for municipal use. The Village Board has no intention at this point to sell the property. Mayor Gaughan stated he is committed to getting community input on the property.

Trustee Fahrenkopf asked Barton & Loguidice if there was a rough idea of how much it will cost to demolish the Crouse House. Don Fletcher, Barton & Loguidice, stated he would check into the cost to demolish the house.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, stated the frame on the Crouse house is worth some money. There are companies that come in and take buildings apart and take the beams and relocate them and make homes out of them. The demolition cost could be offset by possibly having a company come in and buy the lumber. Mr. Moller will do research on the companies.

Kate Provencher, Thatcher Drive, inquired if the property is owned by both the Village and the Town equally. Ms. Provencher asked if there was any possibility of annexing the property into the Village. Mayor Gaughan stated the property would need to be contiguous to the Village in order to be able to be annexed into the Village. The Crouse house property is not contiguous to the Village.

Joe Dover, Maple Avenue, stated he is glad to see the Village isn't going to be spending money on the Crouse house.

Laura Shore, Knowersville, stated it makes sense to take down the Crouse house and is relieved the property won't become commercial.

Dave Beneke, Knowersville, stated he recognizes the house shouldn't be there anymore and would like the property to be kept to honor Dr. Crouse.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to agree to not pursue the restoration or stabilization of the Crouse house and recommend future discussions with the Town of Guilderland for a use for both Altamont and Guilderland's citizens as a use that will honor the Crouse memory. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.  
**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk