

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 7, 2017

Mayor James M. Gaughan
Trustee Kerry Dineen
Trustee Nicholas Fahrenkopf
Trustee Madeline LaMountain
Trustee Dean Whalen

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

General Public: 19

7:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Gaughan reported Village election for new officials will be on March 21st from noon to 9:00 p.m. March 11th is Voter Registration Day at the Village office for those not registered to vote in the upcoming election.

Paul Miller, Chief Altamont Fire Dept., submitted Chief's report for February. Copy of Chief's report included with Official Minutes.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, reported the department is almost finished with spring water meter readings. Public Works is working on the Museum in the Streets project. They are half-way done with fabricating all the lecterns. The steel fabrication for the lectern posts ended up costing half of what was budgeted. Mr. Moller stated the department put the new truck on the road that was purchased in early winter. Mr. Moller reminded residents to not throw yard waste in the creeks.

Todd Pucci, Chief Altamont Police Dept., thanked The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing in Guilderland Center for delivering sandwiches last week to the Altamont Police Department. The Grand was thanking and recognizing first responders. Chief Pucci stated it is Mayor Gaughan's last Board meeting and stated it has been a pleasure to work for him and wished him the best in anything he does from here.

Marijo Dougherty, Archives & Museum, stated she has recently been working with some of the volunteers of the Altamont Fair. The Fair is working on establishing a permanent exhibit on the history of the Fair in one of their buildings. The museum has a lot of information and research on the Fair which they are sharing with them but are unable to lend out due temperature and humidity controls outside of the museum. Ms. Dougherty stated the Museum in the Streets project is a legacy that the Mayor is leaving the Village of Altamont. This is something that he has wanted for a long time and he has seen it in other places. This will be the first time in Upstate New York that there is a project like this. The Mayor appointed a committee of citizens from Altamont and they have selected 26 sites. There will be lectern style signage around the Village. Research is by Keith Lee and the photographs are by Ron Ginsburg. Ms. Dougherty stated she is hoping by mid-July the project will be up and running. In the coming year, the museum will meet with some teachers and try to put together some teacher guide books for the walking tour that meets the NYS guidelines for teaching local history. This will be something

not just for the children of the Village of Altamont but for the hilltowns and surrounding areas. There will also be a downloadable guide on the website for parents if they would like to take the tour with their children. Ms. Dougherty stated she wanted to emphasize that if it weren't for the Mayor the Village wouldn't be having this project. He has seen it through since its initial stages along with all the fundraising. Ms. Dougherty thanked the volunteers and the committee for their hard work and thanked Mayor Gaughan for this gift to the Village.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve the Treasurer's report; #18, #19, and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Public Comment:

Norman Baumann, Maple Avenue, stated he has lived in the Village for 12 years. He stated he moved here from Schenectady and he and his wife, Marijo Dougherty, were politically active in Schenectady but it went nowhere fast. Mr. Baumann stated after moving to Altamont he ran into Mayor Gaughan who welcomed him and his wife instantly to the Village. Mr. Baumann stated he assisted Mayor Gaughan in running for Mayor for his first term. He was glad Mayor Gaughan got elected and noted some of the Mayor's accomplishments over the last twelve years. Mr. Baumann wished Mayor Gaughan the best and stated he is going to miss him.

Tim Haggart, Commander of the VFW Post #7062; James Gaige, Commander of the American Legion Post #977; and Dennis Cyr, President of the Association VFW Post #7062; stated they are regretfully not going to host the Memorial Day parade this year. They will still do the ceremony in Orsini Park. One of the biggest issues is their numbers are dwindling and they are having trouble with people not being able to donate as much time to the event. The VFW will be open to the community after the ceremony for a meet and greet. Mayor Gaughan asked the gentlemen if they could speak at a later time to discuss how the Village Board could help get the word out and get attendance up for the ceremony.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve authorizing Mayor Gaughan to sign software proposal from Williamson Law to allow Village to accept credit cards and echeck payments for water, sewer, and tax bills. Card holder pays the service fee for using these payment options. Initial cost is \$745 for the software programs with an annual cost of \$240. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve Altamont Fire Department's participation in St. Baldrick's parade from Crossgates Mall to Westmere Fire Department on Sunday, March 26th. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to approve holding Annual Organizational Meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to approve holding Budget Public Hearing prior to adoption on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Fahrenkopf to approve of Board Minutes for February 7th & February 27, 2017. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Gaughan encouraged the residents to attend the upcoming Budget Workshops. Mayor Gaughan stated this is his last official meeting as Mayor and he wanted to reach out to everyone who has been at many of the meetings over the last 12 years. Mayor Gaughan stated it's because

of them and their extensive interest in the community that the Village has done so well. Residents coming to the meetings and giving feedback has made this Village better. Mayor Gaughan thanked the residents.

Trustee Dineen stated she will dearly miss Mayor Gaughan. He has brought this Village further in twelve years than it has come in the forty years she has lived here. Trustee Dineen stated the Board along with John Scally will work very hard to make Mayor Gaughan proud and keep the ship steady. Trustee Dineen stated that much has been accomplished through the Mayor's leadership. There have been over 130 Board meetings along with many other meetings the Mayor attended for grants, etc. Trustee Dineen stated there will be a community gathering on April 9th to honor Mayor Gaughan's many achievements.

Trustee Whalen stated his first meeting with the Mayor wasn't at Village Hall but was in the Mayor's living room over another issue that sucked him into this vortex that he had no clue about. Trustee Whalen stated it has been a wonderful experience and it's because of the leadership of the Mayor. Trustee Whalen stated that if one of them didn't have a clue on a subject then someone would figure it out and it was most likely the Mayor.

Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he hasn't lived in the Village very long or been on the Board very long. When he first expressed interest on being on the Board the Mayor gave him a large binder of every newspaper clipping from one year before the Mayor was elected. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he read through all and he realized that if he had driven through this Village fourteen years ago he wouldn't have recognized it as it is today because so much has changed for the better and a large part of this is attributed to the Mayor's leadership. Trustee Fahrenkopf thanked Mayor Gaughan and stated he genuinely appreciated his work in the Village because he and his wife decided to live in Altamont because it is such a great Village.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk