

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
April 03, 2018

Mayor Kerry Dineen  
Trustee Nicholas Fahrenkopf  
Trustee Madeline LaMountain  
Trustee John Scally  
Trustee Dean Whalen

Patty Blackwood, Clerk  
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer  
Larry Adams, Asst. Supt. of Public Works  
Paul Miller, Altamont Fire Chief  
Todd Pucci, Altamont Police Chief, Absent  
Jason Shaw, Legal Counsel, Excused

General Public: 20

Attending: Travis Stevens, Albany County Legislator

7:00 p.m.

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

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve resolution to adopt the proposed appointments, designations, schedules, personnel and financial procedures contained within the Organizational Agenda.

**Roll Call: All in favor**

Copy of Organizational Agenda included with Official Minutes.

**PART I**

**One Year Term**

Dean Whalen, Deputy Mayor  
Patty Blackwood, Deputy Court Clerk  
Kelly Best, Secretary, Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals

**Five Year Term**

Timothy Wilford, Chairman, Planning Board (2023)  
Connie Rue, Alternate Member, Planning Board (2023)  
Michelle Ganance, Member, Zoning Board of Appeals (2023)  
Isaiah Swart, Alternate Member, Zoning Board of Appeals (2023)

**PART II**

**Official Newspaper**

Altamont Enterprise - Primary  
Spotlight - Alternative

**Official Banks**

Key Bank – Altamont Branch, First National Bank of Scotia, First Niagara Bank, Citizens Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Kinderhook Bank, Pioneer Commercial Bank, NBT Bank and M&T Bank as official depositories of the Village of Altamont.

Authorize Mayor and Treasurer to invest Certificates of Deposit in any of the designated official depositories with a third party holding the securities.

Authorize Mayor and Treasurer to sign checks on behalf of the Village.

### **Time & Place of Meetings**

Village Board – 7:00 p.m. First Tuesday of each month and third Tuesday as needed

-July 03, 2018 meeting rescheduled to July 17, 2018

-August 7, 2018 meeting, if needed

-September 4, 2018 meeting rescheduled to September 5, 2018

-November 6, 2018 meeting rescheduled to November 7, 2018

-January 1, 2019 meeting rescheduled to January 2, 2019

Planning Board – 7:00 p.m. Fourth Monday of each month as needed

-May 28, 2018 meeting rescheduled to May 21, 2018

-December 24, 2018 meeting rescheduled to December 17, 2018

Zoning Board of Appeals – 7:00 p.m. Second Tuesday of each month as needed

### **Mileage**

Mileage rate coincides with Federal IRS approved rate per mile for reimbursement to Village employees when authorized to use their private vehicles on village business.

### **Bonds**

For Officials and Employees to continue as last year  
(\$50,000 Clerk/Treasurer; \$10,000 Employees)

### **Personnel Policy**

To continue as written

### **Holiday Schedule**

Approve holiday schedule for Village employees for FY 2018-19 per Schedule A.  
Copy of holiday schedule included with Official Minutes.

### **Procurement Policy**

To continue without change

### **2019 Organizational Meeting**

First Tuesday in April 2019

### **Village Engineers**

Designate Barton and Loguidice to serve as Village Designated Engineers for FY 2018-19.

### **Village Counsel**

Designate Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP to serve as Village Designated Attorneys for FY 2018-19.

## **PART III**

### **Training**

Authorizing Mayor Dineen to approve meetings, conferences, and training seminars for employees that would benefit the Village and could include the following schools, conferences and seminars sponsored by New York State Conference of Mayors such as: Annual Training School; Fall Training School; Public Works Training School; Legislative Meeting; Winter Legislative Meeting; Office of the New York State Comptroller; Office of Court Administration;

Public Works Training and Licensing, and the Albany County Division of Management and Budget technology classes.

### **Advance Payment of Claims**

Authorize Village Treasurer to pay, in advance of audit, claims for public utility services, postage, hospitalization, freight and express charges, claims for petty cash, Senior Entertainment/Trips, JP Morgan Chase Bank (Water Principal/Interest bond payments), Manufactures & Traders Trust (Sewer Principal/Interest Bond payments), Wex Bank (Suntrak card), School & Property Taxes, NYS Municipal Workers Comp., Disability Insurance, Health Department Park Permits, MasterCard, and fees for officials and staff to attend meetings and schools approved by Mayor Dineen prior to the next scheduled regular board meeting.

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### **Reports:**

Keith Lee, Co-Chairman of the Parks Committee, commended the Board on their lovely choices for the new gardeners. Mr. Lee stated he regrets losing Deb and Ann but the replacements are good choices that will allow them to make good progress again this year. Mr. Lee stated the Town of Guilderland is doing a presentation on Lyme Disease on Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Dineen reported that Dan McCoy will be at the May 1<sup>st</sup> Board meeting to give the State of the County Address, Green and Clean Day will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m., and April 26-28<sup>th</sup> the Town of Guilderland will be having their Hometown Heroes Banner Program along with the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Moving Wall at Tawasentha Park.

Paul Miller, Chief Altamont Fire Department, submitted Chief's report for March. Copy of the report included with Official Minutes.

Larry Adams, Asst. Supt. of Public Works, reported water main flushing has begun and yard waste collection will begin on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Adams stated the annual water report is online on the Village's website.

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to approve the Treasurer's report; #19, #20 and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

### **Public Comment:**

Norman Bauman, Maple Avenue, shared letters with the public written by Ron & Lois Ginsburg, and the Sands Family regarding Marijo Dougherty, former Altamont Historian. Ms. Dougherty was in charge of the museum for 11 years and during that time she put on 30 exhibitions. Ms. Dougherty passed away on February 24, 2018.

### **Public hearing at 7:19 p.m.**

Patty Blackwood, Village Clerk, opened public hearing with reading of the Legal Notice to consider 2018-2019 Village Budget before final adoption.

Mayor Dineen reported the preliminary budget had been available for some time. The budget is very similar to last year's budget. The tax calculation is the same as last year at

2.7% per thousand. There is no tax increase for 2018-19. With this budget, the Board was able to give cost of living increases to staff at 2% and set aside \$125,000 from the unappropriated fund balance to address the façade of the building. This has been talked about at several budget workshop meetings. The façade needs to be redone. The Board will look at other projects at this time that could be tied to the façade renovation. Trustee Fahrenkopf inquired how many years the Village has not raised the taxes. Mayor Dineen stated the Village has kept the tax rate flat for 15 years. The Board works really hard to make the money stretch where it's needed and to continue to provide the services to the residents. The department heads were real responsible about coming in with their budgets for what they needed. Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer, works real hard at working with the revenues versus the expenditures.

Keith Lee, Long Grass Lane, stated starting with the 2015-16 budget there were two budget lines, one under expenditures that said Schilling Park Improvements and one under reserves. It's been there every budget since 2015-16. This year's budget there is a line item Phyllis K. Schilling Park under the reserve fund balance that is zeroed out. Mr. Lee inquired if anywhere on the preliminary budget does it reflect the \$5,000 that the Schilling family gave for maintenance for Schilling Park. Mayor Dineen stated she looked into this and the line is at zero balance because the \$5,000 was in there and had to come out to purchase a piece of playground equipment that is going into Schilling Park as one of the first projects this spring. Mayor Dineen stated when the voucher was pulled she reviewed it and the cost of the playground equipment was just over \$5,000 which took out that line from the budget. Mayor Dineen stated the money was spent on what it was meant to be spent for.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to close the public hearing at 7:23 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Scally made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve 2018-2019 Village Budget. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Mayor Dineen read the proposed resolution requesting authorization for the Mayor to list for sale the Village's interest in the Crouse House, subject to a restrictive covenant preserving its historical features and the concurrent approval of the listing of sale by the building's co-owner, the Town of Guilderland. Mayor Dineen stated last month the Town of Guilderland had this same resolution on their agenda. This is both of the municipalities, being owners of the property, looking for options for that parcel. This would allow the municipalities to see if there is someone interested in the house and preserving the house as one of the options.

Tom Capuano, Brandle Road, stated it would be a shame to not explore every option to preserve the Crouse house. Mr. Capuano stated he would like to see someone from the private sector preserve the house. Mr. Capuano urged the Board to consider giving the house one more breath of life to see if there is some brave soul out there that would be willing to take on a covenant to preserve the house in a way that's to the Town's liking and the Village's.

Kate Provencher, Thatcher Drive, inquired if this would allow the Village and the Town to try to sell the property to someone who would keep it and restore it as a historic house. Mayor Dineen stated that's correct. Ms. Provencher inquired if someone doesn't come forward to restore the house, would this discussion come back to the Town and the Village to consider another option. Mayor Dineen stated that's correct. Ms. Provencher

stated she appreciates the Town and Village taking the time to do this. There has been much discussion over the years on how expensive it would be for the municipalities to restore the house and she appreciates them looking at other options.

Martin Burke, Maple Avenue, inquired about the restrictive covenant and how the Town will assess if there is interest in the property. Mayor Dineen stated the restrictive covenant will be discussed by the Board in a few minutes and stated there will be signage put on the property for interested parties to contact the Town or Village.

Mayor Dineen and Trustee Whalen gave a brief history of the discussions over the past ten years that have occurred regarding the Crouse House. Mayor Dineen read through the seven items associated with the restrictive covenant and the Board discussed the seven items.

Kate Provencher, Thatcher Drive, asked if it was up to the Town of Guilderland's building inspector to approve changes to the house because the house is in the Town of Guilderland. Trustee Whalen stated this is correct the house is a Town parcel but the Village of Altamont also has the Referral Committee for them to weigh-in on any changes to the house. Trustee Fahrenkopf pointed out that the Guilderland building inspector wouldn't be the one that signs off on historical issues to the property. The building inspector would be reviewing the property for safety issues.

Thomas Capuano, Brandle Road, asked if there would a chance for public input on the restrictive covenant. Mayor Dineen stated there would be a chance at a later time because the document would have to come back in front of the Board for approval of the final draft.

Lara Stelmaszyk, Maple Avenue, inquired what the deadline is for the review process and why is there a limitation for only a single-family home when there could be other possibilities for that property. Trustee Whalen stated he is uncomfortable saying and doing this but it's possible that the Board could leave out the restriction of a single-family home because the property is zoned R-20 and it would have to go through a variance process to change from residential to something else. This would allow the process to happen.

Connie Rue, Brandle Road, inquired how the restrictive covenant is enforceable. Trustee Whalen stated it's a legal document that would be attached to the deed.

Thomas Capuano, Brandle Road, stated he is happy with what he has heard regarding the restrictive covenant but is afraid this will be tying the hands of a perspective owner. Mayor Dineen stated the Board discussed this during the budget workshops and the Board felt strongly about putting the stipulations into the restrictive covenant to keep in line with the Comprehensive Plan of the Village. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated the Board is looking for a very specific buyer that might not exist. It takes a specific person that has the money and will take on that kind of project. Trustee Fahrenkopf stated he has looked at this house for a number of years and he would be surprised if there was somebody for this project. As a Board, they don't want someone that is going to do a sub-division or turn it into the Dr. Crouse drive-thru or something else. As a last effort, the Board decided to see if there is anyone out there that wants to do what the Board is envisioning.

Judi Dineen, Sunset Drive, stated she spent a lot of time in the Crouse house as a little girl and she has wonderful memories of it. The house has now been vacant for thirty

years. Ms. Dineen stated Marijo Dougherty, former Altamont Historian, told her that the land has the history not the house. Ms. Dineen asked the Board to not subdivide the property for the sake of history.

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve authorizing the Mayor to list for sale the Village's interest in the Crouse house subject to the restrictive covenants draft and allow the Mayor to finalize these covenants with Supervisor Barber of the Town of Guilderland. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve hiring Freda Bates, Altamont, and Megan Kelly, Niskayuna, as part-time seasonal gardeners at \$20 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee LaMountain made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve hiring Ryan Morrissey, Guilderland, as part-time administrative assistant, as needed, at \$11.00 per hour. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to approve of Standard Work Day Resolution of 6 hours per day for Village Clerk, Court Clerk, Administrative Assistant, and Parks Department for NYS Retirement System for reporting purposes. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to approve of Standard Work Day Resolution of 8 hours per day for Department of Public Works and Police Department for NYS Retirement for reporting purposes. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve authorizing Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, to move forward with termination of water service on April 17, 2018, if payment is not received from the following delinquent non-residents: Theodore Danz, 241 Brandle Road; Steven & Susan Spaccarelli, 6407 Gun Club Road; and Scott & Jodie Rutledge, 1129 Berne Altamont Road. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve request of Altamont PTA to hold annual garage sale along the streets of Altamont and Orsini Park on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee LaMountain made a motion seconded by Trustee Scally to approve of Board Minutes for March 1st and March 6, 2018. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Fahrenkopf made a motion seconded by Trustee LaMountain to adjourn at 8.05 p.m. **All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood  
Clerk