

**VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 2, 2008**

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

Michael Moore, Attorney  
Jean La Crosse  
Donald F. Cropsey, Jr.  
Anthony Salerno, Commissioner  
Paul Miller, Chief AFD

Tim McIntyre  
  
  
  
  
12 guests

7:30 pm

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

Keith Lee, Parks Committee Co-Chairperson, thanked Tim McIntyre and the DPW staff for their assistance in installing the Maple Avenue Park playground equipment.

Mayor Gaughan reported on the Altamont Free Library summer reading program. Jo Ann Mulligan is the winner of the "2008 Mayor for a Day" initiative and she will be present at the October 7, 2008 Board Meeting. Mayor Gaughan reported that the barn on the Crouse House property has been disassembled by Jerry Donato who bid for the project. Previously the contents were inventoried and sold at auction. The small funds that were generated were deposited by the Treasurer in an account for the project. The Crouse House project will move forward this fall to determine conditions for renovation as well as appropriate community/public use for the property.

Paul Miller, Chief AFD, reported that the department is conducting a membership drive.

Commissioner Salerno reported that the department is conducting STOP DWI this month. The Commissioner reported on the stray pit bulls that were news recently creating problems in the Village. Unfortunately attempts to capture to dogs alive failed and one of the animals was destroyed. The Department has been following up on random car break-ins in the area.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to accept the Treasurer's Report, Abstract #3, Abstract # 4, Abstract # 5 and Abstract # 6. Roll Call: All in favor.

Norman Bauman informed the Board that a guest from Australia, who was biking in the area, found Altamont to be very pleasing.

Mrs. Lawrence, Prospect Terrace, expressed concern over the cracked and crooked sidewalks on Prospect Terrace.

Judith A. Eisgruber, Executive Director, Albany County Rural Housing Alliance, Inc. and Butch Laywer, Weatherization Director from Cornell Cooperative Extension addressed the Board of Trustees with information regarding energy and home repair services available to the senior, income eligible and general population of Albany County residents. Ms. Eisgruber and Mr. Laywer will follow-up with the Mayor and Village Staff to plan an outreach program for our area residents.

Michael Moore, Attorney read the Legal Notice for the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 3-2008 Village of Altamont Sewers and Sewage Disposal.

Tim McIntyre said that the Village does not accept any outside sewage disposal.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to close the Public Hearing. Roll Call: All in favor.

The Board will review the editorial changes in the document and vote on the new law at the October 7, 2008 meeting.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve and forward to Guilderland the Altamont Guilderland Referral Committee recommendation regarding Joseph & Michelle Muia, 6604 Dunnsville Road request for sub-division. **Roll Call: All in favor.**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to accept the bid submitted by Pollard Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$8,864 for FEMA funded replacement/repair to Village Streams and intake/outtake section of Upper Black Creek Stream per recommendation of Tim McIntyre, Supt. Public Works. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve the request of Altamont Free Library to borrow the following items from the Village of Altamont Archives for the "Altamont Treasures" event on Saturday, September 13, 2008: (1) Vintage railroad ticket cabinet, ca 1900; (2) Vintage Delaware and Hudson Railroad Conductor's boarding stool. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve the Terms and Conditions for Provision of Public Water Service to Wildwood Camp. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve the submission of an \$80,000 spot grant for sidewalks and pedestrian bridge on Sand Street. If successful the Village's portion of the project will be \$16,000. **Roll Call: All in favor**

The completed application for membership to Altamont Fire Department for Kelly Marie Best was not available for consideration.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen approving the request of Jeffrey Moller, for permission to map, mark and measure the trails of Bozenkill Park and construct a weather-proof case in the vicinity of the park pavilion in order to be considered for Eagle Scout Award. Request includes asking the Village to provide a donation of two fence posts for the map case. The project, anticipated to take one month, would commence this fall. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to accept the resignation of Kevin Delligan, Department of Public Works Laborer, for personal reasons by letter of resignation effective July 11, 2008. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to hire Donald Wright, Berne NY, as full time Public Works Laborer, at a salary of \$13.00 per hour, probationary for a period of one year, per recommendation of Timothy McIntyre. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to approve the July 2008 Village Board minutes. **All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshal to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matter. **All in favor**

Trustee Marshall made a motion seconded by Trustee Dineen to hire Patricia Blackwood as Deputy Clerk effective September 2, 2008 at an annual salary of \$27,446 per recommendation of search committee comprised of Mayor Gaughan, Trustee Marshall, Jean La Crosse and Catherine Hasbrouck. The full-time 30 hr. per week position is probationary for a period of up to one year. **All in favor**

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to provide Jean La Crosse with a raise of \$7,389, which was not expended for the Deputy Clerk's position salary approved effective for fiscal year June 1, 2008- May 31, 2009. The total amount would be apportioned over the remaining part of the fiscal year (September 1 -May 31, 2009). All in favor.

Trustee Dineen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to adjourn at 8:30 pm. **All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jean La Crosse". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jean La Crosse  
Clerk

Next scheduled meeting: **October 7, 2008.**

**TO:** Mayor Gaughan & Village Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Keith C. Lee  
**DATE:** September 2, 2008  
**SUBJECT:** Monthly Report from the Parks Committee

This report covers the summer months of June, July and August, which, although wet, were very productive for the Village's gardens.

The Village hosted the June meeting of the master gardener program of Albany County's Cornell Cooperative Extension. Over sixty gardeners and Cooperative Extension staff attended the meeting and afterwards visited the various gardens and lunch spots in the Village.

The heavy rains early this summer provided the source material for a very lush garden season, with all planting areas (including the weeds) responding to the abundant moisture.

### **Orsini Park**

The weeping cherry trees at the entrance to the gazebo responded to their heavy winter pruning, and continue to flourish and are showing new growth. The park has been the setting for an ice cream social, a fund raiser for Guildershaven, for church services, for the Altamont library's annual chicken barbeque, for music, and just for resting and enjoying the park. The Village provided hanging baskets for the gazebo. The farmer's market continued this summer at the train station, soon-to-be-library, adjacent to the park.

### **Angel Park**

The plantings here are maturing and the area around the statue has filled in with new shrubbery and day lilies to make this area truly a place to sit and enjoy the changing scenery.

### **Entrance, Bozenkill Park**

The day lilies lining the entrance road provided a spectacular display of blooms from early July to the middle of August. Most of the lilies are the variety "hyperion", which is a clear, bright yellow variety. The beds are fronted by darker yellow, re-blooming 'stella d'oro' lilies. Annual plants were added, including iredine, celosia, purple fountain grass, miniature dahlias, dianthus, petunias, and others, thanks to the generosity of Altamont Orchards. Currently, castor bean, impatiens grandiflora, and the grasses are in full bloom.

The tulip trees, sycamores, and one crimson birch that were added to the park have survived the summer and appear to be thriving. Of the trees added last fall,

one of the red oaks was replaced and one of the white oaks may have to be replaced as well. In the last year a total of 14 trees have been added to the park.

### **Maple Avenue Park**

Much of the activity this summer has been centered on the installation of a pre-school playground in Maple Avenue Park. The components of the playground were selected after consulting with the parents and board of the Altamont Cooperative Preschool, and are appropriate for ages 5 and under. In addition to the equipment, limestone 'bench' boulders were purchased to provide seating in and around the playground.

The cost of the equipment, the boulders, the playground border and underlaying wood chips was supported entirely by private donations. Over \$17,000 has been raised to date.

Plans for "next steps" in the Maple Avenue Park include the construction of bench seating under the shelter, and the painting of the shelter.

### **Western & Maple Ave/Bridge**

The mock orange and viburnum bushes were pruned and shaped after bloom, and the whole area was weeded. Gradually, flowering plants will be added to this area to provide more color and interest in all seasons.

### **Parking Area/Maple Ave/next to CW Fox**

Weeding and sprucing up continued during the summer.

### **Triangle Garden/Schoharie Plank Rd W**

Annual plants were added this summer, and the area has been recently weeded and spruced up.

### **Triangle Garden/Maple Ave & Bozenkill Rd Intersection**

The two gardens in this area have been planted primarily with ornamental grasses. The ten varieties of grasses and six plantings of summer and fall blooming flowers have done very well over the summer. The area planted last year has filled in and showed significant growth. The section planted this spring demonstrates the availability of varieties that can be used in a small area. Plans are being discussed to add a third small planting area in the triangle.

As always, we offer our thanks, particularly over the past two months, to Tim and his staff for their assistance and patience during the playground installation.

JEAN:

9/2/08

PLEASE ASK THE VILLAGE BOARD TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
ABSTRACTS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER:

**ABSTRACT #3 – JULY 2008 – Handwritten checks Voucher #49 – 57**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$ 6,601.39
<b>WATER FUND</b>	29,880.51
<b>SEWER FUND</b>	<u>112.82</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$36,594.72

**ABSTRACT #4 – AUGUST 2008 - Voucher #58-117**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$25,375.11
<b>WATER FUND</b>	4,447.53
<b>SEWER FUND</b>	<u>20,442.74</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$50,265.38

**ABSTRACT # 5 – AUGUST 2008 – Handwritten checks Voucher #118-127**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$ 9,216.75
<b>WATER FUND</b>	3,880.09
<b>SEWER FUND</b>	<u>5,963.87</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$19,060.71

**ABSTRACT #6 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2008 Voucher #128-178**

<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	\$51,171.68
<b>WATER FUND</b>	6,620.89
<b>SEWER FUND</b>	<u>20,953.97</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$78,746.54