

VILLAGE OF ALTAMONT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 01, 2014

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

Patty Blackwood, Clerk
Catherine Hasbrouck, Treasurer
Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works
Robert White, Altamont Fire Chief
Jill Kaufman, Altamont Police Dept.
Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel

General Public: 12

7:00 p.m.

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

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve resolution to adopt the proposed appointments, designations, schedules, personnel and financial procedures contained within Organizational Agenda. **Roll Call: All in favor**

PART I

One Year Term

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

Five Year Term

Danny Ramirez, Member, Zoning Board of Appeals (2019)
Cathy Glass, Member, Planning Board (2019)

PART II

Official Newspaper

Altamont Enterprise - Primary
Spotlight - Alternate

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, Capital One 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

-August 5, 2014 meeting, if needed

-November 4, 2014 meeting rescheduled to Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. due to Election Day

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

-May 26, 2016 meeting rescheduled to Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. due to Memorial Day

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 2014-15 per Schedule A.

Copy of Holiday Schedule included with Official Minutes.

Procurement Policy

To continue without change

2015 Organizational Meeting

First Tuesday in April 2015

Village Engineers

Designate Barton and Loguidice to serve as Village Designated Engineers for FY 2014-15.

Village Counsel

Designate Young Sommer LLC to serve as Village Designated Attorneys for FY 2014-15.

PART III

Training

Authorizing Mayor Gaughan 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: Main Street; 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, and fees for officials and staff to attend meetings and schools approved by Mayor Gaughan prior to the next scheduled regular board meeting.

Reports:

Mayor Gaughan read portion of letter to Altamont Free Library from Preservation League of New York State. “The transformation of the once-neglected 1897 D&H Railroad Station illustrates the sustainability of the Village of Altamont and the importance of history to its citizens. The league has watched the progress of this effort since its formative years and has provided technical advice. We were delighted to see Library trustees among the participants in our Energy Conservation in Historic Buildings program. Too often, libraries struggle to keep their programs in historic buildings, while you sought one out and gave it new life. This project should serve as a model of what a small community can do when everyone is made to feel like a stakeholder. We are pleased that this effort will receive statewide recognition. Congratulations!” Mayor Gaughan reported Altamont Free Library will receive the Preservation League’s award for Excellence in Historic Preservation on May 16th at the historic New York Yacht Club.

Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, reported there was an overflow at the sewer plant from the snow thaw and rain over the weekend. Dept. of Public Works has contacted NYS DEC regarding the overflow. Dept. of Public Works had a conference call with manufacture of the equipment and the engineers are working on final details of tweaking the system. An integrator will be coming in at the end of the week to hookup with the sewer plant and computer system. This will allow the plant to be monitored online. Mr. Moller reported Dept. of Public Works is cleaning up the streets and fixing potholes. Water main flushing began April 1st. NYS Dept. of Transportation to inspect crossing walk tape on streets in Altamont.

Trustee Marshall made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve the Treasurer’s report; #20, #21 and transfer of funds as submitted. **Roll Call: All in favor**

No comments from the public.

Public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Allyson Phillips, Legal Counsel, opened public hearing with reading of the Legal Notice to consider 2014-2015 Village budget before final adoption.

Mayor Gaughan reported the budget does not increase Village taxes, following a pattern of the last several years, so property tax rate is well within the tax cap enacted by state government. The tax rate should be the same as last year. After several meetings and close and careful examination of the Village’s financial reserves, the Board also directed staff to update their capital replacement plans. The plans comprise a 25 year period describing vehicle replacement plans for the senior van, police, DPW and volunteer fire department vehicles. The Board proposed to increase general staff and elected officials’ salaries by 3%.

Mayor Gaughan reported the Village Board met in public session twice in March to discuss department budget proposals and Village economic issues. Economic factors that affected the deliberations included: a small increase in county tax funds, a decrease in health insurance premiums, an increase in general Village insurance premiums, reduced revenue resulting from very low CD interest rates, the increased debt incurred because of the DEC requirement to build a new sewer processing plant, additional staffing attention to the DEC requirements because of being identified as an MS-4 site, savings resulting from new staff hires at lower salary rates and cost cutting by the superintendent of public works. The Board concludes its entire deliberations tonight. The following are selected significant actions the Board approved: no increase in property tax, 3% increase Cost of Living adjustments for staff, \$2,500 for grant writing services to address the needs of the fire department and per meeting stipend for zoning/planning board members (\$40/meeting for the chairs of both committees, and \$20/meeting for board members of both committees). The Board felt it was important to acknowledge the long standing and loyal volunteers of these Boards.

Mayor Gaughan reported budget decisions did not come easy. Altamont, like other communities, struggles to maintain essential services in a difficult economy. Energy costs have risen astronomically and the Village's usual sources of revenue are not as dependable as they used to be. We have just completed an energy audit and will be implementing cost saving measures as a result. We hope mortgage tax receipts will rise again now that the housing market is beginning to come back to its pre-2008 state. Although we still suffer from no population increase in relation to the County as a whole, we are hopeful that we will realize more sales tax revenue because of the continued improvement in the economy's health.

Mayor Gaughan reported County senior meals and transportation reimbursements have been reduced, but we are still committed to maintaining a strong senior program in Altamont regardless.

Mayor Gaughan reported our Governor is attempting to address state spending that he believes has gotten out of control. He wants to correct financial structural problems, while not creating new taxes. The new state budget does incorporate new measures to cap property taxes while requiring municipalities to come up with cost saving consolidations, or sharing of resources. We have kept within the tax cap for all the years since the law was enacted, and well before it, and have instituted cost-savings measures already. The devil is in the details, so we'll be looking at that carefully as guidelines come out from the Governor's offices. While we cannot generalize statewide as the Governor does, we are acutely aware of Altamont's fiscal reality.

Mayor Gaughan reported many of our residents are having a difficult time making ends meet. The Board of Trustees crafted a lean budget that will not unfairly burden them while seeking fiscal solutions other than just raising Village taxes. The fact is Altamont has a limited and stable tax base which is not growing, so we face an unusually tough road to stay lean but efficient. The Village has to tax homeowners at a rate 30 times more than the Town to raise the same amount of money.

Mayor Gaughan reported due to the Board of Trustees' vigilance, they have been able to cut costs and maintain services, without raising taxes, and with little outside help. The Board is committed to monitor the Village finances throughout the year to continue to ensure the resident's tax dollars are spent wisely.

Trustee Aylward stated he wanted to commend Mayor Gaughan on the excellent job that was done on the budget. Mayor Gaughan gave the Board a lot of direction and they appreciated his insights into this budget. Trustee Aylward stated he would be voting for the budget.

No comments from the public.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to close public hearing at 7:25 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Marshall made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approve 2014-2015 Village budget. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve authorizing Mayor Gaughan to sign contract with CDPHP Health Insurance and CDPHP Delta Dental for Village of Altamont employees. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Aylward to approve request of Altamont PTA to hold annual garage sale along the streets of Altamont and Orsini Park on Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve Altamont Fire Department's participation in Altamont PTA annual garage sale and Boyd Hilton VFW Post 7062 Loyalty Day on Saturday, May 3, 2014. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to approve applications from Nick Carducci, Whipple Way, Firefighter; Sean Blakeley, Western Avenue, Junior Firefighter; and Chris Carducci, Whipple Way, Junior Firefighter, memberships in the Altamont Fire Department per request of Robert White, Chief. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve authorizing Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, to move forward with termination of water service on April 8, 2014 if payment is not received from the following delinquent non-residents: Patricia Riley, 239 Brandle Road and Theresa Pendleton, 721 Route 146.

Roll Call: All in favor

Trustee Whalen made a motion seconded Trustee Marshall to approve authorizing Jeffrey Moller, Supt. of Public Works, to move forward with termination of water service on April 15, 2014 if payment is not received per payment arrangements, from the following delinquent non-residents: Hugo Clearwater, 6584 Dunnsville Road and Steven Spaccarelli, 6407 Gun Club Road.

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Marshall to approve of Board Minutes for March 4, 6 & 20, 2014. **Roll Call: All in favor**

Trustee Aylward made a motion seconded by Trustee Whalen to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.
All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Blackwood
Clerk