

Approved BOARD MINUTES January 14, 2016

Motion by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel. 7:22 pm. Carried.

Motion by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to exit the Executive Session, 7:25 pm. Carried.

The Village Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Manicki, who led the pledge to the flag.

PRESENT:, Mayor Manicki, Trustees Daluisio, Mezydlo, Warmus and Retzlaff, Clerk/Treasurer Wachowiak, Deputy Clerk Galbraith, CEO Czechowski, Attorney Trapp, Superintendent Sitzman, Eugene Nuwer, Mark Casell, Dick Kegler, Legislator Ted Morton, Skip, Shirley, Scott and Barb Sitzman, Paul Kosinski and Sue DeWitt, Alden Advertiser.

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2015 meeting. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Daluisio, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated January 14, 2016. Carried

Payroll	\$39,754.09
Abstract	\$38,003.45

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to approve the following reports: DPW, E.C. Sheriff, Treasurer, Court, CEO annual and Fire Dept. Carried.

The Mayor commended the Alden Fire Dept. on their 481 fire and first aid calls in 2015. CEO annual report – 138 permits for \$15,605 and 6 sign permits for \$415

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to leave the regular meeting and enter the Public Hearing 7:35 pm. Carried.

Public Hearing 7:35 pm Proposed Water/Sewer Rate Increases

The following rates are proposed: consider an increase in the water and sewer rates for all users within the corporate limits of the Village, and for those out of district users. Increase to take effect January 16, 2016, and to be reflected in the May 2016 billing quarter

Water charge within village-increase from \$3.55 per thousand to \$3.95 per thousand.

Water charge outside village-increase from \$7.10 per thousand to \$7.90per thousand.

Sewer charge within the village increase from \$5.70 per thousand to \$6.45per thousand.

Sewer charge outside the village increase from \$11.40 per thousand to \$12.90 per thousand.

Sewer Capital charge increase from \$12 to \$22.

Mayor Manicki started the Public hearing with the following:

Water:

Recently completed \$2.6 mil capital project. Health Dept. order to reduce iron and manganese. Connected wells 3 and 4 for more efficient single point treatment. Updated electrical service and emergency backup power at wells 2, 3 and 4. Radio control of well pumps. New meters with radio read and report capability.

Last year's harsh winter caused 7 water main breaks, 1 leaking valve and 5 frozen lines resulting in higher operating expenses.

Increase is also needed to meet debt service. Now that project is complete we will discuss permanent bonding to take advantage of low interest rates.

Sewer: Two issues

Collection System: We need to reduce infiltration of ground water in the collection system. Will undertake a program to repair leaking manholes. In addition we will develop a program to make residents aware that connection of sump pumps and roof gutters to the sanitary sewer is illegal and increases treatment costs.

Treatment: Our plant was built in 1983 and at 32 years, much of the equipment has reached its end of life. Major expenditure of \$5-6 mil is required to meet state DEC permit requirements for wastewater treatment. Upgrades will improve efficiency, lower utility and solids disposal costs and improve reliability. Methane production will be used aid in the treatment of solid waste which will lower our disposal costs. We will also investigate the use of wind and solar power.

We will be applying for grants and low interest loans. We estimate borrowing for the first phase at about \$4 mil.

Conclusion:

Our water and sewer rates compare very favorably with other communities in Erie County. Compared to utilities like electric, gas or cell phones they are a relative bargain. The average water and sewer customer in the village pays about \$43 per month. These proposals will raise that about \$7.15.

Water Rising article: American City and County magazine

- \$300 bil over 20 yrs needed to update water and wastewater systems
- 240,000 water main breaks per year
- Water and Sewer are incredible cheap compared to other utilities
- The cavalry is **not** coming. A large portion of our current plant was built with federal and state grants. Those funds have dried up. Cost now falls to local ratepayers. Rates will continue to rise to fund rehabs.
- Useful plant equipment life is 15-25 years. We are well past that.

Richard Kegler – 1426 Mechanic- for the 2015-16 budget you raised it 40 cents, how much revenue was raised from that increase? Was it enough? Were the payments more than anticipated? Were there unanticipated expenditures? There was a water break on Railroad and Exchange for 6 months, non-stop, 24 hrs. /day. For several months. I understand, I sat on the other side of that bench for 25 years. What about Akron, they do monthly billing, it will decrease rates, why did they do it? Superintendent Sitzman explained that if we were to go from quarterly to monthly, we could visualize usage better. Clerk Wachowiak said there would be no benefit to monthly billing. Mayor Manicki explained the increase would figure out to be about \$75 more per year. Kegler questioned the fact that he pays sewer to wash his car. There are entities who pay for water, but not sewer, such as the school and town of Alden, and there should be no exceptions. These are irrigation systems, but in the end everybody should pay their fair share.

Paul Kosinski – 13376 Maple Ridge Dr. – on his walks I see Zoladz tapping into the hydrants, but they are charged a bulk rate that is metered, but no sewer charges. Zoladz runs water all night long for their mulch and it causes the Maple Ridge residents to have low water pressure.

Scott Sitzman – Alden Full Service Laundry. We have a family run business for the past 10 years and have always paid out of district rates, which are double. We use approximately 1,000,000 gallons of water per year. The increase would cost us \$1,500. Per year. There is a problem with the code, please look to reverse out of district users charge. We didn't go to a leach filed because in the comprehensive plan we tied into the sewer to save the aquifer. Mayor Manicki – this is something we can discuss. Sitzman- times are charging, we are a private business and we should work together. Attorney Trapp- have you ever considered annexing into the village? The town would have to approve. Sitzman - should look into the code. The school has out of district users that benefit town residents and the public, they should be charged double. Attorney Trapp – if you annex into the village the rates you pay for sewer could offset the taxes. Sitzman – will have to look into the figures. Mayor Manicki – we will put it on the work session agenda and check out what other towns do. Sitzman – same billing process, should not have to pay double, not a different formula. Kosinski – how does it compare to Erie County Water Authority (ECWA)? Mayor Manicki – hard to compare as ECWA has a basic rate, but then charges a summer sir charge and the town pays \$84,000 in hydrant fees per year, reassessed to the residents. Their water and debt services are also billed to the residents in their taxes. We are comparable to Akron and Springville, in a survey done by former Trustee Bruce Sitzman. East Aurora's rates are lower but they have 2 capital charges and debt service which is twice ours.

Mark Casell – 13400 Baxter – to go to ECWA, it would be a large capital expense to upgrade to their standards. Mayor Manicki – doing the present capital project is cheaper than ECWA, if we were to buy their water we would have to pay for the 15% water loss we incur. The engineering study showed it would take \$2 million to take over our system. We would have to pay \$4-4.5 million in upgrades to the system and \$5.05 per gallon plus the additional summer sir charge and hydrant fees. Williamsville has bonded their improvements to have ECWA take over and it is attached to property taxes for the next 20 years. We have an 1899 original infrastructure in place. Clerk Wachowiak – we would never get rid of the debt, it would be up to the tax payers to pay.

Kegler – will you adopt these rates tonight? Mayor Manicki – need to act now to put in on next billing. We have 6 RBC's (Rotating Biological Contactor's) to repair at a \$2.5 million expense. The plant will be contracted out, but we need to identify illegal hook ups and illegal connections of down spouts and septic pumps.

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to leave the Public Hearing and re-enter the regular meeting, 8:01 pm. Carried.

Mayor Manicki is disappointed people are not in tune with what we do here, there is no attendance. We need to improve communications to our residents.

COMMUNICATIONS

. Meeting notices: Village Officials and Assoc. of Erie County Governments. Meeting minutes from: Town of Alden and Alden Chamber of Commerce. Newsletters from: E.C.Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, American City & County, Grants Action News and NY Planning Federation. Memo from E.C. Env. & planning co. CDBG 2016 Annual Action Plan, rejection letter from E.C. Executive co. funding for Elm St. Reconstruction, receipt of Erie County 4th quarter sales tax, thank you from the Pionessa family, RBC Wealth Mgmt. concerning 2015 markets, article from NYSGROA co. improving citizen trust in local government. USDA information for home owners on low interest grants, loans for improvements and purchases, Time Warner Cable notification of email compromises and information on Workers Comp. fraud.

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to file as received all correspondence. Carried.

RESOLUTIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REQUESTS/MOTIONS:

Resolutions/Appointments/Requests/Motions for January 14

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff and seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to authorize Mayor Manicki to sign the indemnification agreement with the Town of Alden concerning Winterfest. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus and seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to authorize Clerk Wachowiak to destroy all outdated records following NYS Sara regulations. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo and seconded by Trustee Daluisio to identify the polling place for the March 15th election, as 13336 Broadway, Village Municipal Building and the hours from noon- 9 pm. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, and seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to identify the Election Inspector's for the March 15th election, as follows: Brenda M. Keller and Lynda Tucker. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Daluisio and seconded by Trustee Warmus, to approve the following companies to perform electrical inspections in the Village of Alden, as per submitted applications:

Commonwealth Electrical Inspection Agency
Middle Department Inspection Agency Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff and seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to approve a sign for Alden Therapeutic Massage and Berried Treasures, 13219 Broadway, as per submitted applications.

On the question: CEO Czechowski explained that the above motion is for two separate businesses. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus and seconded by Trustee Retzlaff, to approve Temporary Business Signs for the following businesses as per submitted applications, to expire on December 31, 2016:

Henry's Candy & Gifts, 13237 Broadway

Alden Automotive, 13151 Broadway

TD Mulch, 13350 Broadway

H&R Block, 13186 Broadway Carried.

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR-

Paul Kosinski, Maple Ridge – why are the no peddling signs so aggressive? Sign above says welcome to Alden, and they there are these very large negative signs.

Mayor Manicki – we are looking into smaller signs, but these don't seem to deter peddlers.

Superintendent Sitzman – the county sign shop did them for us as a favor.

Mark Casell, 13400 Baxter – the Winterfest Committee would like to thank the village for their continued support, and working with the town. The committee is very appreciative. Mayor Manicki thanked Mark and the committee, looking forward to the event, as it continues to grow to be bigger and better every year.

Richard Kegler, 1426 Mechanic – In response to Angelo's inquisition I would like to make a couple of suggestions. The board should take a walk and check out the sidewalks. Would like to see sidewalks repaired and maintained, especially on the south side of Broadway and Exchange St. Walk the streets in the spring, and consider adding money to the budget for sidewalks.

Kegler also questioned if the villages should license snowplows, like other villages do. Some of the snowplows, plow across the street, covering the sidewalks and compromising the job the DPW does. Akron charges \$25/yr. and it can be tracked and revoked if needed.

Superintendent Sitzman explained that if there is an issue, the homeowners are contacted, as plowing across the street is illegal.

Kegler asked about the shortage in the DPW and Sewer Treatment Plant. Questioned the amount of time it takes to work at the STP.

Superintendent Sitzman explained it takes one year at the plant and school for a grade 2 license. They need a grade 2&3. Grande 3 takes 4.5 yrs.

Kegler asked if it would be more advantageous to hire 2 young people, so that you don't have everyone retiring around the same time. Fill the DPW with part time help.

Mayor Manicki welcomed Legislator Ted Morton to the meeting. Legislator Morton gave a synopsis of the ECWA. ECWA bills by usage with a flat rate and added infrastructure, summer sir charge and hydrant fees. ECWA has 1500 miles of pipes and 500 miles need to be replaced at a cost of \$1 billion to be paid by the customers. They also had double the leaks the past few years, also billed to customers.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:

Superintendent Sitzman – thanked the residents on Exchange from Railroad to Broadway, and the businesses on Broadway. Had water valve issues affecting these residents and they were very

patient. The pipes are an intermingled mix of 1900 and 1970 systems, and had to shut down 16 valves to fix 2. Mayor Manicki thanked the guys on a nice job informing the residents.

Mayor Manicki – Tax rebate checks from the state are out and the Mayor suggests residents review them. The Village portion is roughly 26%, or in most cases about \$27. The question being if it is worth \$27 a year to give up some of the extra services the Village provides. The tax cap this year is .12% and will be difficult to achieve. The new Economic Development Video is now on the Village, Town and Chamber websites, encourage everyone to take a look at it. Trustee Daluisio recently submitted a request for resident’s opinions on what they would like to see done in the village. A very well written letter was received from Mark Casell. The board has discussed it is looking into possible future applications. Winterfest is Feb. 12 & 13. The Governor’s State of the Union most of the money is going down state, so we are not anticipating much. What we do receive from the state is only 2% of our total general fund budget.

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Retzlff, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to adjourn. 8:32 pm. Carried.

I respectfully submit,

Sue Galbraith,
Deputy Village Clerk