

**Approved BOARD MINUTES July 9, 2015**

Motion by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to enter into executive session at 7:22 pm.

Motion by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to adjourn from executive session at 7:28 pm.

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, Retzlaff, Warmus and Mezydlo, Clerk/Treasurer Wachowiak, Deputy Clerk Galbraith, Superintendent Sitzman, Eugene Nuwer, Sue DeWitt, Alden Advertiser, Legislator Ted Morton and Attorney Trapp

**Absent-** CEO Czechowski

**MOTION** by Trustee Mezydlo, seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2015 meeting. Carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Daluisio, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated July 9, 2015. Carried

Payroll	\$46,694.20
Abstract	\$117,101.03

**MOTION** by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to approve the following reports: Treasurer's Report for May, CEO, Fire, DPW, Court and Fire fuel for June

**COMMUNICATIONS**

RBC Wealth Management Portfolio statement and performance evaluation, sign request from Razor's Edge, rain barrel and compost bin sale sheets from E.C. DEP, J. O'Connell and Associates newsletter, communications from: Attorney Trapp co. PERMA, Town of Alden ZBA hearing, NYS dept. of Public Services concerning telecommunications in NYS. Annual report of real property tax services, an employment statement, minutes from Town of Alden, notice of \$33,222.91 reimbursement from FEMA for Nov. storm, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter sales tax distribution from Erie County, Grannytown Gazette, notices to two mobile home parks from CEO Czechowski concerning renewal licenses and request to erect sign in park from MOL.

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

**RESOLUTIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REQUESTS/MOTIONS:**

**Motions for July 9, 2015**

**MOTION** by Trustee Mezydlo, and seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to approve the request of MOL (Making Our Lives Self-Advocacy Group) use of the Firemen's Bandstand Memorial Park on August 22, 2015 for a tag sale. All unsold items will be removed and the park will be left clean. Carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Retzlaff, and seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to forgo water fund transfers to reserves and general funds. Carried.

**MOTION** by Trustee Daluisio, and seconded by Trustee Retzlaff, to forgo refuse fund transfers to reserves and general funds. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, and seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to amend the fiscal year end 2015 budget to reflect purchase of sewer treatment van from water and sewer reserve funds for \$30,861 each. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo, and seconded by Trustee Daluisio, to contract with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. to perform engineering services for the Elm St. Sewer project per their proposal dated July 7, 2015 at a cost of \$26,200. This is a budgeted item. Carried.

MOTION by Trustee Retzlaff, and seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to approve purchase of RBC parts from CJR machine from the fiscal year end 5/31/2015, 2014, 2015 sewer reserves in the amount of \$10,246.00. Carried.

### **BUSINESS FROM FLOOR-**

Legislator Ted Morton addressed the board concerning the conditions of Exchange St. and Crittenden Rd. It appears Exchange St. has some underlying drainage issues, that the county needs to address, rather than just repaving. Crittenden has an exposed sunken storm receiver, that has had 2 cones placed in it, but no repairs have been done. Mayor Manicki explained his frustration and the hoops he has gone thru to try to get answers. The village residents are seeking resolutions, but the officials have no answers on what the immediate and long range plans from the county are. Legislator Morton is trying to work with the county DPW, but is also frustrated by no response. Morton recommends sending letters to E. C. Executive Mark Poloncarz, concerning disbanding the highway associations of local superintendents. Morton would rather have the county funding sent to individual municipalities for county work to be done by the local governments. It would be done cheaper, more efficiently and in a timely manner. Legislator Morton would like to keep open communications on any county issues.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:**

**Superintendent Sitzman** – updated the Elm St. sewer project, residents will be informed of progress. Found leak after about a year on Elm and Broadway which accounted for 20% of loss run.

**Clerk Wachowiak** – Audit is complete, went very well. The motions on this meeting were recommended by the auditors to document past purchases. Mayor Manicki has to review the Investment Policy to update and confirm to GASB. Laura Landers will present finding to the board soon.

**Trustee Warmus** – is everything all ready for the car show? Mayor Manicki will contact committee to confirm.

**Trustee Daluisio** – would like to remind drivers, it is the law that they stop for pedestrian in the crosswalks, it is not an option. He also urges pedestrians to use caution and vigilance.

**Trustee Mezydlo** – Is the new loader in use. Superintendent Sitzman – yes.

**Mayor Manicki** – sales tax is up from last year.

Of late, in op eds and press releases, our elected state officials Gov. Cuomo, Lt Gov. Hochul and State Senator Gallivan are touting the fact that they have reined in local government spending by extending the tax cap. It is too bad that they lack the courage to clean up their own house. Basic reforms to state laws, mandates and programs would yield real savings at **both** the state and local level.

- In the Village of Alden, direct state aid is 1.8% of our general fund revenue and has decreased 14% since 2008.
- Pension contributions are 5% of our budget, up 69% from 2008 yet there has been no meaningful reform that helps us today.
- Workers Compensation is 3% of our budget. The governor has promised reform but we have not seen it yet.
- General Insurance is 3% of our budget. Tort reform and repeal of items such as the scaffold law would help reduce this expense.
- Capital projects: NYCOM lobbied to exempt them from the cap but was rebuffed. This will mean a choice between repairing vital infrastructure or not meeting the cap. In addition, they have lobbied for repeal of the Wicks law which drives up the cost of municipal projects without success.

While we are constantly looking for savings, local government faces a slow death if the tax cap remains as it is. When your property tax rebate check arrives this fall these same state officials will again take credit. Ask yourself how much it cost the state to monitor all the local governments and school districts for compliance and how much it costs to process all those checks. Then ask yourself; if the above reforms were implemented how much would have been saved

**UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:**

none

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Trustee Retzlaff, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm.

I respectfully submit,



Sue Galbraith,  
Deputy Village Clerk