

APPROVED BOARD MINUTES FEBRUARY 23, 2012

The Village board meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Mayor Richard Kegler, Trustee Manicki led the pledge to the flag.

PRESENT: Mayor Kegler, Trustees Warmus, Manicki, Mezydlo, Sitzman, Attorney Trapp, Clerk Kegler, Supt. Keith Sitzman, Administrator Wachowiak, CEO Czechowski, Eugene Nuwer, Dan Czelusta, Sue DeWitt, Mathew Will, DVM.

MOTION by Trustee Manicki, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012 regular board meeting. Carried

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo, seconded by Trustee Manicki, to approve for payment bills on abstract dated February 23, 2012, with the removal of voucher claim #18518 in the amount of \$103 and voucher claim #18518 in the amount of \$3060.72. Carried

Prepaid- 2/15/12	\$305.00
Payroll- 1/28-2/10/12	\$39,631.49
General	\$41,292.5

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo, seconded by Trustee Manicki, to approve the following monthly reports for January: Justice Court Report, Addendum to the Public Works Report, Planning Board minutes for January 18, and February 15, 2012. Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

Town Board meeting minutes of February 21, 2012, Memo from Dept. of Environment & Planning; Notice of 2011 Justice Court Assistance Program Grant for the village court. The security system that was the original request was denied, but a new computer for the court has been approved in the amount of \$1200. Letter from Attorney Trapp regarding his meeting with the Lancaster Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Signed contract of Economic Development Agreement and Director's Agreement between Town of Alden, Chamber of Commerce and Village of Alden received and filed. Letter from County Health Dept. regarding monitoring and reporting requirements for village water system.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Manicki, to receive and file all correspondence. Carried

Supt. Sitzman reported that at the Water Utility Counsel meeting he attended there was a discussion as to eliminating the printing of municipal quality reports and to have them available on villages and towns web sites to save on printing costs. A note could be printed on the water bills that it was available on the web, so that people would be aware of it's availability. This would be a huge savings to the village.

BUSINESS FROM FLOOR:

Nothing

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES/DEPARTMENTS:

Supt. Sitzman-there was a pre-construction meeting today on the water project and hopefully things will get started in March with a November completion date.

Clerk Kegler-reported that petitions for the upcoming election have been received and filed. The ballot will be for trustee's position Trustee Sitzman for 4 year term and for Mayor's position Trustee Manicki for a four year term. Election day is March 20, 2012 from noon – 9PM.

Trustee Manicki-requested an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Mayor Kegler-stated that the preliminary budget has been handed in from his department heads and the board doesn't anticipate going over the 2% tax cap. Our auditor from Freed, Maxick, Battaglia will be here tomorrow for a work session to review some questions arising from new accounting laws which affect preparation of the budget. Work sessions will be held in March and the board will work to prepare a budget that is cost effective and to continue to provide our present services.

UNFINISHED AND TABLED BUSINESS:

- Policy manual-nothing new
- Public Hearing/Local Law 2% Property Tax-remove

MOTION by Trustee Sitzman, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to adjourn from the regular meeting to public hearing for Local Law #7 of 2011 for 2% property tax levy. Carried

PUBLIC HEARING 2% TAX OVERRIDE

Mayor Kegler stated that the Governor has initiated a 2% tax cap for schools, towns and villages to follow this year when preparing their budgets. The purpose of the local law is to protect the village and residents if the budget does go over that 2% as the state would turn around and fine the village if we didn't have the override protection. Villages still don't know exactly what their tax cap will be since it is calculated on the Consumer Price Index, a growth factor that accounts for growth in real property assessment and is calculated by the state along with certain exclusions. Once the budget is closer to being finalized, the board will have a better idea of what the tax cap will be. The board has always made an honest attempt to keep cost down and we intend on doing the same this year. The board did note some discrepancies in the budget at its work session and will be making corrections. The board has taken the position to let department heads make the necessary cuts in their portion of the budget to get the total budget to a reasonable rate.

Mathew Will, DMV was the only resident present to express his opinion about going over the 2%. He feels that since he is a business man in the village he has to pass tax increases on to his customers. He stated that since the village did away with the dedicated service of the sheriff's department, his tax bill has steadily increased, higher than the rate of inflation. Keeping expenses and taxes under control benefit business and residents. Administrator Wachowiak explained to Dr. Will some aspects that determine the calculation of the formula, which at this time hasn't been established for villages. Miscalculation in the budget would result in severe penalties. Dr. Will said that he was disappointed to see no one else at the hearing regarding such an important issue. Mayor said that the board was also disappointed. Supt. Sitzman said that it is the board's job to protect the citizens of the community and that they have been fiscally sound in the past. After all, the board members are tax payers too. Mayor reiterated that they will do their best to keep the budget in line and below the 2%.

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Sitzman, to adjourn from the Public Hearing for Local Law #7 of 2012 to regular session. Carried

MOTION by Trustee Manicki, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to adjourn from regular session to Public Hearing for water rate increase. Carried

PUBLIC HEARING WATER & CAPITAL RATE INCREASE

Mayor Kegler stated that the proposed rate increase for water will be from \$2.45 per thousand to \$2.75 and out of district will be from \$4.90 to \$5.50 per thousand. The water capital charge will increase from \$14.50 to \$20.00 per unit. The reason for the increase is because of the major water project that will be starting soon. The increase in the capital charge is so that all users pay their fair share on a yearly basis. Since the water rate is based on consumption, the higher users would be contributing more than those that are gone for the winter months. The last water increase was in 2008. At this time, Mayor Kegler turned over the hearing to Trustee Sitzman who presented a chart of neighboring water rates. On the chart he showed 18 municipalities and water districts. The village of Alden residents were the second lowest on the list. The average increase will average out to \$40 per year or 11¢ per day based on a quarterly consumption of 15,000 gallons of water. That has got to be the cheapest utility that we have.

A question was asked as to exactly what the water project entails. Supt. Sitzman said that well #3 will have treatment to filter iron and manganese from that well. A mixing system will be installed in the water tank to keep the water circulated, that was a request by the state and also backup power for a long term power outage will be put in place. Updating the central system to eliminate the use and expense of telephone lease lines. The project also included the installation of radio frequency water meters that have been installed in 95% of residents and businesses. This saves the readers two days of reading, it can now be done in two hours. Dr. Will asked if the hardness of the water will be improved. Supt. said that that would have to be addressed in the second part of

the project. Keith also said that the study included the possibility of purchasing water from the Erie County Water Authority, but the rate would be double of what we are

paying now. The village rate is still lower than the county's water rate. Mayor Kegler stated that this rate increase would be effect in the August 1 quarterly billing.

MOTION by Trustee Manicki, seconded by Trustee Warmus to adjourn from the public hearing to regular session. Carried

LOCAL LAW #7-2012-2% Property Tax Cap

MOTION by Trustee Warmus, seconded by Trustee Sitzman, to adopt Local Law #7-2012 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established under General Municipal Law section 3-c. (law on file in office)

Roll call vote:	Trustee Warmus	Aye	
	Trustee Manicki	Aye	
	Trustee Mezydlo	Aye	
	Trustee Sitzman	Aye	
	Mayor Kegler	Aye	Duly adopted

Trustee Supt. Sitzman expressed his disappointment that more residents weren't here to voice their opinions regarding the two public hearings that were held this evening.

MOTION by Trustee Manicki, seconded by Trustee Mezydlo, to adjourn from the regular meeting at 8:25 PM to executive session to discuss personnel. Carried

Personnel was discussed.

MOTION by Trustee Sitzman, seconded by Trustee Manicki, to adjourn from executive session at 8:54 PM to regular session. Carried

MOTION by Trustee Mezydlo, seconded by Trustee Warmus, to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55 PM. Carried

I respectfully submit,

Elizabeth A. Kegler
Village Clerk

