

Village of Alexandria Bay  
Regular Meeting  
June 09, 2026  
5:30 p.m.  
Abay.stat123.com  
Audio/Video

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Trustee Fulmer – Present  
Trustee Millett – Present  
Trustee Strough – Present  
Trustee Caputo – Present  
Mayor Putnam – Present

**Regular Meeting-**

**Public Comments: George Ruddy-**Thanked the Mayor and Village Board for doing what they do. He would like the parking system to be modernized. In his opinion he says nobody uses cash anymore. His opinion is also that quarters are an obsolete thing. He wants to encourage Village leadership to speak with the Coast Guard about doing their training at another Village dock down the river. He also was not wanting the police presence at the Dollar General parking lot (Family Dollar is what he meant) because of people wanting to go towards Redwood to have a couple of beers and then drive home or even come into town have a couple of drinks and then leave. In his opinion the Arch is not the right spot for police presence. His opinion is cops curb tourism and business greatly. His next concern is the public restrooms at The Village Docks. In his opinion the restroom could be fixed up for not a lot of money. He thinks about \$1000.00 to make it look substantially better than it is. In his opinion also the tourist will go to other places because they are nicer and more welcoming.

**Trustee Fulmer** told him that New York Forward monies will be put towards new parking Kiosks.

**Mayor Putnam** spoke up and told Mr. Ruddy that we can't spend the money ahead of time or New York State won't reimburse us for it.

**Chief Mancini** said our meter lady carries quarters so people can ask her for change. He told George to spread the word.

**Jason Sides** volunteered to offer his services to paint the Old Chamber with Sherman Williams donating the paint. He said he wouldn't be able to get to it until late July but will bring us his insurance papers beforehand.

**Correspondence-** None

**Minutes- Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to accept the minutes from May 12, 20, and 28, 2026. **Trustee Strough** Seconded. **All in Favor- No. Trustee Millett Abstained because he wasn't at 2 of them.**

**Paying of Bills: Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to accept Abstract #12 of bills. **Trustee Millett** second. **All in Favor-Aye.**

**Zoning Report: Lee-** Wants to let the trustees know where he stands on the issue with 13 Market St., Skiffs and 24 Church St. The owner is deceased. There's a person here that has power of attorney. Once the owner passes the Power of Attorney has no more legitimacy, so I'm not doing anything with those parcels until I can get proof that the estate has been probate with it. Jason Crump is waiting for an engineer's report on the wall at Skiff that was

punctured when the roof collapsed. Power of Attorney has been notified with what we need.

**DPW Report- Jarrett** – “We had 4 mowing notices sent out. Two that the Village did and 2 that the owners took care of. We had a sewer line on Walton St that we had fixed. We fixed that spot and the one on Holland. Then we had the spot that froze up to the Legion that we had dug up this winter and of course where we had the water main break, we had fixed that as well that day. So, they are all put back together. The beach is in. We’ve got it ready. Hopefully, we can get our permit here soon. I ordered the beach signs that we had discussed at the last meeting and the playground signs. Right now, I have one of the guys repairing one of the floating docks repairing the rotted boards that are out there. We pumped out a couple of the big steel barrels with air, and we refloated a couple of them to bring them up to height and they seem to be holding them for now. Weve been getting ready for Riverfest. Monday, we have all the paint from Sherwin Williams for the road. Monday morning, probably 3am the guys will be in banging it out. Hopefully have it done one day. Beach has new ropes and cleaned it up. Sprayed no diving. We just made sure the Department of Health is pretty happy with us down there. Just the normal picking brush, sweeping, and lawn mowing.”

**Police Report: Marco Mancini**- “15 Complaints called to service, 1 arrest, 1 violation arrest, 1 traffic ticket and 26 parking tickets for the month of May.”

#### **Trustee Reports:**

**Trustee Fulmer**- “Just really quick we have 4 dock attendants at this point. With 4 lifeguards we can open the beach. I’m still hoping for one more with some experience. Other than that the trainees have been working this past weekend, I think was the first weekend we started charging at the dock.”

**Trustee Caputo**- “What the hell did I do with my numbers? I have my sheet. Anyway, at the golf course we had a fabulous May. It’s been wet. It’s been dried off very nicely right now. Um, overall, the golf course is in good shape. Uh, had a lot of season passes, a lot of people playing. We got the two new pickleballs painted and the new nets came in yesterday and got taken up there and I’ll put them together tomorrow. And if people want to start playing on there, they can. Mike and I have been up there a couple of times looking at what to do in between and I called the company and then emailed them to get a price quote, and they never emailed me back. So, I guess I need to look for another company. We were looking to start with just doing like three 30 foot by 6 foot high, wind netting. They are very expensive to start with. I am looking into that, but they are playable. Melissa had told me that we’ve got a lot of student passes this year. There have been a lot more younger kids coming out, teenagers coming out and using the facilities and stuff. So, hopefully they’ll start using it and um they’ll do good. I think in May we had \$40,000. I want to say close to \$45,000 but again that’ll come down a little bit because of all the season passes. We ended up on the positive side substantially.

I have asked Greg to, and he sent me some today, but they are little bit too old. Um, it’s kind of a catch 22. I parked carts away last night and there’s not an inch to spare in that shed, in that, where we keep it. I like Greg’s idea of thinking about putting a lean to off the side. On some of the leagues they are so big we don’t have enough carts for everybody. So, there’s people out there walking and so I’m looking at some used carts cuz new carts are just so expensive. But the ones he showed me today, they look pretty good, but I don’t think I want to go back to 2010. That’s already 15 years old. I think that’s a little too old for us.

I will say I did look at some other numbers and just looking at the end of year numbers that we had, we actually lost money on the docks. Um, the revenue just doesn't come in, and I don't think there's anybody on this board that doesn't know that I'm against the meters all the way around. I just, I think it's a very, it's not a welcoming thing for our community. Yes, the parking meters themselves made a very good revenue, but if you look at what the, what we paid the meter maid and the contractual things, that was more than what we got in parking tickets. So, I do understand where George is coming from, that just leave the meters there and if people pay then that is all income rather than the other and I think a lot of it is the education on for the business owners that there are places where they can park. They can park up at the post office and behind the post office. You know, on weekends I'm sure Watertown Savings Bank doesn't mind people being in there. I get why we don't want to get rid of them completely because then the regular workers in the stores and stuff, they all take up those. Then we won't have room for the tourists. So, it is a catch 22 but I'm still not in favor in parking meters. I would love to see us for a year not charge the people on the docks because we are losing money. Just try that for a year.

Oh, and I also got a call from Dave Peach today. He said there have a couple boats parking on Bethune St docks nonstop. Anyway, you guys seemed like you kind of agreed with me on the dock's thing. Can I make a motion that we suspend with dock revenue uh?"

**Trustee Millett** asked, "what do you do with the dock attendants?"

**Trustee Fulmer** looked at Attorney Burrows and asked if we would have to change a Village law.

**Attorney Burrows-** "Its chapter six and I will have to take a look at it. Wasn't really the topic coming up today."

**Trustee Caputo-** "I know I've looked at the Village law online, the Department of State for the parking meters. I don't remember seeing anything in the Village law about boating parking."

**Attorney Burrows-** "I can look at the Village Code on that topic, but actually Jarrett and I talked about that this evening briefly. I know back in 2019, the Village did change the dockage as far as commercial use of dockage as well. So, I know there have been changes at least as far back as 2019, but we do have restrictions in Chapter 60, but I can review it and get back to you quickly on that."

**Trustee Millett-** "Why can't we just put a donation box?"

During the commotion of all speaking Trustee Caputo and Trustee Fulmer asked Attorney Burrows for some guidance.

**Attorney Burrows-** "I think its governed by Chapter 60, but if it's a local law, what happens is you change a local law by an amendment. There's a process for that. Unfortunately, it takes about 2 months. If you want to follow the rules with your local law. You'd have to say what changes you want. You'd have to schedule a public hearing. Following the public hearing, adopt your local law, file with Department of State and you can get flexibility. For instance, if you want to have flexibility, you might have in your local law a change that allows you to make certain periodic suspensions with a simple resolution from the Village Board. You can do things like that to get flexibility, but to make the changes to start with, its got to be a local law."

**Trustee Fulmer-** "So we couldn't do a resolution right now to say we don't want to charge at the docks or have dock attendants from now until Labor Day?"

**Attorney Burrows-** “Practically speaking you can do that, but if you’re not intending to enforce it, then it’s as if it didn’t exist. So, what I’m saying is if you want to follow the rules, then what you would do is you would change the local law to create some flexibility one way or another. You could do that in the long run. In the short run if you’re saying you as a Village Board, you’ve got the provision that you intend to make changes to and if it’s your intent that it not be administered or enforced at this point, make a simple motion and as long as its directed to village officials, village agents, village employees that’s going to dictate, that’s going to control because you’re not going to be able to enforce it at that point.”

**Trustee Caputo-** “I don’t want to change the local law, I want to be a little bit rebel and say for this year, let’s try it. Let’s try suspending it. We’re assuming we’re going to have all these problems, but until we get a problem, let’s try it. I want to assume that people are going to do the right thing. I want to assume that people aren’t going to decide that you know what instead of getting a something, we’re just going to live on a boat on the Alex Bay thing, if that’s what they do, then okay were going to have to shoo them away.”

**Trustee Fulmer-** “I kind of agree with you and that’s why change comes but it comes slowly. We’re stuck doing a lot of things because that’s the way it’s been. Since I started back in 2018 there were dock attendants.”

**Trustee Millett-** “George is right about the Village dock and the reason it isn’t full. There’s Park Police, there’s State Police, there’s Border Patrol, Coast Guard. You can’t leave that upper dock without getting stopped.”

**Trustee Caputo-** “Ok George Public Comment overt, so we got to keep moving this along. I’ve enjoyed everything that you’ve said but we do have to kind of maintain some kind of Murphys Law or whatever. So, I would like to make a motion that for this year, we suspend charging at the docks for this season. Then we will review it and decide if it was good or bad and then we will decide at that point if we want to change our local law, and then we will do it right but if we encounter that there’s problems and well have people, we should all be monitoring it and watching for different things. But that’s my motion.” Trustee Millett Seconded. All in Favor-Aye.

**Attorney Burrows-** “So the motion to start administering and enforcing portion of Chapter 60 of the code that deals with charging fees or fines for use of the public docks from effective now through the end of Labor Day 2026. And that’s what the motion was and then you’ll alert the dock attendants of the suspension of that provision of the law immediately. And then certainly your discretion, you’ll do whatever scheduling you want in these with those employees.”

**Trustee Caputo-** “We’re going to just put up a donation box.”

**Trustee Millett-** “Let you guys know there’s 602 meters total and we put 398 in and we still got 200 to go. I haven’t got a report for two months.”

**Project Reports: BCA- Gregor-** “I’ve got the results for everybody. So, the bids were opened last week for the distribution system work. Lawman was the low bidder. Also had 2 other bidders. J.L Construction and Marcellius. So, what I handed out includes the low bid results for Lawman. \$2.875 Million and also has alternates 1 and 2 on there. The pages behind it has the bids from the other 2 bidders along with a unit breakdown. So, for this work it is all paid for linear foot of pipe or how much select fill is installed. Last page includes a breakdown of all those numbers too.”

**Robert Cosselman-** “So will it be posted on the village website somewhere?”

**Gregor-** “So it is posted on our site as well.”

**Cosselman-** “I don’t care about yours. I’m talking about the village website.”

**Trustee Fulmer-** “We will put it on the Village website.”

**Gregor-** “So for next week, were not ready for the Board to take any actions yet. We have a Progress meeting scheduled for Wednesday at 4pm. We’ll go through all the budget materials, and the plan would be to act on that. We have qualifications package all set for the board and we can start that process. Since the publics here the base bid includes Church St., from Rockwell to James St. Rock St., which I know you’ve had some issues on this past year with leaks. Fuler, Avery is just a single line replacement. Washington and Riverside waterline replacements. The alternates included Anthony and doing a loop on Avery. We do have a few easements left. Another update, they are galvanizing the beams at the tank. Goal for that is Labor Day completion. We received comments on the water filtration plant improvements which is good to keep things moving.”

**Old Business- None**

**New Business- Court-** “The Thousand Island Charity Poker Run bought 2 AEDs for the docks and would like Jarrett’s help putting them up. We are going to have 600-700 people here on July 18<sup>th</sup> for the Poker Run. 110 boats. Last year it attracted about 2000 spectators. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year and we want to thank the Village for letting us do it again.

Community for Betterment is their 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The first page I gave you is just asking for next year’s dates of 2027. Friday July 9<sup>th</sup> for golf and tennis and then Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> for the beach and pavilion. The next 3 pages are the committee requests that you have been doing thankfully for the last three years, or I mean the last 25 years.

The last thing is, I went to Lee, the zoning officer, to find out what the fire department had to do to put a storage container on the leased land. So, the Fire District leases the space from the village, and we have an insurance inspection coming up and our stations a little bit too much clutter. We want to put it over by the barbeques bin.”

**Mayor Putnam-** “Let’s do this first. I need a motion for the Betterment for next year.”

**Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to approve the weekend of July 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> for Community Betterment of 2027. **Trustee Strough** seconded. All in favor- Aye

**Mayor Putnam-** “I’m open to discussion on the storage.”

**Trustee Millett-** “I’m going to be honest with you. I don’t like them.”

**Mayor Putnam-** “I don’t like it because it looks like clutter out there now. “

The board asked him to put it on Ron Thompsons property.

**\*Mayor Putnam-**Hearts for Youth would like to thank the Village board for use of the pickleball courts last year and would like to continue to use again this year. Starting July 7, 2026, from 10am until 11am. The last Thursday will be August 20, 2026. **Trustee Caputo** made a motion to accept the request for the pickleball courts. **Trustee Strough** seconded. All in favor-Aye.

**\*Summer Hires-** Peyton Toutant and Kenyon Storandt. **Trustee Fulmer** made the motion. **Trustee Caputo** seconded. All in Favor-Aye.

**\*DANC Agreement-** Tabled until June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Trustee Caputo-** “I want to go back and I’m glad George is gone because I don’t want any more talk from them. But I will agree. I have been approached by 3 different businesses

besides George about the police presence. I am very happy because we had groups of people coming to us saying we needed to do more as a village. I feel we have done a good job. I feel that Marco and whoever he has working under us is great for our village, and on special events and special weekends we would welcome help, but I think the presence of everybody else being here all the time is ridiculous. I came out of the Legion last night, and I went there to do machines and stuff and when I left there was two State police. Granted, I think they may have been a call, and nobody was on duty here for the Village, but I am constantly seeing the State police, Park police, parked all over around here. And I don't know what we can do to say hey, I got it. If I need you, I will call you. And if you need back up then call them in but do we have to have basically 3 or 4 different agencies here all the time? Because it is a deterrent. It is a deterrent in my opinion."

**Chief Mancini-** "So let me just get this straight? You wanted police presence, right? You got it. Then you got more and now you don't like it. So, George's complaint, he's saying customers are upset that the police are doing their job. Is that correct? That's his complaint. His complaint is that the troopers, I don't see park police pulling people over. Just realize that some of my guys work for the park police so they like coming into the village. And they often back up other agencies like the County, the troopers and myself. I've had them back me up. So, what I'm saying is these guys enforce V & T law, seatbelts, which if everybody pays attention it was buckle up New York and that's what they do. They enforce the seatbelt law so it's easier to spot a person with no seatbelt in a 30-mph zone instead of a 55-mph zone. So now you're saying that people are complaining that the police are around, but they are just enforcing the vehicle and traffic law. And just as a coincidence they pulled over a couple car, and they end up being DWI arrests. So, do you want that DWI person driving in a village possibly hurting a village resident or causing property damage? No, so that's all they are doing. And just because they are present doesn't mean this is a bad place. You understand it's that time of year. More people come into town, more tourists, more just activity means there's going to be more people not wearing their seatbelts, more people violating the vehicle and traffic laws. Tourists coming through speeding through the speed zones, right? That's what you got. And him saying that we only sit other places. I sit on Route 12. I sit on Church. I sit at the Family Dollar sometimes. I am not going to the Coast Guard or the State police and the parks police and say don't come into the village when I'm working because then they're just going to be like fine were going to go out and hang out in Clayton and the village is on their own meaning I'm on my own. People complain because they can't do what they want. They cant go drive drunk from their rich house. People complain about a \$5 parking ticket for crying out loud. So that's my point. That's my argument."

\* **Roy Karczewski-** 12 Bolton- Didn't receive his first water bill and would like the late fee waived. The office ladies tried to encourage him to sign up for emailing and he refused. Mr. Karczewski asked if the bills go out at the same time each quarter and the Village Clerk did inform him that they do go out at the same time every quarter and it is on out Village website in the local Laws when they go out and when they are due. Mayor Putnam said the consensus is he has to pay the late fee.

**Trustee Caputo** made the motion to go to Executive session and also adjourn the meeting until June 17<sup>th</sup>. **Trustee Fulmer** seconded. All in favor-Aye.