

Village of Alexandria Bay
Regular Meeting
June 10, 2025
5:30 pm
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Audio/Video

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

Regular Board meeting: Trustee Caputo made a motion to set a public hearing on July 8, 2025, to apply for the CDBG funding.
Trustee Fulmer seconded. All in Favor- AYE.

Public Comments / Concerns: Cathy Garlock is representing the Chamber of Commerce asking for a donation of monies for the July 4th, 2025, fireworks. Trustee Fulmer made a motion to give \$1500.00 to the Chamber for the fireworks. Mayor Putnam says he wants to add to the motion “I expect the mess cleaned up. The last few times they had fireworks our DPW had to go down and clean it up. I’m concerned all it takes is one that didn’t go off and our guys don’t handle that stuff” Trustee Caputo seconded. All in Favor- AYE.

Sam Vaphiadis- “First I would like to say thank you to the board and to this gentleman right here (points to Jarrett), for a job well done at the water tower site. I would also like to ask if there are any plans to move the old fire box, I would like to see it removed. Are there any regulations that I can’t drill a well? I want to water my lawn and flowers without the chemicals. Is the zoning department under the guidance of the board of directors or under the guidance of New York State? I have a controversial with the Zoning Officer and I want to file for a different ruling where do I go?”

Attorney Burrows” Zoning board of appeals”

Sam, “Why did we change the law of lawn maintenance? 20 feet from the curb.”

Attorney Burrows” 20-25 foot window from the sidewalks is a public safety thing.”

Sam ”DPW doesn’t have enough manpower to take care of all that needs to be taken care of but yet we have a golf course that loses \$40,000 a year but its all weed wacked and cut and beautiful. Can anyone tell me about condemnation of buildings?”

Robert Cosselman ”Super quick question, I saw on the news about the beautification project, but they didn’t give any information on it. Was it approved?”
Trustee Fulmer” Yes 4.5 million Dollars.”

Teri Brennan- “I have a question about the crosswalks they need to be touched up this year.”

Mayor Putnam- “We are working on it, aren’t we Jarrett?”

Jarrett- “Yep.”

Janet Sanders- “Seems like the inner streets would be a priority seeing how all the kids are there.”

Cindy Simpson- “Which brings up another issue, the speeding on Catherine/Cornwall St, Walton, and Anthony St. The speeding Mike, as you know because you live there. It’s a mess. They slowed down when we did the speed bumps.”

Mayor Putnam- “This is what’s going to happen. Sandy and I interviewed 3 people for a new police chief. We picked one of them and very well qualified. I’ve made a zillion phone calls thru background check on him and stuff and tonight we are going to vote on whether to hire him or not. We are going to have a police chief because we tried to tell the existing people we have to set up radar on these streets and it’s not getting done.”

Trustee Millett- “They don’t listen.”

Mayor Putnam- “They don’t listen so we are going to hire a police chief for 40 hours and hopefully another officer for 40 hours and this will stop or slow down a lot of it. We have a part time police force that we are going to get rid of.”

Teri Brennan- “We don’t need anybody at 10 in the morning on the corner.”

Mayor Putnam- “We have addressed that issue. Like I said, Sandy and I interviewed, 2 of them are retired state troopers and Josh. Reviewed them all. We’ve chosen one. I’ve done a background check as best I can. I mean it’s like jumping thru hoops to get answers. He worked for Broom County, DA, He worked for trooper for 20 years. He was in the main school district as a resource guy. I called, I did not get one bad report on this gentleman. He has called numerous times to see if we have made a decision and tonight, we are going to make that decision and one of the questions I asked the man, I said if we made you police chief, I go what would you do to orient yourself to the community? He said the first thing I probably would do is go down to the shop owners, introduce myself, go to the school, introduce myself. We’re not looking for a police chief to write a billion tickets, we are looking for a police chief, boat trailers across the sidewalk, knock on the door. Hey, your trailers on the sidewalk, we’d like it moved. Go back the second time, I asked you to move the trailer. Time for you to get a ticket. That’s who we’re looking for. We bought 2 brand new radar guns for the police department, I don’t think they’ve been out of the box so I’m just saying we have had it with the existing police department and I’m going to tell you right now I need, you want to add anything?”

Trustee Caputo- “No. We heard you last year, we did and the way our existing police force is, it’s a part time police force. We don’t have a police chief that can do the training, they all work somewhere else, so they’re qualified somewhere else. That’s how we can have them here but we work around their schedules and when they can give us time. When their normal jobs aren’t using them and so were playing and we tried last year when Mike and I negotiated the contract. You know we gave them extra money if they were there on the weekends, we said we wanted 2 people there on Friday and Saturday night from Victoria Day thru Columbus. We know we haven’t gotten it. This year in our budget, we budgeted for a police chief. We talked to him about, we rather have him and another full-time person who are truly invested in our community and then if you need one- or two-part timers just to fill in, that’s ok too but having all of these part-timers we’re not priority to them. I know it’s been a painful year. We researched what we had to do and we’ve done our due diligence, in my opinion and we are ready to act.”

Mayor Putnam- “Its not like we haven’t heard ya, we’ve been trying and finally we advertised, and we have some good candidates and we’ve just made a decision and that’s one of the things we are going to do tonight and as far as I’m concerned I just assume do it right now.”

Trustee Caputo- “I’ll make a motion that we hire Marco Mancini as our full time, as an interim police chief because he does have some things he needs to go thru until he passes his police chief test, which I have no problem that he will but it’s all thru civil service and they have to schedule. We have to hire him first, then they will schedule him for a test and then he will take the test but he will be interim and we have discussed this with Jim and he’s writing up our contract for us but um I’ll make that motion that he be effective.....”

Trustee Strough Seconded.

Roll Call-

Trustee Millett- Yes.

Trustee Strough- Yes

Trustee Caputo- Yes

Trustee Fulmer- I'm a yes as long as we follow all of the rules that we need to follow to make it happen properly.

Mayor Putnam- Yes.

Mayor Putnam- "We have some stuff we have to follow that's not complete yet and some of it we can't do until he's hired. Some of it is automatically swayed, certain tests and so as of right now as far as I'm concerned, we are going to make a phone call telling him and he is ready to move. He has been anxious to come up and work. So that's a start and then we will go from there. He has a summer home, a cottage in Clayton but he will make arrangements and possibly buy a house here in the village or close by. He would like to work at least a minimum of 10 years if possible. I've made phone calls the Broom County DA checked on him, the schools, he worked for upstate security, the guy gave him nothing but the best resources, I mean it's been quite a thing to try to find any information and get thru all this stuff.

Trustee Caputo- "I've gone the other route, Mike did all the interviews with the people on his resume, and I went the other route with civil service and department of justice, there's things we have to do there. He's met all of the training requirements. We have to do some forms for them and again we can't do them because he's not working here yet. We have to get him here in person so we can finish."

Mayor Putnam- "Simple things like he has to be fingerprinted and all of that kind of stuff. We are kind of jumping ahead a little bit like Judy said but we have no choice. We need to have somebody here full-time. Nothing against Josh but he works full time in Clayton, and we will go from there and why we need the police officer is Walton Street and High Street are getting blacked topped this year."

Correspondence: Mayor Putnam- "I sent a letter out to the owners on Market Street about covering the sidewalk, and we had a complaint that it wasn't structurally sound. I mean here we are trying to protect people from falling bricks so Annette from Aubertine and Currier came down and looked at it. She said this is not a permanent structure just temporary use."

Discussion on the minutes of last meeting. May 13, 2025. Trustee Fulmer made a motion to approve the minutes.

Trustee Millett- Seconded. All in favor- AYE.

Paying of Bills: Abstract # 1- Trustee Fulmer made a motion to accept the paying of the bills.

Trustee Strough- Seconded. All in favor- AYE.

Zoning Report: Mr. Shimel- "The ongoing saga with the floating dock on Bethune Street, has been resolved. They have met the requirements that the planning board has set up and I have notified the Town Court that they have satisfied. The last 2 Wednesday morning I have come down to check on sandwich boards and we have the same 3 people that don't have them tethered nor taking them in at night. My question is when do I start retrieving them and take them to the DPW barn? They have had 3 letters."

Trustee Caputo- "Who are the three?"

Mr. Shimel- "Dancing Dog, 1864, and Good dog Charlie."

Mayor Putnam- "This is how I feel about it, if you're not going to enforce it then why have it? Pick them up."

Attorney Burrows- "The sign potentially poses a danger or hazard to pedestrians and potentially to motor vehicle traffic. You do have the inherent power to remove the signs. Just so the minutes reflect that."

Mr. Shimel- “The ZBA is having a variance on the 25th. We only have 3 ZBA members. I only have 1 more thing, Thursday night up at the Town we are having a speed reduction presentation put on by Labelle Assoc. They’ll go thru and do a presentation on what’s required as far as putting together a traffic study. Orleans, the Town and the Village and I did have the county send out notices to the planning departments.”

Mayor Putnam- “I have a question for you. Did they ever apply for a permit for the photo booth?”

Mr. Shimel- “No.”

DPW Report- Jarrett- “It’s going to be real short. We got the ditch dug around up on top of the hill, so we could get those fixed up there on top. I had a crew in from 3-11 getting lines spray painted. We’re still working on it. Parking meter poles are still getting painted too. Tomorrow we are going to start getting ready for the Riverfest. That’s going on Thursday, so we’re going to have to get the big concrete barricades for security reasons. Thursday morning, I have a meeting with Fort Drum about security. We cleaned up a couple properties. We cleaned up the property down on Otter Street bridge and Rockwell Water Tower and boat ramps. We have only mowed one lawn as of now that was in non-compliance. The curtains are going up this week. We are having MORP up to the pavilion.”

Trustee Strough- “They are getting all the cold patching done. We have a couple things in the working. We are going to fix those pickleball courts. We are going to get them filled in shortly so we can get them new pickleball courts put together. The old chamber building we are getting ready to scrape that and paint that and make that presentable down there at Rotary Park.”

Police Report: Mayor Putnam- “Ok I can give you the police report. Police department had five complaints, zero arrest, zero tickets, one warning and six parking tickets. Just photocopied from the last six months but we are dealing with that.”

Trustee Millett- “I can read my report. The month of May the water plant is still in satisfactory condition. They dug and repaired a shut of at NAVs popcorn. They dug and repaired the main valve on Bethune St. The clay valve that they were having trouble within the water plant. They fixed that and it’s still leaking. They dug and repaired the water drain brake on Rock St. with assistance from the Town of Morristown. They reinstalled filter number one back together. They said they had 43 work orders. They’ve installed 35 meters.”

Trustee Fulmer- “We finally have enough lifeguards. A gentleman named Chris Symenow is going to start soon and he is brand new lifeguard. We have enough dock attendants. Other than that, we had talked earlier about the paving and I do have a split again a total of the CHIPS money. Our accountant is saying it’s time to use it or we lose it. Which we are going to use the money in the fall. I need some picnic tables on Casino Island. The office is working well. If anybody has any problems or anything let me know. When people call or come in, we are reacting well and responding well to people and people have noticed a change. I think the ladies are doing a good job in the office.”

Trustee Caputo- “They have been working up on the bottom side of the tennis courts are. We got the tennis courts were cleaned. They look beautiful. The tree root that was trying to push up through the bottom court has been ground down and repaired. We still have one big clump of trees left to take out. I guess that’s all I have.”

Trustee Fulmer- “I was just texted that I need to make a motion to hire my new lifeguard, Chris Symenow, so I will make that motion if I could have a second.”

Trustee Caputo Seconded. All in Favor- AYE.

Trustee Fulmer- “And the office just updated me there are 199 meters in.”

Project Reports: BCA- Gregor- “So I have some documents for the board. The bid opening was held last Thursday for the water tank. These are the qualification packets. The tank contractor is Statewide Aqua Store, and the electrical contractor is Blackstone Electric. So that includes everything from their projected schedule to references. It includes the bid results. The total base bid for the tank is \$3.798 Million. It has a passive mixing system and an active system. The passive was \$75,600 and the active was \$21,900. The contract two which is the electrical just for the tank. It doesn’t include the water plant.

Mayor Putnam- “We need a motion to accept the bid for the tank and with the passive alternate and electrical the low bidders for both jobs.”

Trustee Fulmer- “I will make that motion dependent upon Attorney Burrows review. “

Trustee Millett-Seconded. All in favor- AYE.

Gregor- “In the packet it looks like they have an August 25th Start time demo. Just a couple of things Atlantic Testing has the permit from the DOT now, so they have a few borings to complete. We’re drafting a letter that you can publish. A notice so that people are aware of the easements. Well probably send those out to start with and you can also publish on your website so that people can see what its all about. The only other thing and I still need to get an answer is on the separatic filters. They were on site last Thursday. I think everyone felt they were a comparable filter and we’re looking into having the ability to have a procurement to get the filters so you can base the design on that specific filter type. Progress water meeting, July 10th, 2025, at 4pm.”

New Business-Trustee Fulmer- “What happened is Trevor Garlock and his tenant paid the water bill, and he’d like a refund. What we’ve done in the past is we don’t do refunds he will have to go to his tenant to get reimbursement. “

Mayor Putnam- “Macsherry Library Summer reading kickoff Party to June27th, 2025, from 10-noon. People park in the back lot with the understanding in the helicopters called, cars will be moved. Also use the area across from the library where the Community Garden used to be. Hearts for Youth wants to use the pickleball courts on Thursdays starting 7/17 until 8/28 from 10am-11am.”

Public Concerns:

Trustee Caputo made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss an Employee matter with Attorney Burrows. Trustee Fulmer seconded. All in favor Aye.

