

Village of Alexandria Bay  
Regular Meeting  
December 10, 2024  
5:30 pm  
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Audio/Video

**Mayor Putnam** called the meeting to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

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

**Annual Report:**

**Mayor Putnam** gave an annual report on his first year as mayor. **Mayor Putnam** acknowledges his lack of political experience with politics. Working with the public and the employees has helped him learn to be a little more diplomatic.

In the beginning we lost **Trustee Cindy Demo**. **Mayor Putnam** then appointed **Doug Strough** to fill her position for the remainder of her term. **Trustee Strough** has since then been elected this November as a village trustee along with **Trustee Caputo** for another term. Part of the mayor's responsibility is also to appoint trustees to different departments. In general, it has worked out, but it is time for a change, and it happened in the past week. **Mayor Putnam** believes the change will help people not to be comfortable and see things differently as to what is to be done.

**DPW: Jarrett Parrow** has done an excellent job, doing a little better at pushing the guys. DPW has combined recycling and trash pickup to be on the same day so now that gives them an extra day to be able to do things around the village.

**Golf:** We brought in a new crew and there was a significant improvement in the quality of the course. There have been positive comments about the course. Usage was up, which closed the gap in the budget. We painted another court for pickle ballers. **Mayor Putnam** thanked **Bruce, Jim, Ron, Rod, Trustee Strough and Trustee Caputo** for the work done this summer.

**Fire Department:** The biggest adjustment was forming the fire district. **Mayor Putnam** thanked Mrs. & Mrs. Fitzsimmons for their \$150,000.00 donation to the new fire truck.

**Water/Sewer:** The village is in dire need of water improvements such as the water tower on Rockwell Street to be replaced, and new electronic water meters. The Village did receive a 5million dollar grant to help with that. We recently did an income survey which allowed us to apply for an additional 2million dollar grant and we are waiting for the results

**NY Forward grant:** This past spring the Village was awarded \$4,500,000.00 by the governor. The funds are to improve the Village and the businesses. NY State makes the final decision on where the monies go. **Trustee Fulmer** has taken the lead on this.

**Village Office:** **Mayor Putnam** thanked the ladies in the office, **Molly, Erica, and Sara**, for keeping up to date with everything.

**Mayor Putnam** also wanted to thank the Trustees. **Trustee Millett, Trustee Strough, Trustee Caputo and Trustee Fulmer.**

**The Flower Community:** For sprucing up the village with planters.

**Mayor Putnam** thanked Town Supervisor, Brent **Sweet** and the Town Board for all their help and shared services that they provided and **Attorney Jim Burrows** and his firm.

**Mayor Putnam** stated there are some items the board would like to work on in the new year such as the police department, zoning enforcement and the boat ramp on Holland Street.

**Public Comments / Concerns:** None

**Discussion on the minutes of the last meeting-**November 12th. **Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to approve Minutes. **Trustee Stough** Seconded it. All in favor-Aye. The annual meeting minutes from December 2, 2024, will be approved at next month's meeting.

**Paying of Bills:** **Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to approve **Abstract #6.** **Trustee Millett** seconded it. All in favor-Aye.

## **Trustee Reports:**

**Zoning Report-** **Lee Shimel** wanted to give a review of what The Planning Board and ZBA have done this past year. The Planning board approved four site plan applications. One subdivision and one special use and two lot lines adjustments. **Lee** stated he has issued fifteen zoning permits, and he said that was done from the thirty-three last year. **Lee** also stated he sent out twenty-one grass violations this year. The grass letters sent to eight parcels, and two-thirds of the letters went to two parcels. **Lee** would like to update the grass local law. There was a court date set on December 3, 2024, for a zoning issue, but it is adjourned until February 2025 since the defendant has now retained an attorney. **Lee** wanted to let the public know that they are still looking for a Planning Board and Zoning Board Alternat.

**DPW Report:** **Jarrett** stated that he had three trees cut down on the end North Crossmon and Margret. **Jarrett** has a gentleman from DEC that comes and checks the trees. The trees at the end had beetles in them, so those trees were ruined. **Jarrett** had them cut down. There was also the big maple tree by dark island spirits that was trimmed, but it is going to end up having to come down. **Jarrett** stated that they have been getting the Christmas decorations up. Josh David donated his time and lift to help put up the season greeting sign on the arch. State Park usually does that, but they did not have the time to do it this year. The DPW helps get ready for swimming with Santa. They raked the beach to make sure there was no seaweed and that it looked nice down there. **Jarrett** stated he has been writing parking tickets for parking on the streets after hours. He wrote twenty-eight warnings for the first 3 days of tickets and after the 3 days of warnings he only ended up having to write nine tickets. The DPW also dug a new water shut off on Anthony Street.

**Trustee Caputo:** Stated that the Village has a cohesive board that has really worked together. **Trustee Caputo** thanked the public for reelecting herself and **Trustee Strough**. **Trustee Caputo** Spoke about the Fire Department officially becoming a join fire district. **Trustee Caputo** stated that the equipment that we own is listed on the bill of sale that we own outright. **Trustee Caputo** asked that **Attorney Burrows** review the paperwork first before they transfer, and **Mayor Putnam** signs off on them. The Fire District will start leasing space in the municipal building for \$1,500.00 a month starting in January and in 5 years it will increase to \$2000.00 a month. There is also the agreement for the lease of equipment and assumption of debit. Jaws of life have eight payments left in the amount of \$465.00. Six monthly payments left for the 2010 heavy rescue truck at \$2000.83 and there are three annual payments left for the 1997 fire engine in the amount of \$8289.09. **Trustee Caputo** stated that they should verify all of that and take a little time to review the agreement documents before they are signed. **Trustee Caputo** made a motion to authorize **Mayor Putnam** to execute the documents contingent on the Village Attorney reviewing

them. **Trustee Strough** seconded it. All in favor-Aye. Trustee Caputo wanted the public to have general knowledge that forming the fire district has a tax increase of \$1.00 per thousand dollars.

**Trustee Millett-** Stated that he is not Trustee for the DPW, but now Trustee for water/sewer.

**Trustee Millett** got a report from the water and sewer department, so he is aware of what they are doing and what needs to be done. The sewer plant is running well, but there are still a lot of things needing to be fixed since it is over 50 years old. There are a lot of broken parts down there. The DEC inspection was done and they also stated there were upgrades that needed to be made. There are new chains and flights in one of the settling tanks and getting a price to do the second one. The muffin monster is broken. The muffin monster is a machine that chews up all the stuff before entering the sewer plant. They must send it away to be repaired and there is one estimate they have received that is \$35,500.00, but to buy a new one is \$36,000.00. The sewer department is looking to get a second estimate.

**Trustee Millett** stated that when the muffin monster is not working, they must manually clean the grate by hand. Sludge hauling is done for the winter, the generator has started up, so they are all up and running. There is one on Otter Street and one on Church Street. The master meter chart recorder is broken. It works some of the time, but not all the time.

Looking to get an estimate for a new one to be able to tell what the flow is going into the sewer plant. Trustee Millett did state that the meter chart recorder is mandated by the State. For the water plant for the month of November they shut off forty-two waters for the winter. They have installed twenty-one new meters for the new water reads. All the fire hydrants have been flushed for the winter and they have had multiple rereads. The water plant also assists Jarrett and the guys with trash day when there are DPW guys on vacation, or guys down. Earl and Pat have also helped work on the heating issue at the municipal building. **Trustee Millette** and **Jarrett** went to the new water tower in Mexico the other day, so now they know what the new water tower is going to look like. The surveyors will be up at the village water tower next week stacking it out and should have a completed survey map by January.

**Trustee Fulmer:** Is still involved with water/sewer, but just the paper side of it. **Trustee Fulmer** has been collaborating with the girls in the office to fix some of the water/sewer billing since the last billing in November. Some of the bills say residential and some say commercials which are on the bills, and it does not mean anything, so have been taking that off. As far as sewer **Gregor** from BCA said a notice was just sent saying that the village was not granted an additional 25% grant for the sewer plant but was advised to apply again for that grant program. The Village was already granted 25% of the 4million sewer grant previously. The total project cost will be 17million. **Trustee Fulmer** says we should apply for whatever is out there. A lot of programs are done annually, set up for summer

submission. **Gregor** stated that Rual Development has a rolling application that you can submit at any time of the year. **Trustee Fulmer** spoke about since the water bills went out November 1, 2024, that there were a lot of calls and complaints about the increase, which we have gotten past, but when the rates increased people started paying attention to water usage. **Trustee Fulmer** stated that there were two people that requested sewer credit due to water leaks. One is at 45 Church Street, dancing dog. Pat did verify that there was a leak. So, 45 Church Street will receive \$912.54 credit for sewer usage if the board approves. 51 Walton also had a plumbing leak and Pat verified that as well and he will be credited \$551.61 credit for sewer usage if the board approves. **Trustee Fulmer** made a motion to approve both credits. **Trustee Caputo** seconded it. All in favor-Aye. The tree lighting was on December 6, 2024. There may have been thirty people if we were lucky. Next year we need to start planning this event a little sooner and advertise a little better. **Trustee Fulmer** is working with Taylor at DANC who is working with FEMA about money that the Village should be receiving from FEMA money for the first flooding.

**Project Reports: BCA- Gregor** requested a meeting be set up for December 18, 2024, at 4:00pm to continue to discuss the sewer grants and sewer projects. RP Admas will be on site at the water plant on December 16, 2024, at 10:00am to look at the filters and answer questions. Gregor had followed up with Joe Plumer about the siren on the water tower on Rockwell Street. Gregor stated that it is up to the fire department whether it is a needed item, or not. There may be a component that needs to be given back to the county once taken down. **Trustee Caputo** made a motion that the Village Board approves taking the siren down on Rockwell Street if approved. **Trustee Fulmer** seconded it. All in favor-Aye, except **Trustee Millette**, he abstained. He feels when the new tower goes up it will be higher, so the siren will not be hitting the houses in that area. **Gregor** said that everything for pro-housing should be done and ready for submission by the end of next week. **Trustee Fulmer** reminded everyone that you can no longer apply for any New York State grant that has anything to do with pro-housing without being a pro-housing community. Grants that are available for housing are not all tied to just downtown, like NY Forward was.

**Police Report:** 11 Complaints, 0 Arrests, 1 Warring, 3 Parking Tickets and 13 Building Checks. The Police also assisted the school with the annual lockdown.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Transferring Money to CD. **Trustee Caputo** spoke with Nicole from Community about transferring money to a CD at Community bank. The rate would be 4.6% for 6 months. The Village Trustees would like to review the budget and talk about it at the next meeting the trustees will hold.

**Public Concerns:** Letter from Mr. & Mrs. Shafer about the water runoff on Anthony Street. **Mayor Putnam** spoke with Jarrett about it and **Jarrett** stated they had started working on the issue this week. The DWP had gone down and drained the water, cut the shoulder down shaved the curb stop down at the end of Anthony Street.

**Adjourn- Mayor Putnam** adjourned the meeting until December 18 at 4:00pm.