

# VILLAGE OF ALEXANDER

**Mayor**  
**William Wagner**

**Streets/Water/Sewer**  
**Troy Robbins**

**Trustees**  
**Matthew Grimes**  
**William Lang**

**Village Clerk**  
**Danielle M Riggs**

September 21, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors in the Village of Alexander,

As a means of keeping you all aware of the issues impacting our Village, we are again reaching out to you through yet another informational newsletter. We are sure you are aware that our lives, as well as our community, is still far from “normal”. We are all still struggling with new routines, new work rules and new inconveniences of all sorts aimed at keeping us safe. As a small Village government, we are also overwhelmed by the magnitude of the impact COVID-19 has made in such a short period of time. All aspects of our governmental operations have been, and continue to be affected by new rules and mandates as well as drastically reduced financial resources. It is our hope that this letter serves to make you aware of various situations that are impacting our Village community.

## What has been happening?

The water line replacement project is moving along, but at a much slower rate than was initially anticipated. The work has been plagued by areas that contain unknown lines, drains and utility services that are not shown on any Village maps and, by virtue of their proximity one to the other, not easily found. As a result, there have been instances where these lines and services had been broken in the course of excavating for the water line, creating delays that were unavoidable.

However, to quantify the work completed, we offer the following brief summary;

- Approximately 16,000 feet of pipe, including both 8 and 12 inch diameter, has been installed.
- The Contractor continues to work in the Village on Railroad Avenue and along Broadway Road. Water main installation is complete along Broadway Road. The water main along Buffalo Street from Veteran’s Park and along Broadway Road backlots to the post office has received approval by the Health Department to switch services to the new main. Services have recently been started by the Contractor. Water main installation along Railroad Avenue

3350 Church Street P.O. Box 266 Alexander NY 14005  
585-708-4167 (800)-662-1220 (TDD)  
Visit us at [WWW.VILLAGEOFALEXANDER.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFALEXANDER.COM)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

will be completed shortly. Water main testing will be completed shortly on Bartz Drive and the remaining section of Broadway Road, west of Buffalo Street.

- Pavement, sidewalk and lawn restoration on Buffalo and Church Streets is complete.

As we had mentioned in our previous update to you, we anticipated water rates to reflect the increased cost of our water supply purchased from the Village of Attica. By now, we all have experienced that increase on our last water bill. Also included on that bill was the added debt service cost we have begun to collect to pay for the line currently being installed. There has been and will continue to be discussions regarding the equitable distribution of the manner in which we collect that debt service from Village residents. As that discussion progresses, we will keep you informed.

With regards to our Village election, an executive order was instituted by the Governor of the State of New York delaying village elections on June 16, 2020. The Village of Alexander remains under that order and, although some villages are now anticipating the election process, the unique manner in which our Village conducts elections would be next to impossible to complete while complying with all the mandated social distancing requirements imposed by the State of New York. Therefore, the Board, in consult with our Village Attorney, has opted to delay our vote until April of 2021. The current Mayor and Trustees will continue in their respective positions until that election. The enacted budget will also remain in effect until that time.

#### What is happening?

The village's plan for necessary upgrades and repairs at the sewer treatment facility has been designed and the bid opening has been completed. We have been approved for over \$900,000 in total GRANT funds to assure the sewer treatment plant can continue to effectively serve our community. These funds require no local contribution and we are extremely fortunate to have these funds available to the village. We anticipate this project to begin late fall and be completed by Spring 2021.

As we had previously informed all of you, the Genesee County Legislature had proposed eliminating all revenue sharing with local municipalities. The loss of this revenue would have been devastating for the Village. However, the Legislature ultimately opted to share their drastically reduced sales tax funds with local governments, although at a significantly reduced share. This revenue is THE major funding source for all Village services and the loss of a major portion of these funds is impossible to fully absorb. Furthermore, we have been made aware that the State of New York is reducing local revenue payments by 20%. Therefore, we are actively monitoring ALL expenditures and revenues, attempting to make any adjustments as we can.

#### What could happen?

While the village has some limited reserves, we simply cannot sustain services for an extended period of time with the level of loss of revenue as proposed. As mentioned previously, these cuts in revenues could result in a serious reduction in the very limited services offered to you, our residents. If the decision was made to "make-up" these lost revenues through local taxation, our Village tax levy could increase by as much as \$60,000 or over 155%! We now need to focus on the most "essential" and relevant services we provide, predominantly sanitary sewer and delivery of drinking water.

Finally, if this situation continues for an extended period of time as proposed, the Village would need to entertain more drastic measure, including, but not limited to, exploring the dissolution of the Village as a separate municipal entity. While this is a drastic and much larger issue, it is not out of the question! If the Village Board thought this to be the only solution, certainly all of us, Board and

# VILLAGE OF ALEXANDER

**Mayor**  
**William Wagner**

**Streets/Water/Sewer**  
**Troy Robbins**

**Trustees**  
**Matthew Grimes**  
**William Lang**

**Village Clerk**  
**Danielle M Riggs**

residents alike, would need to discuss this possibility and any other resolutions that may be available.

The Village Board desires for you to be informed as active and participating members of this community and its direction. We will continue to update you as the near future becomes more focused.

Please, if you have any concerns, contact the Mayor or any of the Village Trustees and, if we cannot answer your question, we will endeavor to seek out an answer as soon as possible and if available.

Sincerely yours,

**William Wagner**  
Mayor

**William Lang**  
Trustee

**Matthew Grimes**  
Trustee

3350 Church Street P.O. Box 266 Alexander NY 14005  
585-708-4167 (800)-662-1220 (TDD)  
Visit us at [WWW.VILLAGEOFALEXANDER.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFALEXANDER.COM)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*