



# Village of Almena

## VILLAGE CAUCUS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

Tuesday January 14, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Village Hall for the purpose of nominating candidates for offices up for election: Village President and three (3) Village Trustees. Terms are for two (2) years beginning April 15, 2025.

## 2025 ELECTION DATES

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Spring Primary (if needed)

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Spring General Election

If you are not registered to vote or have recently moved, you can register online at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov) or print the registration form and mail it to the municipal clerk or register in-person at clerk's office (131 Soo Ave East). Photo ID and proof of residency are required to register to vote.

## WINTER REMINDERS

Garbage containers **MUST BE REMOVED** from roadside, sidewalks and alleys within 24 hours of trash pickup. This is required year-round and is essential for snow removal in winter months.

No Parking on Village streets from 2AM to 6AM is in effect through April 1<sup>st</sup>. Violators will be ticketed.

## DOG LICENSES

Dog licenses must be renewed annually per state statute. A current rabies vaccination record is required for licensing. **2025 Pet License Fees:**

- \$5 - Neutered / Spayed
- \$10 - Not Neutered / Spayed

## UTILITY PAYMENT PORTAL

Online utility payment portal will be available on the Village website this month. Residents will be able to view and pay invoices, store preferred payment methods and set up payment reminders.

## BOARD MEETINGS – 7PM

January 14<sup>th</sup>, February 11<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Elected & Local Officials

<b>Village President</b>	Alan Gabe
<b>Board Trustee</b>	David Heintz
<b>Board Trustee</b>	Brian Hellmann
<b>Board Trustee</b>	Joyce Jensen
<b>Board Trustee</b>	Scott Kunkel
<b>Board Trustee</b>	Kathy Rockow
<b>Board Trustee</b>	Ray Roff
<b>Public Works</b>	Wayne Becker
<b>Clerk/Treasurer</b>	Kim Bauer

## STORM SIREN CHANGE

The storm siren located in Shadyside Park will no longer be ringing at noon. It will only be used during weather emergencies going forward. The siren on the NW side of the village will continue to ring both at noon and during weather events.

## ALMENA EVENTS

**January 6<sup>th</sup>** – Community Club meeting at Village Hall **7:00pm**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>** – Village Caucus at Village Hall prior to Board meeting **6:30pm**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** – PSC Public Hearing **3:00pm**, see reverse side for more details

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Community Club meeting at Village Hall **7:00pm**

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** – Primary Election (if needed)

**February 21<sup>st</sup>** – BAMS Barnebirkie located by Village Shop

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Community Club meeting at Village Hall **7:00pm**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Spring General Election **7AM – 8PM**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt – Shadyside Park

## PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF THE ALMENA MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

The Almena Municipal Water Utility (Utility) has filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) to increase water rates. The increase is necessary due to a 137.30 percent increase in gross plant investment and a 189.63 percent increase in operating expenses since the last water rate case was completed in 1996. The total increase in water revenues requested is \$61,753 which will result in an estimated overall rate increase of 73.61 percent over the water utility's present revenues.

The Utility's total public fire protection (PFP) cost is \$27,775, which includes the additional storage, pumping, and distribution costs required to provide the high flows and pressures needed to fight fires. The Utility currently collects \$27,775 from the Village of Almena (Village) for providing PFP water service to the Village. This municipal PFP charge is based on 100 percent of the Utility's total PFP cost. The Village collects the funds to pay for the municipal PFP charge through property taxes. The Village recently approved changing the Utility's method of PFP cost recovery from the municipal PFP charge to a direct PFP charge collected through direct bills to water utility customers. The proposed PFP cost is \$44,088.

Accordingly, the Utility requested Commission authorization to collect a direct PFP charge from each customer of the water utility and requested the charge be based on the Equivalent Meters Method. This change would allow the Utility to collect a portion of the PFP charge from property owners who benefit from the Utility's PFP but are not subject to property taxes. This request conforms with Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b), which provides municipalities the option to charge PFP directly on the water utility bills of general service customers as well as non-general service customers. The Utility intends to charge non-general service customers. The Village adopted a resolution setting the annual direct charge for PFP service to 100 percent of the total cost of PFP service, which it will calculate using the Equivalent Meters Method.

If the request is granted, the water bill for an average residential customer with a  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch or  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch meter who uses 8,000 gallons of water per quarter will increase from \$35.39 to \$94.02, or 165.67 percent, which includes the overall increase from the rate case and the Utility's request to switch from a municipal charge to direct PFP charges.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for **Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** This hearing has no physical location. Parties and Commission staff appear by Zoom. Parties and Commission staff may use the telephone connection as a backup or if no practicable internet connection exists. Members of the public attend by Zoom or by audio-only telephone connection.

Join Zoom over the internet at:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/my/pschearings>  
To join Zoom telephone:  
1. Dial: +1 312 626 6799  
2. Enter: 809 513 2930 # (Meeting ID)

Contact the Village Clerk's office with any questions at 715-357-6600