

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 23, 2025 @ 7:30 P.M.
BOROUGH HALL - 100 CHURCH STREET - ALPINE, NJ
(This meeting was recorded in its entirety)**

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Mayor and Council, Borough of Alpine, convened for this Regular Meeting on April 23, 2025, at 7:30 P.M. in the Alpine Borough Hall. The Public Announcement was read: *In accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law, the notice of this Regular meeting has met the requirements of the law by being e-mailed to The Record, posted on the bulletin board of the lobby in the Borough Hall and on the website and a copy filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.*

PRESENTATION: The Lorraine Mattes Award for Preservation and Stewardship Presented to the Riccobono Family by the Environmental Commission Mayor Tomasko welcomed the Environmental Commission and thanked its members for the volunteer work they do. Environmental Chair Nancy Dhulipala introduced the award and gave a biography of its namesake Lorraine Mattes and her decades of volunteerism for the environmental health of Alpine. Ms. Dhulipala then introduced Paul and Suzanne Riccobono, the first recipients of the award.

ROLL CALL

Paul H. Tomasko, Mayor	Present	Gayle Gerstein, Council President	Present*
George Abad, Councilman	Present	Scott Bosworth, Councilman	Present
Steven Cohen, Councilman	Absent	Arthur Frankel, Councilman	Present
David Kupferschmid, Councilman	Present		

*by phone

Staff Present on Dais: Borough Engineer Perry Frenzel, Borough Attorney Levi Kool,
Borough Clerk Stephanie Wehmann

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Tomasko opened for public comment. John Veras, President of the Alpine Reliance Fire Company, spoke about the letter written by the Fire Department (in the Council packets) expressing the Department's concern that asking for donations for a fire truck could reduce the donations given to the department in general. Hearing no further comments, the public comment portion was closed.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

ConnectOne Bank Current Operating Account **\$2,460,410.86**

Resolution 089:04'2025: Return of Bonds or Escrow

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

At a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on April 23, 2025, to return the following bonds or escrows:

Block	Lot	Name	Type	Amount
49	2	Crespo, Carlos & Mercedes	Re-veg Bond	\$10,422.31
			Performance Bond	14,965.51
			Septic Bond	2,134.75
			Tree Bond	1,000.00
			Engineering Escrow	3,766.75
			TOTAL	\$32,289.32
75	9	Vargese, Matthew	Engineering Escrow	\$1,584.00
53	6	Dorf, Barbara	Re-veg Bond	\$10,457.88
			Engineering Escrow	1,187.00
			ZBA Escrow	19.40
			TOTAL	\$11,664.28

These minutes have been approved by the Mayor and Council.

77	2	Kim, Jonathan	Septic Bond	\$10,457.89
			Engineering Escrow	285.50
			TOTAL	\$10,743.39

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 090:04'2025: Return of Redemption Proceeds to Outside Lienholder-1017 Closter Dock Road (B:48/L:3)
OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY** Councilwoman Gerstein

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on December 18, 2024 a lien was sold on Block 48, Lot 3, also known as 1017 Closter Dock Road, for 2023 delinquent taxes; and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate #23-000002, was sold to John Finan at 18.00% interest on the certificate and no premium; and,

WHEREAS, the homeowner has effected redemption as of April 23, 2025, the next Mayor & Council meeting after the request for redemption was received by the tax collector; and,

WHEREAS, the amount of this redemption is \$4,796.46, the lien holder verifying such amount in writing to the tax collector,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Borough Treasurer to issue a check in the amount payable to John Finan, 55 Mac Arthur Ave., Closter, NJ 07624.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

TAX ASSESSOR'S REPORT The report is available for review

MAYOR'S REPORT The Mayor shared that the Memorial Parade, program and townwide celebration at the Borough Hall will take place on Monday, May 26 and that everyone is invited. He announced Chief Steven Shallop as the Grand Marshal and Assemblyman Robert Auth as the Keynote speaker. The Mayor alerted everyone that the townwide cleanup would be held May 5 and the Shredding event on May 3. The Arbor Day celebration will be held this Friday at the School and will include a tree planting. The Swim Club is working diligently to open by the Memorial Day Open House. The JIF safety course is available online. The JIF Safety Award breakfast took place last week, and the Borough was again recognized for an excellent safety record and was awarded \$1,750.00.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration Department There were 56 OPRA requests during the past month, bringing the total to 167 for the year.

Building Department There were 57 scheduled inspections, 2 fence permits, 5 tree permits, 1 soil moving application, 5 Zoning review applications, and 2 miscellaneous applications. The report is on file in the Building Department.

Department of Public Works The Department has finished converting the equipment from winter to summer and has begun spring cleanup. The report is on file.

Fire Department The statistics are on file.

Police Department There were 23 summonses in the month and 3 motor vehicle accidents.

Resolution 091:04'2025: Accepting the Reports of the Standing Committees

OFFERED BY: Councilman Kupferschmid **SECONDED BY** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 to accept the reports of the standing committees.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON'S REPORT Today there was a safety drill at school.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY'S REPORT no report

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT no report highlight. Report on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 092:04'2025: Adoption Ordinance #838

Public Hearing: The meeting was opened to the public for comment on the Ordinance. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that an Ordinance entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2025
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

does hereby pass its second and final reading and is hereby adopted and Notice of same be published according to law.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 093:04'2025: Waiving Reading in Full of Budget

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Abad

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been posted in Borough Hall and copies have been made available by the Borough Clerk to person requiring them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the budget shall be read by title only.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Public Hearing: The meeting was opened to the public for comment. Hearing none, the public portion of the meeting was closed. Mayor Tomasko thanked the Council and CFO Marilyn Hayward for their work on the Budget.

Resolution 094:04'2025: Self-Examination of the Municipal Budget

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Kupferschmid

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Alpine has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2025 budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpine that the 2025 annual budget be examined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officer's certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, if applicable, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget.
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes.
 2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law).
 3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
 4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated;
 - b. Items of appropriations are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
 5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
 6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 095:04'2025: Adoption of the 2025 Municipal Budget

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Kupferschmid

At this regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey held on April 23, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, that by the Council Members of the Borough of Alpine, County of Bergen that the budget heretofore set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of: \$4,106, 626.00 for municipal purposes and \$100,462.00 Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Levy.

VOTE: AYES: Bosworth, Cohen, A. Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** V. Frankel, **MOTION APPROVED**
(Summary of Revenues and Appropriations Attached)

Resolution 096:04'2025: Adoption Ordinance #839

Public Hearing: The meeting was opened to the public for comment on the Ordinance. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Abad

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that an Ordinance entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY."

does hereby pass its second and final reading and is hereby adopted and Notice of same be published according to law.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 097:04'2025: Adoption Ordinance #840

Public Hearing: The meeting was opened to the public for comment on the Ordinance. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Abad

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, that an Ordinance entitled:

"BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND MAJOR REPAIRS TO HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND A NEW FIRE ENGINE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,470,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS."

does hereby pass its second and final reading and is hereby adopted and Notice of same be published according to law.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 098:04'2025: Adoption Ordinance #841

Public Hearing: The meeting was opened to the public for comment on the Ordinance. Hearing none, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

OFFERED BY: Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Frankel

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that an Ordinance entitled:

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,500,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE AND TO APPROPRIATE \$850,000 FROM A BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND GRANT AND \$650,000 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

does hereby pass its second and final reading and is hereby adopted and Notice of same be published according to law.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 099:04'2025: Approval of Bills and Claims

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY** Councilwoman Gerstein

At a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on April 23, 2025, to approve the bills and claims as outlined in the Finance Report.

These minutes have been approved by the Mayor and Council.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution 100:04'2025: Approval of Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting March 26 and Budget Meeting March 26, 2025

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Alpine Mayor and Council held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 to approve the minutes of The Regular Meeting and Budget Meeting, March 26, 2025.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 101:04'2025: Authorizing Contract for 2025 Riverside Cooperative Road Improvement Program

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025

WHEREAS, the Riverside Cooperative Pricing System (I.D. #35-RCPS) has received approval from the State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs and the Borough of Alpine is a member of the Riverside Cooperative Pricing System and has executed an agreement to this effect; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Cooperative in compliance with Local Public Contracts Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11 received bids as advertised for road improvement work on March 25, 2025 and awarded the Master Contract by resolution (Borough of Northvale "Lead Agency" Resolution #2025-72) on April 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the low bidder for the Master Contract was **DLS Contracting Inc, of Fairfield, NJ**; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside Cooperative provides that each participating municipality is responsible for entering into its own separate contract with the successful bidder awarded the Master Contract; and

WHEREAS, the bid price for the Borough of Alpine's portion is **\$114,545.60** the Borough's 2024 Road Improvement Paving Projects for the milling, road resurfacing and ancillary improvements for the following roads as listed below:

Ruckman Road

Miles Street

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with was **DLS Contracting Inc, of Fairfield, NJ** for the aforementioned work immediately following the execution of the 2025 Master Contract by Riverside Cooperative and completion of the statutory 20 day waiting period following final approval of Capital Bond Ordinance #840.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen **MOTION APPROVED**

Resolution 102:04'2025: To Continue an Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

At this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.1 et seq. authorizes the governing body of any municipality to submit to the voters a proposition authorizing imposition of an annual tax levy for the following purposes:

- A. Acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes;
- B. Development of lands currently owned or acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
- C. Maintenance of lands currently owned or acquired for recreation and conservation purposes;
- D. Acquisition of farmland for farmland preservation purposes;
- E. Historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects, and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes; or
- F. Payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by a municipality for any of the purposes set forth in subparagraph (A), (B), (D) or (E) of this paragraph.

WHEREAS, a levy for the above purposes of ten (10) years duration was approved in 2005, and subsequently in 2015, and the Mayor and Council wishes to learn the sentiments of the voters relative to renewal of the levy.

WHEREAS, the amounts raised by such tax levy shall be deposited into a Municipal Open Space Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to be used for designated purposes within the municipality, and may be disbursed for specific projects only after a public hearing is conducted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine that the following question be submitted to the voters of the Borough at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025:

Shall the Borough of Alpine renew the annual tax levy originally approved at the November 8, 2005 and November 3, 2015 elections for an additional ten (10) years for a dedicated tax program and continue to impose an annual tax levy at the rate of \$0.005 per \$100.00 of assessed value for a period of ten (10) years for any or all of the following purposes, or any combination thereof, as determined by the governing body: acquisition, development and maintenance of lands for recreation and conservation purposes; acquisition and preservation of farmland and historic properties; and debt service for any of these purposes?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward this binding referendum question to the County Clerk for submission to the Borough voters at the November 4, 2025 election.

Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution 103:04'2025: Endorse Planning Board Approval of Soil Moving Permit-6 Charney Drive (B:77/L:2)

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on April 23, 2025.

WHEREAS, Borough Ordinance 183-3D(5) lays down the procedure for review of an application for a soil movement permit in compliance with N.J.S.A. 40:20D-26b; and

WHEREAS, the application was reviewed by the Planning Board at a hearing held **March 25, 2025**, and the Planning Board laid down their written recommendation to the Mayor and Council with respect to this application in a resolution approved at their regular meeting held on **April 22, 2025**; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council has examined the application and the recommendations of the Planning Board and has considered the results of the public hearing before the Planning Board;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine finds that the proposed soil movement will not create conditions inimical to the public health, welfare and safety, nor create any drainage, soil erosion or other conditions of danger and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby approves said application subject to all conditions as laid out in the Planning Board's resolution of **April 22, 2025**.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen

MOTION APPROVED

Resolution 104:04'2025: Dedication by Rider, Fire Truck Donations (40A:5-29)

OFFERED BY: Councilman Frankel **SECONDED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-39 provides that a municipality may dedicate certain revenues in any budget when the character of the revenue is not subject to reasonable accurate estimate in advance by including in said budget a statement dedicating such revenues to the purpose or purposes for which they are received, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 provides that any municipality is authorized and empowered to accept bequests, legacies and gifts made to it and is empowered to utilize such bequests, legacies and gifts in the manner and purpose for which such bequests, legacies and gifts were given.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Alpine Bergen County, New Jersey that funds deposited into the fire truck donations reserve are hereby dedicated and shall be made available for expenditures for the purpose stated above as and when received in cash during the fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Governing Body that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

VOTE: AYES: Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Abstain:** Abad, Bosworth

Absent: Cohen

MOTION NOT APPROVED

These minutes have been approved by the Mayor and Council.

Resolution 105:04'2025: Extension of Medical Leave for Work-Related Injury**OFFERED BY:** Councilwoman Gerstein **SECONDED BY:** Councilman Bosworth

at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine, held on April 23, 2025

WHEREAS, Patrol Officer Christopher Amato has been incapacitated since October 31, 2024 due to a work-related incident; and**WHEREAS**, Sections 23 and 24 et. seq. of the Agreement between the Borough of Alpine and PBA Local #399 effective January 1, 2023 provides that an Employee shall be retained on the payroll at full salary and benefits for a continued period of six months during the continuance of said incapacitation and that the Governing body shall have the option of extending the period during which an Employee shall receive the benefit of this Article on an individual basis and after considering the merits of each case; and**WHEREAS**, at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council held April 23, 2025 continuation of full salary and benefits for the above-named employee was approved for a period of **90 days effective May 1, 2025**; and**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine concurs with the Police Committee and that the above-named employee be continued at full salary and benefits for an additional **90 days effective May 1, 2025**.**VOTE: AYES:** Abad, Bosworth, Frankel, Gerstein, Kupferschmid **Absent:** Cohen**MOTION APPROVED****COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL** none**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** none/not needed

The Mayor welcomed the Police Department to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Gerstein, seconded by Councilman Frankel, and approved by all, this regular meeting of the Mayor and Council adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Wehmann
Municipal Clerk

**CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ORDINANCE NO. 838 TO EXCEED
THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS
AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% or the cost of living adjustment, whichever is less, unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of living adjustment for calendar year 2025 budgets is calculated at 2.5% pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and amounts to \$140,454; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen finds it's advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that an additional 1.0% increase in the budget of said year, amounting to \$56,181 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpine, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Alpine shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$196,635, and that the 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Alpine be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

**2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
SUMMARY OF REVENUES**

1. General Revenues		
Surplus Anticipated		\$1,025,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenues Anticipated	13-099	1,719,768.00
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	15-499	377,000.00
2. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES (Item 6(a), Sheet 11)	07-190	4,106,626.00
3. AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:		
Item 6, Sheet 42	07-195	
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-14)	07-191	
TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY		
4. To be Added TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR THE AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAXATION FOR SCHOOLS IN TYPE II SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY:		
Item 6(b), Sheet 11 (N.J.S.A. 40a:4-14)	07-192	
TOTAL REVENUES	13-299	7,228,394.00

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS

5. General Appropriations		
Within "CAPS"		
(a & b) Operations Including Contingent	34-201	\$4,900,616.00
(e) Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures – Municipal	34-209	901,481.00
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	
Excluded from "CAPS"		
(a) Operations – Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	34-305	133,997.00
(c) Capital Improvements	44-999	60,000.00
(d) Municipal Debt Service	45-999	337,300.00
(e) Deferred Charges – Municipal	46-999	
(f) Judgments	37-480	
(n) Transferred to Board of Education for Use of Local Schools *N.J.S.A. 40:48-17.1 & 17.3)	29-405	
(g) Cash Deficit	46-885	
(k) For Local District School Purposes	29-410	
(m) Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	50-899	895,000.00
6. SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS – TYPE I SCHOOL DISTRICT ONLY (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-13)	07-195	
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	34-499	7,228,394.00

ORDINANCE NO. 839

"AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SALARIES, WAGES OR COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS OF THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY."

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Alpine as follows:

Section 1. That the respective salaries, wages or compensation of the following officers, employees, officials of the Borough of Alpine be hereby fixed at the following rate, effective as of January 1, 2025 except as may be specifically noted.

<u>Office or Position:</u>	Yearly Salary: 2025 (Unless Otherwise Noted)
Borough Clerk	108,018
Registrar of Vital Statistics	1,686
Recycling Administrator	2,627
Secretary / Board of Health	6,125
The responsibilities encompassed by the Borough Clerk also include the duties of Registrar of Vital Statistics, Recycling Administrator and Board of Health Secretary and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of	118,456
Deputy Borough Clerk	46,238
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics	1,263
Secretary / Board of Adjustment	6,365
Secretary / Planning Board	7,136
The responsibilities encompassed by the Office Assistant also include the duties of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics and Board of Adjustment Secretary and Planning Board Secretary and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of	61,002
Interim Chief Financial Officer/ Tax Collector/ Treasurer/ Tax Search Officer	55,000
The responsibilities encompassed by the Chief Financial Officer also include the duties of Treasurer, Tax Collector and Tax Search Officer and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of To be prorated for the period of March-December 2025	
Municipal Housing Liaison	15,000
Assistant to Finance Office (to be prorated March – December 2025)	80,000
The responsibilities encompassed by the Finance Office Assistant also include the duties of Municipal Housing Liaison and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of To be prorated for the period of March-December 2025	95,000
Qualified Purchasing Agent	4,743
Tax Assessor	19,104
Police Chief	226,051
Emergency Management Coordinator	4,458
Superintendent D.P.W	144,613
Property Maintenance Official	6,811
The responsibilities encompassed by the DPW Superintendent also include the duties of Property Maintenance Official and are performed during regular business hours per the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of	151,424
Equipment Operator One D.P.W.	83,494
Recycling Coordinator	5,464
The responsibilities encompassed by the Equipment Operator One D.P.W. also include the	88,958

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duties of the Recycling Coordinator and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at a TOTAL yearly salary of	
Equipment Operator Two D.P.W.	73,241
Equipment Operator Three D.P.W.	30,000
Construction Code Official	20,550
Building Subcode Official/Inspector	20,550
Plumbing Subcode Official/Inspector	15,413
The responsibilities encompassed by the Construction Code Official also include the duties of the Building Subcode Official/Inspector and Plumbing Subcode Official/Inspector and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at the above hourly rates not to exceed a TOTAL yearly salary of	56,513
Construction Office Technical Assistant	81,463
Electrical Subcode Official/Inspector	15,298
Fire Official (Inspector)	4,242
Fire Protection Subcode Official	5,812
Zoning Official	14,525
The responsibilities encompassed by the Fire Official (Inspector) also include the duties of the Fire Protection Subcode Official and Zoning Officer and are performed during regular business hours per Section 4a of the Employee handbook at the above hourly rates not to exceed a TOTAL yearly salary of	24,579
Municipal Court Judge	11,936
Prosecutor	7,293
Public Defender	2,560
Court Administrator	12,063
Crossing Guard (per hour)	25.00

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 840

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND MAJOR REPAIRS TO HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND THE ACQUISITION OF NEW ADDITIONAL OR REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND A NEW FIRE ENGINE, INCLUDING ORIGINAL APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,470,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpine, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The Borough of Alpine, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (the "Borough") is hereby authorized to make various public improvements and major repairs to heavy construction equipment and to acquire new additional or replacement equipment and machinery, new information technology equipment and a new fire engine, including original apparatus and equipment, in, by and for said Borough, as more particularly described in Section 4 hereof. The cost of the improvements includes all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of making the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purposes"), the respective amounts of money hereinafter stated as the appropriation for said respective purposes. Said appropriation shall be met from the proceeds of the sale of the bonds authorized, and the State grant and the down

payment appropriated, by this ordinance. Said improvements shall be made as general improvements and no part of the cost thereof shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the making of such improvements is not a current expense of said Borough.

Section 4. The several purposes hereby authorized for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued are set forth in the following "Schedule of Improvements, Purposes and Amounts" which schedule also shows (1) the amount of the appropriation and the estimated cost of each such purpose, and (2) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the State grant hereinafter appropriated, and (3) the amount of each sum which is to be provided by the down payment hereinafter appropriated to finance such purposes, and (4) the estimated maximum amount of bonds and notes to be issued for each such purpose, and (5) the period of usefulness of each such purpose, according to its reasonable life, computed from the date of said bonds:

SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENTS, PURPOSES AND AMOUNTS

A. Undertaking of the 2025 Road Improvement Program, as set forth on a list prepared or to be prepared by the Borough Engineer on file or to be placed on file with the Borough Clerk, and hereby approved as if set forth herein in full. Depending upon the contract price and other exigent circumstances, and upon approval by the Borough Council, there may be additions to or deletions from the aforesaid list. It is hereby determined and stated that said roads being improved are of "Class B" or equivalent construction as defined in Section 22 of the Local Bond Law (Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, as amended; the "Local Bond Law").

Appropriation and Estimated Cost \$ 125,000

Down Payment Appropriated \$ 5,960

Bonds and Notes Authorized \$ 119,040

Period of Usefulness

10 years

B. Improvement of Anderson Avenue (Section 2). It is hereby determined and stated that said road being improved is of "Class B" or equivalent construction as defined in Section 22 of the Local Bond Law.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost

\$ 206,500

State Grant Appropriated

\$ 186,939

Down Payment Appropriated

\$ 936

Bonds and Notes Authorized

\$ 18,625

Period of Usefulness

10 years

C. Acquisition of a new pumper fire engine, including original apparatus and equipment.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost \$1,100,000

Down Payment Appropriated \$ 52,390

Bonds and Notes Authorized \$1,047,610

Period of Usefulness

20 years

D. Acquisition of new additional or replacement equipment and machinery and new information technology equipment for the use of the Fire Department consisting of (i) turnout gear and (ii) computer equipment.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost \$ 17,500

Down Payment Appropriated \$ 900

Bonds and Notes Authorized \$ 16,600

Period of Usefulness

5 years

E. Major repairs to a loader (heavy construction equipment with a weight in excess of 10,000 pounds), which is reasonably expected to extend the useful life thereof at least five years.

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Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 11,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 1,395
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 9,605
Period of Usefulness	5 years

F. Improvements to Police Headquarters consisting of (i) painting and (ii) replacement of carpeting.

Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$ 10,000
Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 480
Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$ 9,520
Period of Usefulness	10 years

Aggregate Appropriation and Estimated Cost	\$1,470,000
State Grant Appropriated	\$ 186,939
Aggregate Down Payment Appropriated	\$ 62,061
Aggregate Amount of Bonds and Notes Authorized	\$1,221,000

Section 5. The cost of such purposes, as hereinbefore stated, includes the aggregate amount of \$29,561 which is estimated to be necessary to finance the cost of such purposes, including architect's fees, accounting, engineering and inspection costs, legal expenses and other expenses, including interest on such obligations to the extent permitted by Section 20 of the Local Bond Law.

Section 6. The sum of \$186,939 received or to be received as a grant from the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of the improvement of Anderson Avenue authorized in Section 4.B hereof.

Section 7. It is hereby determined and stated that moneys exceeding \$62,061, appropriated for down payments on capital improvements or for the capital improvement fund in budgets heretofore adopted for said Borough or heretofore appropriated for down payments or for the capital improvement fund by an emergency temporary appropriation, are now available to finance said purposes. The sum of \$62,061 is hereby appropriated from such moneys to the payment of the cost of said purposes.

Section 8. To finance said purposes, bonds of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$1,221,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law. Said bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law. All matters with respect to said bonds not determined by this ordinance shall be determined by resolutions to be hereafter adopted.

Section 9. To finance said purposes, bond anticipation notes of said Borough of an aggregate principal amount not exceeding \$1,221,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Bond Law in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds. In the event that bonds are issued pursuant to this ordinance, the aggregate amount of notes hereby authorized to be issued shall be reduced by an amount equal to the principal amount of the bonds so issued. If the aggregate amount of outstanding bonds and notes issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at any time exceed the sum first mentioned in this section, the moneys raised by the issuance of said bonds shall, to not less than the amount of such excess, be applied to the payment of such notes then outstanding.

Section 10. Each bond anticipation note issued pursuant to this ordinance shall be dated on or about the date of its issuance and shall be payable not more than one year from its date, shall bear interest at a rate per annum as may be hereafter determined within the limitations prescribed by law and may be renewed from time to time pursuant to and within limitations prescribed by the Local Bond Law. Each of said bond anticipation notes shall be signed by the Mayor and by a financial officer and shall be under the seal of said Borough and attested by the Borough Clerk or Deputy Borough Clerk. Said officers are hereby authorized to execute said notes in such form as they may adopt in conformity with law. The power to determine any matters with respect to said notes not determined by this ordinance and also the power to sell said notes, is

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hereby delegated to the Chief Financial Officer who is hereby authorized to sell said notes either at one time or from time to time in the manner provided by law.

Section 11. It is hereby determined and declared that the average period of usefulness of said purposes, according to their reasonable lives, taking into consideration the respective amounts of bonds or notes authorized for said purposes, is a period of 18.47 years computed from the date of said bonds.

Section 12. It is hereby determined and stated that the Supplemental Debt Statement required by the Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk of said Borough, and that such statement so filed shows that the gross debt of said Borough, as defined in Section 43 of the Local Bond Law, is increased by this ordinance by \$1,221,000 and that the issuance of the bonds and notes authorized by this ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 13. Any funds received from private parties, the County of Bergen, the State of New Jersey or any of their agencies or any funds received from the United States of America or any of its agencies in aid of such purposes (other than the State grant hereinbefore appropriated which shall be applied to the cost of such purposes, but shall not be applied to the payment of outstanding bond anticipation notes and the reduction of the amount of bonds authorized), shall be applied to the payment of the cost of such purposes, or, if bond anticipation notes have been issued, to the payment of the bond anticipation notes, and the amount of bonds authorized for such purposes shall be reduced accordingly.

Section 14. The Borough intends to issue the bonds or notes to finance the cost of the improvements described in Sections 1 and 4 of this bond ordinance. If the Borough incurs such costs prior to the issuance of the bonds or notes, the Borough hereby states its reasonable expectation to reimburse itself for such expenditures with the proceeds of such bonds or notes in the maximum principal amount of bonds or notes authorized by this bond ordinance.

Section 15. The full faith and credit of the Borough are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and the interest on the obligations authorized by this ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited and general obligations of the Borough, and the Borough shall levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable real property within the Borough for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes, without limitation as to rate or amount.

Section 16. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Borough Clerk and is available for public inspection.

Section 17. This ordinance shall take effect twenty days after the first publication thereof after final passage.

Section 2. In addition to other benefits and compensation, eligible employees covered by this ordinance shall receive an annual longevity increment as provided herein. The longevity increment shall be two (2%) of the employee's base annual wage upon completion of five (5) years of full-time continuous service. The longevity increment shall be paid commencing January 1 of the year following an employee's fifth anniversary and January 1 immediately following such fifth anniversary. Thereafter, the longevity increment shall be increased by four-tenths of 1% per year with a maximum of twelve (12%).

Section 3. All employees covered in this ordinance who are enrolled in the NJ State Health Benefit Plan offered by the Borough are required to contribute to the cost of the annual premium. Effective January 1, 2025, employee contribution will be capped at 25% of their 2025 annual healthcare premium.

Section 4. A Department of Public Work's Employee who is scheduled for stand-by on a week-end or holiday shall receive \$75.00 per day.

Section 5. If need arises, during inclement weather, temporary employees of the DPW to be paid hourly at a range of 16.00 to 27.00 per hour.

Section 6. If need arises temporary administrative personnel and temporary seasonal DPW personnel to be paid hourly at a range of 16.00 to 23.00 per hour.

Section 7. Swim Club employees to be paid hourly at a range of 16.00 to 20.00 per hour.

Section 8. Special inspections as ordered by the Construction Code Official shall be paid at the rate of \$50 per inspection, in addition to salary, where applicable.

Section 9. The aforementioned salaries and wages shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis for a total of 26 payments.

Section 10. This Ordinance shall be retroactive to January 1, 2025 for all employees in the employ of the Borough of Alpine in the offices or positions hereinabove named as of the date of adoption of this Ordinance except as specifically noted.

Section 11. All ordinances or parts or ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

ORDINANCE NO. 841

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,500,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF ALPINE AND TO APPROPRIATE \$850,000 FROM A BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND GRANT AND \$650,000 FROM THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Alpine in the County of Bergen, New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) as follows:

SECTION 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this Ordinance are hereby respectively authorized as general improvements to be made by the Borough of Alpine, New Jersey, for the said improvements or purposes stated in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of money therein stated as the appropriation made for said improvements or purposes, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made thereof and amounting in the aggregate to \$1,500,000 which is now available in the amount of \$850,000 from a Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Grant and \$650,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

SECTION 2. The Borough of Alpine, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, is hereby authorized to provide for the following:

Acquisition of Property – 24 Robin Lane know as Block 39 and Lot 8
on the Borough of Alpine's Tax Map

\$1,500,000

SECTION 3. It is hereby determined and stated:

- (a) That said purposes are not a current expense. That the same are improvements which the municipality may lawfully make and that no part of the cost of said improvements has been or shall be specifically assessed on properties specifically benefited.
- (b) It is not necessary to finance said appropriations by the issuance of obligations by the Borough of Alpine pursuant to the Local Bond Law of the State of New Jersey, for the reason that monies sufficient to cover the appropriations thereof shall be available in the amount of \$850,000 from a Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Grant and \$650,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

SECTION 4. The Capital Budget of the Borough of Alpine is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this Ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the Temporary Capital Budget is available for public inspection.

SECTION 5. The sum of \$1,500,000 is hereby appropriated for the aforementioned purposes.

SECTION 6 It is hereby determined and stated that no supplemental debt statement is required to be made and signed in connection with said appropriations, since the gross debt of the municipality, as defined under the Local Bond Law, is not increased by this Ordinance and no obligations in the matter of notes or bonds are authorized by this Ordinance.

SECTION 7 This Ordinance shall take effect after publication thereof and final passage as required by law.