

# Early municipal government

The Village Improvement Association, organized in 1887, was largely responsible for the strong community feeling in Allendale. Aply led by its first and only president, A.L. Zabriskie, the organization waged a campaign for better school facilities in Allendale. When Waldwick won the new school in 1893 and Allendale saw little chance of getting additional funds to improve its own school district, they began a campaign for a separate government. Petitions for Borough incorporation were circulated and the proposal was approved at the next election. By an act of the Legislature on Nov. 10, 1894, Allendale was authorized to withdraw from Orvil Township, establish its own school district, and elect a mayor and council.

The first council meeting was held on Dec. 18, 1894 with

Mayor Peter D. Rapije presiding. The meeting was held in the Dewsnap parlor and it was suggested that future meetings be held in the school house.

At the January meeting in 1895 a town marshal was appointed with a salary of \$25 per year. The janitor of the school was to be paid \$1.50 per month to compensate for his work in connection with the council meeting.

At the second meeting in March an ordinance was passed to ask the Erie Railroad to construct gates at the railroad crossing on Allendale Avenue. Much of the activity of the council at this time centered around the repair and care of the roads in the Borough. Wages for workmen, including use of horse and cart, were \$1.50 per day and the principle part of the work was removal of stones from the roadways, which were mostly dirt.

At the meeting of the Borough Council in January 1895 a town Marshal was appointed with a salary of \$25 per year. This was the beginning of the law enforcement body.

In 1938 a police department replaced the marshal system, with William Reimer as Chief.

At the Council meeting in December 1949 the Police Department was discontinued and a return made to the marshal system, with Robert Wilson being made Chief Marshal in July the following year. Frank Parenti was made full time Marshall in February of 1951

and promoted to Police Sergeant in 1956.

In January 1959 the Police Department was reactivated with Robert Wilson as Chief of Police and Frank Parenti as Lieutenant.



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