

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JULY 10, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm with all Board members present. Also present were Chief of Police Tim O'Grady and Town Clerk Jan Burdick. Guests were Brad Price, Neil Merkowitz, Cathy Burys, Dale and Linda Butts, Nanette. Hanley and, Jen Smith. Arriving at 7:50 representing the press was David Snyder of the *Alfred Sun*.

The meeting was opened by Supervisor Acton with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests: Neil Merkowitz was present to request permission to operate a business on Cook Road which is in the Ag. District. Converting part of barn to studio and putting an addition on for ceramic business. A motion was made by Fion MacCrea to approve the Zoning Permit, seconded by Mary Stearns and carried 5-0.

Cathy Burys spoke for the group: Expressed the following concerns about property at 1407 Waterwells Road:

- Concern about upkeep
- Transient renters
- Previous sex offenders
- Significant concerns about recent renters and their life styles

The following questions were addressed to the Board and answered as follows:

- Why are current owners allowed to rent mobile homes – located in a R-1 district.
Answer – grandfathered in – there before Zoning. No authority to remove.
- Why are sex offenders allowed to rent mobile home and allowed to live here?
Answer – Town cannot tell someone who they can rent to or where they can live – landlord cannot discriminate. Sex Offenders must register. Chief O'Grady stated that they keep a watch on them. Can't tell them you won't rent to them – asking for a law suit.

Concern of residents – walk by there with young children and concerned with drug issue going on there. Chief O'Grady – have not had any complaints at the trailer park.

Dale Butts- bothered by term grandfathered – he stated that the trailers were put in the day before zoning went into effect – feels they were put there illegally to begin with.

Can't Codes Enforcement Officer do anything? Supervisor Acton stated that a rental inspection law was proposed in the Town a few years ago and several members of the Town objected to it so it was not approved.

- Transients – nature of living in Alfred – being a college Town.
- Drugs – Feel drugs that go on in that area are large – very concerned.
- What is happening with the recent homicide? Chief O'Grady answered as follows:
Person who committed the murder did not live there – lived on S. Main Street. It could have happened anywhere. Defendant has lived in the area for 5 years. No drugs were found at the scene. Investigation was completed that day and an arrest was made. Asked if the owners of the trailer park were question, Chief O'Grady stated no – no reason to – area residents of the trailers were questioned. Cathy Burys – feel the owner should be held accountable. Jerry Snyder –if you owned rental property would you want

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people to come after you for who you rented to? You can't tell when or if someone is going to commit a crime.

- Dale Butts asked if this Board would consider looking at a renter's law again. Dan Acton – last time Board got hammered by landlords and their lawyers – unless there are a large percentage of residents that want it, probably not. Bob Ormsby added that tenants have a lot of rights. Supervisor Acton – not unsympathetic, real tragedy, but Town doesn't have any authority that will satisfy you at this time.

Brad Price – will be running for Highway Superintendent in November.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Mary Stearns, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0 to approve the minutes of June 12th, June 26th, and July 3, 2014.

Police Report – Chief O'Grady updated the Board on the murder that occurred in the Town. The investigation has been completed and an arrest made. Supervisor Acton asked what is considered a call for service? Chief O'Grady answered that it could be a call for a rabid animal, car unlocks, any kind of complaint outside of an arrest.

Review of Monthly Report - all ok.

Correspondence:

- NYSDOT – bridge on W. University Street – wing walls need work. Will hold off and refer to new Highway Superintendent.
- Quote for LED lights - \$3257.00. No action taken.

General Abstract #7, vouchers #83 – 92 in the amount of \$9337.20 were approved with a motion by Jerry Snyder, seconded by Dan Acton and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #7, vouchers #90-98 in the amount of \$17,636.95 were approved with a motion by Fion MacCrea seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Highway Report – since there is presently no Superintendent, there was no report.

Town Clerk – reviewed written report.

Unfinished Business – Highway Superintendent. Received two applications for interim Superintendent. Neither are running for election in November. The two running in November don't want to be appointed now in case they lose the election in November would be out of a job. After much discussion regarding options a motion was made by Mary Stearns to go to Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Dan Acton and carried 5-0. Executive Session lasted from 8:30 pm to 9:15 pm and was adjourned with a motion by Dan Acton, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Codes Enforcement – Discussion regarding the Alfred Collision property included stipulations that would be enforced with the issuing of the Zoning Permit.

1. No cars on the old Cook property.
2. Stipulations same as what is in the Zoning law for a Service Station.
3. Cars not for sale must be screened from the neighbors view.
4. Cars for sale must be 10' from neighboring property. DOT has determined how far from the road they must be.

Final stipulations before approval of the zoning Permit will be discussed at the Special Meeting on 7/17/14.

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Bank Statements - A motion by Mary Stearns to approve the Bank statements was seconded by Dan Acton and carried 5-0.

Other Business – Bob Ormsby stated that he was in favor of a resolution to put making the Highway Superintendent appointed, on the ballot in November.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick,
Town Clerk