

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 12, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm with all Board members present. Guest was Mark Klingensmith and Jud Stearns. Representing the Village of Alfred Mayor Justin Grigg. Also present was Chief of Police Paul Griffith, Highway Superintendent Brad Price and Town Clerk Jan Burdick. Representing the press was David Snyder of the *Alfred Sun*.

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

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by Jerry Snyder, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Police Report – Reviewed written report. Chief Griffith noted that calls are way down. State Police have been prevalent on Rt. 21 and 244 and have responded quickly to accidents. Mary Stearns asked who negotiated the current Police contract and Supervisor Dan Acton responded that he did. Mrs. Stearns commented that the Village Police stated that they were not involved. Mr. Acton stated that Paul Griffith was there regarding the nature of the contract but not involved in the money portion. Mayor Grigg stated that the roll the police played was researching back about 5 years, the number of calls in the Town equaled about 25% of all calls. For Town to pay 25% of police budget would have to increase the police contract by 150%. Mary Stearns stated that there would be no way for the Town to increase their budget that much. Mayor Grigg added that with a combination of retirements and resignations they were able to reduce their police budget. Chief Griffith stated the 2% increase in the Town Budget for Police protection just doesn't keep up with their costs. Mary Stearns added that the Town has continued to increase the amount of the contract every year. Have to be responsible to the people in the Town – now the Town is paying more but getting less service. Dan Acton stated that he feels the town is getting a bargain – getting 25% of service but not paying 25% share of costs. Mrs. Stearns added that before the Village was having budget problems, the amount of the contract was never a problem. Chief Griffith stated the no one was really paying attention. Supervisor Acton stated that is correct, until the Village started having a budget problem is when they started looking at it. Justin Grigg stated that what the Town is paying for now is a safety net. Will still respond to emergencies. Jerry Snyder added that initially the Town depended on the State Police. Then the Town contracted with the Village to help their budget and provide protection for the Town. A five year comparison of fines received in the Town showed it continuing to go down. Chief Griffith stated that the previous Chief told the officers to not patrol the Town has much. Mark Klingensmith stated that he doesn't feel the Village has an obligation to serve the Town but feels the Town should compensate the Village for their services. Also it was noted that the State Police need support from the State for funding of more officers

Codes Enforcement Officer – Reviewed written report.

Monthly Report – All ok. Will keep an eye on snow removal.

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Correspondence

- Correspondence regarding Baker's Bridge.
- Allegany County – shared services planning session March 31st in Belmont

General Abstract #3 Vouchers #34 –44 in the amount of \$9709.44 were approved with a motion by Jerry Snyder seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #3, Vouchers #25-37 in the amount of \$21275.33 were approved with a motion by Mary Stearns seconded Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Highway Report – Brad Price reviewed the written report. Have been out plowing and sanding almost every day. Dan Acton questioned if there was any trouble getting salt and Mr. Price said no. Have been clearing plugged pipes, pushing back snow and hauling sand for stock pile. Reviewed maintenance: 1996 Mack – replaced coolant reservoir tank and exhaust. 2004 International – replaced radiator. To replace Brine tank would be approximately \$600 plus \$3000 for valves. Bob Ormsby stated that when the Board was discussing replacing the brine tank before they thought they could us shared services. Almond has a tank – why can't share with them? Brad Price stated that the problem is everyone uses it at the same time. Jerry Snyder suggested when going to a 4 day work week instead of taking Friday off, take Monday off and work Friday when no one else is working, and then the equipment is available. Mr. Price is working on getting quotes for different vehicles.

Town Clerk – reviewed written report. Will be attending the NYS Town Clerk's Conference in Rochester April 27-29th.

Supervisor's Report –

- Efficiency Report and Tax Freeze report due in June.
Municipal Energy Program, NYMIR, and other items may be able to be used for this.
- Ongoing discussion for shared services with the following options discussed:
 1. Town and Village – Village streets and water departments would be housed at the Town. Possibility of a grant for a new building. What would Town gain? Town would absorb the water and streets department – not possible – would require dissolution of the Village. Village cannot contract out Village employees. Combine water/wastewater department employees. Make Village a 4 man operation – all 4 would do streets, water and sewer. Best solution for Village services would be to continue the current operations but with 4 men instead of 5. Problems with this: If restructure – may get money for a new building. Not much for Town to be gained. The NYS Financial restructuring Board told the Village they have 2 choices: 1. Find partners to share services and they will pay you money. 2. Dissolve. Also told them they need to do a multiyear financial plan. AU should pay more for Police coverage (they have tried this with no results). Mary Stearns asked about the ASC Police and Mayor Grigg responded that the ASC Police have no jurisdiction off campus – Union Issue. Will only provide 2 officers for Hot Dog Day. Mayor Grigg stated that another avenue they are pursuing is going after the County for more share of the sales tax.
- Municipal Energy Program – rate is slightly lower so should see some savings.
- Court Audit – will contact the Court Clerk again.

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- Attended Village Board meeting. Joe Dosch and Drew McInnis of the Village feel it is unfair for the Village to pay for snow removal in their Town taxes. Mary Stearns stated that taxes aren't fair. She lives on a state highway and basically gets nothing for her Town taxes but that is the way it is. Jerry Snyder added that when the Town was working on the 2015 Budget, redid it to help the Village rate. Dan Acton noted that the Village needs about \$150,000 to balance their budget and feels they can do it with the retirements and resignations.

Planning Board – Jud Stearns was present to discuss the Board consider changing what is allowed in an Ag. District. Due to three businesses requesting a variance in the Ag. District in the last year – feels need to look at that.

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

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 pm by Mary Stearns, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick,
Town Clerk