

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 12, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday, April 12, 2007 and opened by Supervisor Alan Burdick with the pledge to the flag. Board members present were Alan Burdick, Tom Mansfield, Phil Curran, and Jeff Johnston. Absent was Alan Dewey. Also present were Jeanne Cartwright, Doug Turner, and Marion Weaver representing the Village Board; Chief O'Grady, Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield, and Town Clerk Janice Higgins. Arriving at 7:50 pm was County Legislator Brent Reynolds.

Guests: Doug Turner was present to express concerns with the Assessor and the reval. Mr. Turner stated that he moved here in late January. Felt the Assessor was "absolutely difficult to get hold of." Requested materials regarding the process of assessing property and exemptions and was told there were no printed materials – everything was verbal. Eventually gave up trying to deal with Mrs. Thompson and went to the County. There he was able to obtain several written materials that he had requested of the Assessor. Mr. Turner asked why that information is not available in the Town Office. Mr. Turner went on to say that the local librarian told him about the STAR program – called the Town and eventually was mailed the application. He was eligible for the Enhanced STAR and submitted it before March 1st. Never heard anything back. When he met with the Assessor about his new assessment, was so upset, he forgot to ask about his STAR exemption. When the roll came out, it appeared that he did not have any STAR exemption. Never received any communication from the Assessor stating why he would not get it or if he did get it. Didn't leave a very good taste for a new resident. Alan Burdick stated that the Board can't tell the Assessor how to do her job, that she has put a lot of extra time in to do the reval and apologized for the lack of communication. Marion Weaver asked when people were going to be notified of any changes since their informal meetings with the Assessor. Assessor told people around April 1st – no one has heard anything yet.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the 3/8/07 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 4-0.

Police - Chief O'Grady reviewed the written report. Chief O'Grady also reported that they have received a Fiber Optic Scope Kit through Homeland Security. The State has approved to install a flashing signal at the intersection of Route 244 and County Routes 10 and 11. It will be installed in 2008.

Jeff Johnston asked if the police could check out an area across from his home on Moland Road. The gate to a tower has been removed and kids are climbing the tower.

Review of Monthly Report – all ok.

General Abstract #4-2007 – Vouchers #46-54 in the amount of \$15,274.47 were approved with a motion by Jeff Johnston, seconded by Tom Mansfield and carried 4-0.

Highway Abstract #4-2007 – Vouchers #43-57 in the amount of \$18,372.98 were approved with a motion by Phil Curran seconded by Tom Mansfield and carried 4-0.

Correspondence:

1. Association of Towns – Tax Incentives for Volunteers
2. Department of State - Grants
3. Time-Warner – possible channel changes
4. Dan Murphy – access problem to his land on Hess Road. Tim Koegel has blocked the road; Mr. Murphy has a right of way in his deed but blocked in two different areas. Alan Burdick will contact the Association of Towns for advice.

Highway Report –

- Reviewed written report.
- Flooding on Randolph Road. Washed out from McGraw's to the Town line. Village helped haul. Will have to work on it this year. Cause was frozen sluice pipes. There were many frozen sluice pipes and some smaller washouts. Mr. Mansfield stated that they will be cleaning ditches to try and prevent this in the future.
- Broom – got it working. Hard to find parts for it. New one will cost \$4693.00. Alfred University has a used one that they will sell for \$2000.00. AU stated we could try it out before buying it. Jamie Mansfield will look into this further.
- Roger Sutton – scrap dealer. Will come and haul away scrap and pay the Town per ton. There are several scrap sluice pipes and 2 old plows that could be discarded. The Board gave Mr. Mansfield the go ahead to arrange this.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Burdick stated that Jud Stearns contacted him and requested Mr. Burdick to attend the Fire Company's meeting to discuss the rumors about the Fire Companies merging. Mr. Burdick met with them, and then attended the Village Board meeting. Mr. Burdick reported that Alfred Station is not excited about taking over Alfred. Willing to help. Concern is with all the false alarms. Marion Weaver stated that both Colleges have updated their alarm systems – can't determine if it is real or just burnt toast. Alfred has to response but Alfred Station doesn't. There is an average of three a day. Right now the Alfred Chief goes and checks before calling everyone out. Phil Curran commented that the problem is that the schools are not putting any pressure on to fix the problem. Need to put financial pressure on them. Mrs. Weave added that the Village has a false alarm law but it is only for malicious calls. Mr. Curran added that if start charging for all false alarms, could make a difference. Mrs. Weaver added that Alfred Station does not want the ambulance.

April 12, 2007

3

County Legislator Brent Reynolds reported that the County has cut back on the number of bridges it will be doing. Tipping fee to go up at landfill. Also, fee for sludge will increase. Looks like State is going to make them build a new Court House. Jeff Johnston asked about taxing timber land. Mr. Reynolds stated that he is opposed and doesn't think it will ever happen. Snow and Ice Contract – hard to see how it is going to benefit the Town. Town would be out doing that road (Jericho Hill) when you wouldn't touch Town roads. Would have to hire another man and purchase a new truck.

New Business: Town Bicentennial Parade. June 2, 2007. Parade will line up at Town Hall and end at Fire Hall. Concession, etc at Ball Park with fireworks that night.

Town Clerk - March 22 – Attended Census meeting in Belmont.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Higgins,
Town Clerk