

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

June 14, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday, June 14, 2007 and opened by Supervisor Alan Burdick with the pledge to the flag. Board members present were Alan Burdick, Tom Mansfield, Phil Curran, Jeff Johnston, and Alan Dewey. Also present were Craig Clark, representing the Village Board; Jeanne Cartwright, County Legislator Brent Reynolds, Village resident Doug Turner, Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield, and Town Clerk Janice Higgins.

Guests: Mr. Turner was present to make some recommendations to the Board in regards to the Assessment process. Mr. Turner explained that after a long, tough process, he was finally able to get his assessment reduced. The main suggestion was: Generate more transparency. Mr. Turner stated that he realized Mrs. Thompson was just doing her job – to generate as much tax as possible for the government. The problem, as he saw it, was that a newcomer has no idea of the process. Feels the Assessor should educate the public as much as possible on the process. Mr. Turner stated that he had to find what houses were comparable to his. He requested a listing by address with the number of bedrooms, bathrooms, etc. and was told by Mrs. Thompson that she didn't have that information. Mr. Turner requested the Town pay for the cost of having that list generated and available to the public. Mr. Turner added that he felt no flexibility from Mrs. Thompson when talking to her. He did spend time in Belmont getting information that he feels should have been available in the Town offices.

Phil Curran stated that when he asked Mrs. Thompson how the whole system worked she gave him a print out of comparables. Alan Burdick stated that the only answer the Board ever got from her was that it is all on her computer. Alan Dewey added that he too was not happy with the way it (the reval) was done. Brent Reynolds corrected Mr. Turner by clarifying that the Assessor's job is not to raise taxes it is to assess fairly. Taxes are based on budgets.

Mayor Craig Clark - thanked the board for working on a sewer district.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the 5/10/07 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Police - Reviewed the written report. Chief O'Grady attached a copy of the Village's Peddler's law. The Board will review it and discuss if further at the July meeting.

Review of Monthly Report - all ok.

Correspondence:

1. STAR Rebate - have to apply for it this time, information will be available on the State website in August.
2. Teamsters - ready to start negotiations on new contract.
3. Equalization Rate established by the state to be 100%.

General Abstract #6-2007 - Vouchers #69-81, in the amount of in the amount of \$15,425.12 were approved with a motion by Jeff Johnston seconded by Alan Dewey and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #6-2007 – Vouchers #71-81 in the amount of \$16,529.05 were approved with a motion by Phil Curran seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Highway Report –

- Reviewed written report.
- Changed sluice pipe on Waterwells Road. Andover helped and were able to get it done in one day. Road was closed with notification on the radio.
- Replacing sluice on Lynch Road.
- Dirt roads are all graded and Town of Andover watered them.
- Cleanup Day – not much. 2 truck loads.
- Attended Highway School at Cornell – learned a lot. About 750 in attendance.
- Pick up truck down – may be a major engine job.

Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Burdick stated that he received a letter from a state agency requesting the Town adopt a resolution to eliminate property taxes. Mr. Burdick stated that his concern with that is if state pays for things, they have more control. Also, where does the lost revenue come from?

- Individual in Alfred Station looking to put a sewer district in across from Dollar General. Would like to put a business on that vacant lot. All business owners have to be contacted to see if they would like to be included in the sewer district from the Village line down. Phil Curran asked if the Village would keep all revenue from the district? Alan Burdick stated that the Village would collect the fees and that would go toward paying for the cost of the project. It was noted that the Town has to have permission from the State Comptroller's Office to establish a special district. Brent Reynolds commented that he feels it is short sighted not to look at continuing the line down to the 2 wells on Shaw Road. Mr. Reynolds would encourage the individual to put in a large enough line for future growth. A motion was made by Jeff Johnston to authorize the Town Supervisor to contact people and see how many will hook on, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Town Clerk – Attended meeting in Almond regarding water and sewer for the Town of Alfred, and the Town and Village of Almond.

Continuing to work with Dave Williams on the Town's web site.

County Legislator – Brent Reynolds reported that the County defeated City status for Wellsville.

- Recommended the Town adopt a wind law similar to the one the town of Almond just adopted. If the Town does not have one, the windmill corporations can come in and put them wherever they want.

A motion was made by Tom Mansfield to go into executive session to discuss personnel, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0 at 8:00 pm. A motion to adjourn executive session was made at 8:25 pm by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Alan Dewey and carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice L. Higgins, Town Clerk

