

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 8, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday, May 8, 2008 and opened by Supervisor Jeanne Cartwright with the pledge to the flag. All board members were present. Also present were Doug Turner, Leigh Kessler, Mayor Craig Clark, Steve Kilmer, Codes Enforcement Officer, Janice Higgins-Burdick, and Jamie Mansfield.

Guests: Leigh Kessler was present to ask for clarification of the Zoning Law. Her son is interested in 4-H and they would like to have a few animals on some land in the Town. According to the Zoning Law – requires 10 acres and must be for profit to have animals. Ms. Kessler stated that she has received conflicting opinions and would like the Board to review this section – it doesn't address barn yard animals. Ms. Kessler feels this refers to the Ag. Tax Abatement. Codes Enforcement Officer Steve Kilmer stated that he has discussed this with Ms. Kessler and the Zoning Law doesn't specifically address barn yard animals. The Board would have to add something to the Law for barnyard animals on small lots. Phil Curran asked Ms. Kessler what she was thinking of and she responded sheep. She has approached Suzanne Wood who owns property on Moland road, to see if she would rent some land for this purpose and Mrs. Wood told her no since she didn't believe it met the Zoning Law. Mr. Kilmer stated that he has not researched the code and suggested letting him review it and then he can make an informal opinion. Phil Curran agreed that the law needs to be looked at and Jeanne Cartwright asked who is responsible for this the Town Board or Planning Board?

Codes Enforcement – Phil Curran expressed concern on the sign at the corner of Lake Road and County Road 12 for the AU Equestrian Center. Stated that it is so close to the intersection that you can't see when pulling out there. Steve Kilmer will check on it. Mr. Kilmer reported that he met with Phil Prigmore and the owner of Little Sicily Restaurant regarding a proposed addition. They reviewed the site plan and the Variance he received. Mr. Kilmer requested the footers of the current building be inspected to assure that they will hold a second floor. The Engineers will be dealing with that.

Met with Sugar Hill Corporation regarding the building they are building and made some suggestions.

Met with Peter Stull – has an old foundation that he wants to build a building on. The foundation is on Buffalo Crushed Stone's land. Mr. Kilmer suggested Mr. Stull get a survey.

Met with Yuri Karminsky and NYSDEC. DEC not helpful. Mr. Kilmer reported that Mr. Karminsky has expanded his business beyond what he is approved for – needs to file for a permit to sell cars. Also suggested he put up a privacy fence. Phil Curran stated that he was going to meet with Mr. Karminsky and explain the Zoning Law to him. Jeanne Cartwright stated at last month's meeting Mr. Karminsky admitted to selling cars – how do you determine he is operating a junk yard? Steve Kilmer stated that would come under NYS law. If he has 50 cars then DEC will address it – right now he has 47 cars. Mr. Kilmer also stated that the fact that he has expanded onto the other properties he owns – he needs a permit for each lot.

Rental Inspections - Mr. Kilmer suggested adopting the Village of Alfred's Housing Law. That way the same fee would be charged and some continuity. The Village does inspections every two years at \$45.00 per unit. Right now doing it by request. To implement it will require a Public Hearing since it will be a Local Law. The Board decided they would like to review the Village's law first then discuss it further.

Guest – Doug Turner stated that last year everyone was distressed over property taxes and thought the Town passed a resolution to ban wind farms. Jeanne Cartwright explained that the Town was looking into windmills and didn't remember the Town passing a resolution to ban them. Mr. Turner submitted a letter requesting the Town consider them.

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Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the April 10, 2008 meeting were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Assessor- Grievance Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2008.

Review of Monthly Report – Received check for sale of Drott and pickup.

General Abstract #5-2008 – Vouchers #63-75 in the amount of \$23808.30 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #5-2008 – Vouchers #56-67 in the amount of \$20772.80 were approved with a motion by Jeff Johnston seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Highway Report

- Reviewed written report.
- Replaced sluice pipes on Waterwells, Moland and East Valley
- Took snow fence down and started grading dirt roads.
- Built a trailer to haul sluice pipes.
- Received \$255/ton for old steel that the crew took to Belfast
- Helped Andover with bridge project

Phil Curran commended the Highway Department on the job they have been doing and feels they are doing a great job.

Correspondence – Friendship Empire Zone – Resolution making the 485-e Tax Abatement not mandatory.

- Trip scheduled to Cohocton to visit Wind farm. Jerry Snyder suggested talking to people who live close to the windmills. Tom Mansfield stated that he went to Centerville – very interesting and quiet. Jerry Snyder added that he feels the Board needs to learn more about them.

Town Clerk – Attended the Local Government Conference in Houghton along with 2 members of the Planning Board – Wende Bush and Pam Jones.

Committee Reports:

Code of Ethics – Jeanne Cartwright asked if the Board wanted to revise it – decided to review at next months meeting.

Unfinished Business – Resolution supporting Concept Proposed by Empire State Wind Energy, LLC to develop Wind Power Generation Projects. Jeff Johnston stated that more and more people are becoming interested. Mr. Turner asked if the wind speed had been checked yet. Craig Clark stated that they have some wind maps of the proposed area. A motion to approve Resolution #2-2008 was made by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

A motion to adjourn at 8:25 pm was made by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Higgins-Burdick
Town Clerk