

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

August 21, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday, August 21, 2008 and opened by Supervisor Jeanne Cartwright with the pledge to the flag. All board members were present. Also present were Walter Meier, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Peterson, Mr. Daily, Janice Higgins-Burdick, and Jamie Mansfield. From The Evening Tribune – Justin Head.

Guests: Mr. Peterson stated that they hoped to living year round in their home on Walter Road by October. They are asking that the Town change Walter Road from a Seasonal Road to year round. Mr. Peterson explained that the access to their house is very dangerous – the hill needs to be addressed. Tom Mansfield asked when they thought they would be receiving their Certificate of Occupancy and Mr. Peterson though within the next couple of weeks. Jamie Mansfield stated that he has talked with the County and they will help with the surveying when ready. Also, that will be the CHIPS project for next year. J. Mansfield asked if they have to move the road, is that any problem? Mr. Daily stated that that portion belongs to his brother but doesn't think he would have a problem with it. Mr. Maier stated that if the Town is going to do it, would they consider going to the end of Walter Road to his driveway. He would be willing to give the Town an easement for a turn around. It is about 6/10 mile from Peterson's driveway. Jamie Mansfield stated that it would depend on funds and may have to due in two parts. The total distance of the road from East Valley is 9/10 mile. Jeff Johnston asked how many property owners there were on the road and was told 4. Mr. Peterson asked if the road would be widened and new ditches and Mr. Mansfield responded yes, it would be a 2 lane road so a truck can get up there and would be built per Town specs. The width would be 24' ditch to ditch.

Other Guests – Other guests arriving at 7:15 pm were Craig Clark, John Anderson, Virginia Rasmussen, Tom Massara, Rob Riber, Tim and Jane Cochran, Joe Dosch, Doug Burdick. Also Keith Pittman, President of Empire Wind of Oneida, NY.

Mr. Pittman explained that they have done a "Red Flag Analysis" and nothing has come up that would make the project unfeasible. Need possible 100's of acres and need wind. Both ok. Local Governments that are interested and Alfred State College's interest. The report showed that there are not excessive wetlands. There is the ability to transport large cranes and trucks. The proposed windmills will be 2 megawatt. Mr. Pittman explained that the Local Government has to be very involved in this and spend a lot of time this project. In the 8 Towns that they have forma agreements with, the people in those communities that are most successful are the ones that have spent the extra time. John Anderson requested that the Village, Town and College designate 2-3 people to serve as points of contact for Empire Wind. Keith Pittman explained that having an informal committee – not decision makers- people that they could contact to get information from. John Anderson stated that the College has already designated 3 people Jeff Johnston and Jan Higgins-Burdick volunteered from the Town.

Mr. Pittman stated that the next step is the preliminary design. Currently collecting data in collaboration with Alfred State College. Measuring wind speeds and directions. What land is the best site; determine size and shape of the project. The Town will need to determine how many windmills. Then they will do a more detailed analysis – how it will impact the power grid, acquire right-of-ways. Agreements including damage to roads from cranes, widening roads, cutting trees, etc.

Then the financial model – Host Community Agreement.

Actual construction takes between 2-3 months. SEQR review will have to be completed. Mr. Pittman added that if the Town feels a need to hire a technical expert to review the SEQR, they will pay that cost. Jeff Johnston noted an article in the "New York Times" regarding resistance to these projects what % is for and what does the Town need to do to prepare for opponents? Mr. Pittman responded that is some Towns there are no problems then in others, like the Town of Cohocton, there is controversy every step. Mr. Pittman added that Empire Wind is very open to public input.

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The Town needs to make sure all meetings are well published and Town officials are well informed. Many problems that have occurred are the result of the developer. Mr. Pittman went on to say that Empire Wind only wants to build projects where they are wanted and interested. If not interested, they are not going to come in. Anything they build they will have control over all areas of it and will utilize local contractors as much as possible. Jeff Johnston asked if there is a correlation between the Windmills and financial gain? Mr. Pittman answered absolutely – there is efficiency in numbers. If realistic from the start financial benefits go up with numbers, the more windmills, the more financial gain. Also can be done in phases.

Tom Massara asked if the community limits the number of windmills, could that be restricted by the capability of the grid. Mr. Pittman answered yes; sometimes the transmission can't handle it. He added that the transmission grid in this part of the state could handle a reasonable size – 40 -50.

Virginia Rasmussen asked what company makes the turbines? Mr. Pittman stated that they have no allegiance to any one company – it's what is available, price, how it holds up, model for the area and appropriate for the area. There are very few being made in the US.

Jeff Johnston asked about maintenance jobs after everything is done and Mr. Pittman stated that it won't create many jobs. Short term – during construction there will be many jobs. Building access roads, etc. Will use local contractors for that. John Anderson asked what else needs to be done and Mr. Pittman stated that the biggest issue right now is setting up that network of people so they have someone to call to get information from.

Rob Riber stated that there is a lot of State Forest land – is there any chance of using any of it? Mr. Pittman stated that they have not used State land and doesn't feel a need to use state land.

County Legislator Update – Doug Burdick updated the Board on the County Courthouse remodeling plans. The preliminary designs are done and Mr. Burdick stated that the committee did a great job and cut where they could. Legislator Burdick explained that he voted no due to the \$5 million that was included for renovations to the County Office Building – feels the Court House and the office renovations should be separate. The cost for the courthouse will be \$13.787 million and the office building \$4.87 million. The other concern is the lose of parking due to the addition.

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of July 10, 2008 and July 24, 2008 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0 with one correction. The July 24th meeting – Mr. Peterson was not present.

Police Report - reviewed the written report.

Review of Monthly Report – all ok.

Correspondence:

- Justice Court – requesting Town Board audit Court records.
- Court Grant submitted by Judge Heidi Burdick – Due to many of the prices quoted in the grant application to be very high, the grant was tabled until the Board could meet with Judge Burdick to see where she got the prices from. A special meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 26th at 7:00 pm.
- Final Equalization Rate – 100%.
- One small claims case for assessment.

General Abstract #8-2008 – Vouchers #101-109 in the amount of \$20,643.35 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #8-2008 – Vouchers #91-106 in the amount of \$47,434.16 were approved with a motion by Jeff Johnston seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0. (Please note – Vouchers #101,103,104,105, and 106 have not been paid due to DB fund short – waiting for CHIPS reimbursement).

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Highway Report

- Reviewed written report.
- Sluice pipe repairs – East Valley, Cook and Moland Roads.
- Shoulder work on Hamilton Road
- Hot patched Moland, grade and rolled Sibley and Lewis -Andover brined.
- Oil and stone Waterwells – Andover, Wellsville helped.
- May need a larger sluice on Lake Road near County Road 12 due to grass being mowed at Equestrian Center. Water is moving faster through there'
- Bridge Inspection of East Valley Bridge Fisher Road – posted to 10 Tons.
- Reviewed equipment repairs.
- Renting excavator for 4 weeks beginning September 2nd. County is picking it up in Batavia – have to reimburse for gas. \$4000 to rent.
- Submitted CHIPS reimbursement report.

Jamie Mansfield stated that he is running out of time to use all the CHIPS money – does the Board want to use it. Options were sluice pipes for Walter Road, equipment trailer to move roller with. Jerry Snyder asked if the money could be used for Walter Road. Jamie stated yes. Jeanne Cartwright requested that Jamie Mansfield put together a wish list and present next month.

Supervisor: Supervisor Cartwright reported that the Planning Board will be meeting September 4th. Frank Bunke has resigned from the Planning Board. Tom Mansfield reported that he received a request from the Town of Almond Planning Board to meet together on the Windmill Project. Jeanne Cartwright stated that she felt we need to get our Planning Board going first.

A motion to adjourn at 9:20 pm was made by Jeff Johnston seconded by Tom Mansfield and carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Higgins-Burdick
Town Clerk