

## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 12, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday May 12, 2011 and opened by Supervisor Tom Mansfield with the pledge to the flag. Board members present were Tom Mansfield, Jerry Snyder, Mary Stearns, Donn Lang and Fion MacCrea. Also present were Jamie Mansfield, and Janice Burdick. Guests were as follows: Kasey and Mark Klingensmith, Doug Turner, Pam Jones, Elsie Cushing, Joe Flynn, JoEllen delCampo, and Virginia Rasmussen. Representing the press was David Snyder of the *Alfred Sun* and Justin Head of the *Evening Tribune*.

**Guests Kasey Klingensmith** presented a petition to the Town Board with approximately 250 signatures urging the Town Board to place a moratorium on Hydrofracking in the Town of Alfred until all issues have been addressed by the State. Supervisor Mansfield appointed Mrs. Klingensmith to head up a committee to come up with a moratorium and present to the Board for their approval at the June meeting. Virginia Rasmussen, representing the Village of Alfred Board of Trustees, presented a resolution passed by the Village and asked that it be included in the Town's moratorium. Mrs. Klingensmith accepted this appointment.

**Doug Turner** asked to speak to the Board and handed each Board member a sealed envelope. Mr. Turner then went on to discuss a ruling in Broome County regarding conflicts of interest. He then told each Board member they could open and read the contents of their envelopes. The letter asked each Board member if they had a conflict of interest in making a decision in matters related to hydraulic fracturing gas drilling in the Town of Alfred. Also, requested a Special meeting be held where each Board member could declare the answer to this. Mr. Turner felt at least one Board member may have a conflict. Donn Lang asked Mr. Turner if he had any connections with Hydrofracking. Mr. Turner stated he did not. Mary Stearns asked Mr. Turner if he even knew her or any of the other Board members. Mr. Mansfield stated that the Board has a Code of Ethics and need to put some faith in that. Jerry Snyder stated that he has nothing to hide – wants to protect his organic farm.

**Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of April 14, 2011 were approved with a motion by Donn Lang, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

**Police Report** – Reviewed written monthly report.

Mr. Turner at this time questioned why minutes the website isn't updated and why minutes aren't available? Clerk Burdick informed Mr. Turner that minutes are available anytime and that the website would be updated in the near future. Mr. Turner was handed a copy of last month's minutes.

**Codes Enforcement** – Supervisor Mansfield has emailed Steve Kilmer regarding the continued noise at Pioneer Field.

**Monthly Report** – All ok. Received CHIPS – last payment for 2010. Received \$1796.00 for scrap metal.

### Correspondence

- Association of Towns – Home Rule: Preparing for natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale Region Conference – June 24<sup>th</sup> in Binghamton.
- Allegany Co. Board of Elections – do what we please with the old voting machines.
- Allegany Co. Board of Elections – increase pay for election inspectors. A motion to approve the increase was made by Jerry Snyder, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.
- Equalization Rate – 99%
- Dan Burling – notice of CHIPS funding for 2011 – about the same.

- Senator Cathy Young’s office requesting whether or not to continue to Alfred-Almond-Hornellsville Sewer Authority. Mary Stearns will check with Chuck Jessup and Charles Nissler since they were on the original committee that developed it.

**General Abstract #5-2011** – Vouchers #51-62 in the amount of \$7931.31 were approved with a motion by Jerry Snyder seconded by Mary Stearns and carried 5-0.

**Highway Abstract #5-2011** – Vouchers #69-82 in the amount of \$9156.78 were approved with a motion by Donn Lang seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

**Highway Report –**

Reviewed written report.

- All sanders and plows are now off and washed.
- Spring Clean-up Days – have to take to Belmont and pay to unload it there plus have to pay for tires. May want to think about it for next year. Could have been using the time to work on flood damage.
- Reviewed flood damage – met with FEMA. Areas of Allegany County will probably be declared a disaster area – State has to meet \$17 million dollars in damages – Rep. from FEMA doesn’t think that will be a problem. Just a lot of paperwork.
- New material for using in potholes especially large ones being made by SuitKote.
- Have an intern from BOCES for two weeks.
- Pickup will be auctioned Saturday – Jamie Mansfield painted it himself saving the Town about \$1000.

**Supervisor’s Report:** Supervisor Mansfield stated that he received an email from David Dubois that there will be a Complete streets assessment on May24th if anyone would like to attend.

April 28<sup>th</sup> – received a call from DCO officer at 11:09 pm that a dog had been hit and wanted to know what to do. In this case he knew the owner but wondered what to do if owner is not known. Who would he call to get it treated? It was suggested that the Carol Staffel from the State be contacted and asked what the procedure for this would be.

Mr. Mansfield opened the floor to the guests and asked if anyone had any questions for him?

1. Mark Klingensmith stated that the Election Inspectors are not allowed to split shifts and this may be why it is hard to get people. Senator Cathy Young has proposed a law that would allow split shifts and would like the Town to send her a letter of support.
2. Kasey Klingensmith stated she will be happy to do whatever the Town Board would her to do in regards to the Hydrofracking Moratorium and will bring in a resolution for next month’s meeting.

**Town Clerk** – Reviewed written report.

**Committee Reports:**

Fion MacCrea and Mary Stearns attended the Village Board meeting The Voting District Consolidation issue was talked about. Mayor Craig Clark is going to write another letter to the Board of Elections. In a written statement Gary Ostrower feels they are not following the law and has threatened to take them to Court. Mr. Ostrower's letter states that the Village never received notification by 2/28/11. Tom Mansfield stated that the Town was notified in a letter dated 2/28/11. Mr. Mansfield also explained why the Horticulture Center was no longer acceptable – Town would have to pay for Security and their fringe benefits and would only be a one year contract. Need to have a long term agreement. Due to these concerns the Town did not sign any agreement with Alfred State College.

Jerry Snyder and Fion MacCrea attended the Houghton Conference – attended the Disaster Preparedness. After the session they asked the presenters about the Hydrofracking issue and if they were concerned about it to which they responded no –didn't see a problem. Jerry Snyder stated that he was going to Syracuse the next day to discuss organic farming and will also bring the issue up with Senator Gilldebrand Mary Stearns attended the Planning Board meeting – they did more work on the Landlord/Renters Law.

**Financial Committee** - April 2011 bank statements were reviewed. A motion to approve the bank statements was made by Fion MacCrea seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Jerry Snyder expressed his thanks to the Highway crew – very long winter and a demanding spring. A motion to adjourn 8:25 pm was made by Jerry Snyder seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice L. Burdick  
Town Clerk