

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 13, 2020

The regular monthly meeting was opened at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance by Supervisor Dan Acton.

All Board members were present. Also, in attendance were Highway Superintendent Bob Halsey, and Town Clerk Janice Burdick. Brad Price representing Monroe Tractor and Jeff Shearing representing Five Star Equipment. Representing the Village of Alfred was Jim Ninos. Representing the press was Dave Snyder of the *Alfred Sun*. In addition, were 16 residents most from Rt. 244 in Alfred Station.

Sidewalk Issue in regards to Grant:

- Joan and Walt Schultz asked what is going on with the proposed sidewalks along Rt. 244.
- Patty Martire added that she is very upset that the people it is going to affect were not contacted or notified.
- Dennis Smith added that he does not believe it is being done for safety reasons, not award of anyone injured along there other than animals being hit.
- Ben Link – most people still walk and run in the road even where there are sidewalks - feels it will put them in more danger and what enforcement will be used. Jim Ninos has been the liaison and committed the Village to plow the sidewalks. Would like that in writing and will that be permanent. Does the Village have the money and resources to do this? Is the Town going to exempt homeowners from liability?
- Brenda Marvin – Speed limit is not enforced now.
- Walt Schultz – Familiar with the way the Village clears sidewalks – makes them more dangerous due to leaving them packed and slippery. If someone falls and gets hurt, who is liable? Mr. Ninos stated that the Village does take some responsibility but not all.
- Dan Acton explained that municipalities can pass a law requiring homeowners to maintain sidewalks. Town did not do that. Town/Village do a lot of shared services with no contract. Same spirit here with the sidewalks.
- Patty Martire – how do we know that won't change in the future.
- Peter Stull – heard going to run new water lines, perfect time to run sewer line. Jim Ninos responded that there is no funding at this time for sewer. If it were to happen it would be an Alfred-Almond project. Brent Reynolds added that a sewer district would have to be established.
- Joan Schultz – Water-sewer-sidewalk all going in her front lawn.
- Peter Stull – have a paved shoulder that acts as a bike lane that can be plowed. Runoff from the road can go into the drain – a sidewalk won't allow that.
- Jim Ninos – Engineers have not finished designing the project. If wait and see what they come up with, may enhance properties. Ask residents to give it an opportunity after seeing what the engineers come up with.
- Mary Stearns – problem is no one came to the Town residents and asked them.
- Jim Ninos explained that it was proposed in the Comprehensive Plan and Peter McClain and David? Wrote the grant for the Village.

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- Dan Acton -stated that the Town could have done a better job of informing the residents. Now the engineers are developing it and want to get as much information as possible.
- Coral Link – Asked why sidewalks are more important for Rt. 244 instead of in the Village where there are places without any sidewalks. Why is this a priority? Mr. Ninos responded that grant states it has to be a new project – can't be renovations.
- Yuri Karminski – how many people will actually use the sidewalk – 1 a day? Doesn't see many walking along there.
- Mr. Acton stated that Jim Ninos and himself met with the Athletic Directors of the two colleges and both are in favor of sidewalks for their athletic teams that run down Rt. 244.
- Matthew Snyder stated that Alfred PD is actively patrolling and a big part of this project is to make it safer. By making road narrower they slow down. If a smaller space – you naturally slow down when road narrows.
- Patty Martire -Disagreed – have to look at the clientele that drive there which are a lot of students – they aren't going to slow down.
- Jim Ninos – have expressed this concern to the engineers.
- Ben Link – has heard that if they don't use the grant money, will never be able to apply for a grant again. Feels residents should have a say if this is approved. Feels connection between leadership and residents is falling apart. Respects Supervisor Acton but feels this is a back-door deal and not the Alfred he knows. Supervisor Acton responded that is why the Board wants to hear these comments.
- Coral Link – went to the colleges but not the people that will be impacted.
- Fion MacCrea – Stated that initially the Village project was replacing the water lines. Then looked at replacing the sidewalks. Understands it wasn't communicated to people properly and maybe went too far as to applying for the grant before contacting the residents.
- Peter Stull added that the storm drains need to be fixed, biggest choke point is corner by the Post Office. If keep road footprint the same there will be less room for bikes. Putting sidewalk in is not as safe for bikes and runners. Mr. Acton stated that that information has been passed on to the engineers. Added that the proposal is for the sidewalk to go on the side that Dollar General is on. Shoulder on other side will remain the same.
- Jim Ninos - Engineers are going to be coming up with 3-4 designs and they are currently talking with NYSDOT to see what can and cannot be done.
- Walt Schultz – how much input will the residents get? Supervisor Acton stated that once the plans are ready hope to have a meeting for residents to review and Jim Ninos added that residents will have input.
- Coral Link -what about streetlights? Mr. Acton responded that they have not been talked about to which Mrs. Link stated they do not want them.
- Fion MacCrea stated that the website is really close. Hopes to be live by March 1st. Will be several places on that site to report and update on this project.

Mr. Acton thanked everyone for coming and expressing their opinions on this.

Brent Reynolds – expressed his appreciation for Bob Halsey and all the work he has been doing. If there is a problem on the weekend he is always available to take care of it.

Opening of Bids for Grader:

1. Five Star Equipment – 2015 John Deere – meets all specs. \$187,200.84. 2900 Hours. Out of warranty – can't buy a warranty. No trade in. Used Financing – 3.5% for 3 or 5 years.
2. Monroe Tractor - Case 2020 856C - \$211,603.00. 3-year warranty. New. Financing 3.5% for 3 or 5 years.

Bill Cleveland asked if both could plow snow and was told yes but would have to buy an attachment or take off the one from the old grader and adapt it. Fion MacCrea explained that for budget purposes the Town has been averaging \$50,000 toward equipment. Financially, John Deere is more able to do. Case is an additional \$24,000.00. Mr. MacCrea added that down the road will have to replace the loader and excavator. John Deere payment would be \$64,000/year for three years. Dan Acton stated that fiscally makes sense to go with the John Deere. Matthew Snyder agreed but pointed out that it is used. If go with new – no cost for repairs. Highway Superintendent stated that they are both good machines but have to go with the one the Town can afford. A motion was made by Fion MacCrea to accept the bid from Five Star Equipment for a 2015 John Deere Grader and finance for three years with John Deere Finance. The motion was seconded by Bill Cleveland and carried 5-0.

Assessor – due to the weather the assessor will be here next month.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of 1/9/2020 were approved with a motion by Wendy Dailey seconded by Matthew Snyder and carried 5-0 with the following correction: 5700 hours on Grader – not 30,000.

Police Report: Reviewed written report.

Code Enforcement Report: Reviewed written report.

Monthly Report: Town levy all collected.

Correspondence: Board of Elections notifying Town that there will be one site for the Democratic Primary and that will be in the Village.

A.E. Crandall Ambulance - requesting letter of support to expand their services into the Town of Ward and the Town of Hartsville.

Court Audit – Dan Acton and Matthew Snyder will arrange with the Court Clerk to do this.

General Abstract #2-2020- Vouchers #17-30 in the amount of \$3,516.77 in the General A Fund; Vouchers #3-4 in the amount of \$3718.16 and #2 in the SF Fund in the amount of \$3442.50. A motion to approve the bills was made by Matthew Snyder, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #2-2020 Vouchers #15-30 in the DA Highway Fund in the amount of \$34,517.61 were approved with a motion by Dan Acton, seconded by Bill Cleveland and carried 5-0.

Highway Report: Bob Halsey reviewed the written report. Reported that the Town of Burns is borrowing the Sterling due to a fire at their highway garage that destroyed their equipment. Reported that Bob and the highway crew repaired the undercarriage on the excavator saving the Town several thousands of dollars.

Pick up trade in - \$3500 cost to trade in for a 2020. Motion by Matthew Snyder to trade in the 2019 pickup for a new 2020 pickup at a cost of \$3500.00 seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Supervisor's Report:

- Website – Fion MacCrea reported that they still need more pictures of the Town and recent ones.
- Municipal Electronic Power Assoc – does the Town want to do this?
- Dog Kennel – State inspector here and doesn't like the inside area for putting dogs. Daffney Curran, DCO suggested the Town contract with the Town of Almond since they have a new facility.
- Sewer District – met with AACS and they are now happy with their current leach field. Jim Ninos added that Senator Borrelles behind the sewer district plan and working on a way to by pass AACS. Village of Almond Board is behind it but Village is in a flood plain so that is a problem. Cost would be about \$10 million dollars which would be about the same to hook into the Village of Alfred's. Fion MacCrea asked about running a line to Hornell and Mr. Ninos stated that idea was eliminated by DEC due to the dam and railroad line – not enough room.
- Supervisor Acton attended AU President Zupan's State of the University address and mentioned the Jericho Hill Project. Stage 1 will cost \$-9 million and Stage 2 another \$8-9 million. Mr. Acton felt this was on a back burner for now. Mr. Ninos stated that according to the Health Department – they are looking at running the sewer and water up there from the Village.
- Letter from Chuck Jessup regarding the sidewalk issue and voicing his concerns and stating he is not in favor of it. Mr. Acton will draft a response and forward it to all Board members. Matthew Snyder stated that in regards to the maintenance of the sidewalks – he appreciates the Village offering to take care of them but feels pressure should be placed on the Colleges. Jim Ninos agreed but probably won't get anything from Alfred State College.
- Village Meeting – Fion MacCrea, Wendy Dailey and Bill Cleveland attended. Village passed a resolution against the new Bail Reform.

Town Clerk – reported on amount of taxes collected. Looking for a cleaner for Town Building.

Other Business – Bill Dailey from the Planning Board reported that all members of the Planning Board have copies of the NYSERDA Solar Farms information plus copies of various local laws for solar farms. They will be reviewing these and try to come up with the fairest law for the Town and the residents. Jim Ninos informed Mr. Dailey that the company that did the Solar farm for Angelica and Belfast at the old golf course did a good job.

Bank Statements - A motion by Fion MacCrea to approve the Bank statements was seconded by Dan Acton and carried 5-0.

Highway Cold Storage Building – Bill Cleveland reviewed what has happened so far in trying to obtain and estimate and plans. Now suggesting putting it out to bid and build a separate building to run parallel with the current building. Wendy Dailey stated that bidding does not commit the Town to anything. A motion was made by Dan Acton to bid a cold storage building per specs to be drawn up, seconded by Wendy Dailey and carried 5-0.

Motion to go to Executive Session to discuss Union Contract negotiations was made by Dan Acton, seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0. Executive Session lasted from 9:25 pm –

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9:37 pm. A motion to end Executive Session was made by Dan Acton seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0. A motion to approve the three-year Union Contract was made by Matthew Snyder, seconded by Dan Acton and carried 5-0.

Wendy Dailey asked if the Grant (with the Sidewalks) is a done deal or does the Town Board have any power based on community concerns? Matthew Snyder commented that the Board has a responsibility to the citizens, not just the property owners. Fion MacCrea added that if an established bike land is on the driving lane, snow removal isn't always going to happen.

A motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm was made by Matthew Snyder seconded by Fion MacCrea and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice L. Burdick
Town Clerk