

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

March 8, 2011

Present: Deputy Mayor Rasmussen, Trustees Dosch, Bowden; Clerk-Treasurer Koegel; Police Chief O’Grady, and approximately 6 members of the public

1) **Meeting Opening** – Mayor Clark opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2) Minutes

- a) **February 8, 2011** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing of February 8, 2011 as written. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- b) **February 8, 2011** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2011 as written. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- c) **February 17, 2011** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of February 17, 2011 as written. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

3) Announcements

- a) **Village Election** will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 12:00 to 9:00.
- b) **Special Budget Meeting** will be held Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall.
- c) **A Community Forum** was suggested at the Democratic Caucus for the purpose of having each village board member share primary initiatives underway or being considered. This forum would be sponsored by the Board and is being considered for June 7-8.

4) Guests

- a) **Hydrofracking** – Village resident Doug Turner asked the village for information on hydrofracking and support of measures to protect the water supply. Trustee Dosch said our aquifer is separate from that of Pennsylvania and New York is not yet allowing hydrofracking. Trustee Rasmussen reported that she wrote and sent to the state DEC a resolution, unanimously supported by the village board, requesting an extension of the current moratorium currently in place until June. She continued by stating there are local meetings on the topic, one being held this Thursday at the Town board meeting, and some members of the village board are aware of the issue. Mr. Turner requested that she include his name on the list of concerned citizens.
- b) **Garbage Contract** – Casella Waste representative Stephanie Runser was present at the meeting to answer any questions the board may have about the garbage contract. Since Casella's bid of \$215,244 was so close to the lowest bid, she requested the board consider their zero-sort recycling and good service and accept their bid as being most advantageous to the village. Trustee Rasmussen thanked Ms. Runser for attending the meeting and expressed appreciation to Casella for the good service over the years, but explained that the village is on a tight budget and not yet ready to insist upon zero-sort recycling in its contract, and is obligated to take the lowest bid.

5) Bids

- a) **Garbage Contract** – **A motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to approve low garbage bid of \$214,920 by LaForge Disposal Service. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

6) New Business

- a) **Main Street Grant Application** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to approve Main Street Grant Advisory Committee recommendations on Project Selection and allocation of Grant Funds. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- b) **Impound Vehicle** – Chief O'Grady requested board approval to sell an impound vehicle for scrap. He confirmed to Trustee Rasmussen that no one would want to use the vehicle "as is". A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to approve sale of an impound vehicle in possession since 11/09 for scrap as of 4/2/11 if fees remain unpaid. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- c) **Election Inspector** – After receiving notice that one Republican Inspector will not be able to serve on the day of the Election, a motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to appoint Donna Rogers as Alternate Election Inspector for the Republican Party at a rate of \$8.50 per hour. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- d) **Budget Public Hearing** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to set a Public Hearing on the Tentative 2011-12 Budget for April 12, 2011 at 7:15 p.m. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
- e) **Hot Dog Day**
 - i) **Closing Streets** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to close Main Street on Saturday, April 16, 2011, by 11:00 am until 5:00 pm, for the Hot Dog Day carnival. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
 - ii) **Noise Ordinance Extension** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to extend the noise ordinance on Friday, April 15th until 11 pm for an indoor concert in Davis Gym. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

7) Old Business

- a) **Revenue Project – Colleges** – Meeting was held February 7th with college presidents, Mayor Clark and Trustee Rasmussen. Further meetings on shared services will be scheduled for March and April.
- b) **Dog Control Report** – Trustee Rasmussen described the report received from Dick Stuart, the dog control officer.

8) Reports

- a) **Mayor** – There was no report
- b) **Tree Committee** – There was no report
- c) **Alfred Alive Economic Development** – Trustee Bowden reported on the February meeting of the group, which primarily centered on how the committee should be structured to really contribute to development, and move forward to write grants. A decision is anticipated before Alfred 21st Century Group selects a new director.
- d) **Alfred 21st Century Group** – There was no report
- e) **Police** – Chief O'Grady gave the report for February.
 - i) **Video Recording Equipment Grant** – It was reported this grant was received. As part of the grant, the village was awarded \$4,774 for equipment and installation.
 - ii) **Speed Trailer** – Trustee Rasmussen conveyed appreciation from the board and residents to Chief O'Grady for his response to concern about South Main Street speeding, by increasing monitoring and enforcement in the area and placing a speed trailer borrowed from Allegany County Sheriff's Department. Chief O'Grady stated he plans to continue its use in various areas around the village through Hot Dog Day if possible.

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- f) **Planning and Zoning Board** – Trustee Rasmussen gave the report for February.
 - i) Village Court and Directory Signs were approved by Planning Board.
 - ii) Fraternity/Sorority Zoning discussions are continuing.
 - g) **WWTP** – Trustee Bowden gave the report for February.
 - h) **Streets/Water** – Trustee Dosch gave the report for February.
 - i) Intermunicipal Water Authority – Allegany County received a \$50,000 grant to study how communities in the county may assist each other with certified operators, etc. The first step is to send surveys, see who's interested and gather data.
 - i) **Housing/Code Enforcement** - Trustee Rasmussen gave the report for February.
 - i) Code Enforcement Officer Cagle makes rounds each week and looks for violations; takes the initiative to talk to people. His work is very helpful and appreciated.
 - ii) Tax Assessor – Trustee Rasmussen reported that she and other village officials had a good meeting with Sue Putt, the Tax Assessor for the village. It was clear that she works with integrity and is on top of things. It was clarified that she looks at building permits to cue her in on construction, but doesn't use them solely as a basis for assessment. Trustee Rasmussen asked her to attend a public meeting in June or July to discuss issues of policy and practice, but not to discuss personal assessments
 - (1) Property Maintenance and Repair – Properties that have seen major repairs or improvements in facade may see slight assessments during regular times of property revaluation, something that is necessarily done every four years to keep with 100% assessment. The assessor does not, however, routinely make a practice of noting property repairs.
 - j) **Clerk-Treasurer**
 - i) Time Deposits – Clerk-Treasurer Koegel reported that in keeping with the village investment policy, a portion of village cash was placed in short-term time deposits.
 - ii) Water Bill Format – Clerk-Treasurer Koegel discussed with the board their preference for water bill format. The February quarterly bills were printed on paper instead of postcards due to a software merge problem, and many village residents expressed their pleasure about what they thought was the “new” format; there were very few complaints. She pointed out the water bills as an avenue for distributing informational materials to village residents, and additionally explained the paper invoices are printed alphabetically with space for address changes, making sorting and return communication much easier. The board agreed it would be in the interest of the village to stay with the new paper format.
- 9) **Working Groups**
- a) **College Meetings** – Mayor Clark; Trustee Rasmussen
 - b) **Rubbish Law** – Trustees Bowden and Rasmussen
- 10) **Water/Sewer Billing**
- a) **Late Fees** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to waive late fees for the February billing through March 15th due to software difficulty that led to delayed bill issuance during the second week of the month. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

- b) **S196 Water Dispute** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to issue credit in the amount of \$629.79 to compensate a portion of charges due to long-term outside reader failure and accompanying changes in rates, for Account S196, and to extend payment for six months without penalty. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn. **A motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to table action until the regular April board meeting with all board members present. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

11) Budget Adjustments –

- a) **General Fund** - **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to approve a budget transfer from Police Expense to purchase \$1,700 of Police Equipment in the current fiscal year. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

12) Fiscal Summary

- a) **February 28, 2011** – **A motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Dosch/Bowden to acknowledge receipt of the fiscal summary and financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2011. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

13) Bills

- a) **Abstract 2011-10** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve payment of the bills from Abstract 2011-10 in the total amount of \$104,732.82 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 3-0.
 - i) General Fund \$30,874.15
 - ii) Water Fund \$2,633.64
 - iii) Sewer Fund \$67,256.33
 - iv) Capital Projects Fund \$3,968.70

- 14) **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

15) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Budget meeting Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
- b) Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. following a public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel, Clerk-Treasurer