

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

February 11, 2014

Present: Mayor Grigg; Trustees Bowden, Rasmussen, McDowell, Prophet (7:20 p.m.); Clerk-Treasurer Koegel; Police Chief O’Grady; approximately 36 members of the public; and 1 member of the press

1. **Meeting Opening** – Mayor Grigg opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Semi-annual Community Discussion** – Topics discussed included:
 - a. Student Housing – Hillcrest resident concerned about parents buying homes for student residences; excessive vehicles parking at those residences.
 - b. Village Elections – consider changing date to November
 - c. Student Housing – Guest asked for official board opinion
 - i. Existence of Student Housing – Mayor Grigg stated diversity is desirable in a college town; the existence of student housing is not an issue assuming the neighborhood it is in is compatible; finding ways for different categories of people to co-exist is a challenge.
 - ii. Student Services – The issue that arises is that services required by students need to be affordable; 90% of the assessed value is tax-exempt and increasing taxes deters home buying; according to the police department, 80% of the public safety activity is student-related.
 - d. Group Housing in all zones but R-1 – Guest asked why the village doesn’t open up all zones to group housing outside the R-1 district, and suggested doing so might keep property from devaluing. Mayor Grigg said he does have hope that giving ownership of housing to student groups will keep them investing in the property; the option was considered during the course of the group housing proposal but the result was a compromise, starting with placement of student housing in logical places to begin, with the expectation that if there is a good result opportunities will grow. The mayor gave a basic description of how zoning works, especially with regard to intensity of use.
 - e. Housing Stock – Various opinions about whether large houses should be used as student rentals houses that provide a revenue stream for repair and update or whether they would be unsuitable for student housing because they are historic structures.
 - f. Lifestyle – Discussion about compatibility of student, family, and retiree lifestyles.
 - g. Startup New York – Guest suggested investing through the program using properties that are already tax-exempt.
 - h. Village Resident Balance – Trustee Rasmussen stated years ago there were more faculty residing in the village permanently and this sort of resident is needed year after year to serve on the village board and fire department; there is a need for balance and it is a complex dynamic.
 - i. Late-night Transportation to Dorms – A student suggested transportation be provided from village locations back to dorms late at night to prevent damaging behavior.
3. **Minutes** –
 - a. **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to approve the minutes of the public hearing and board meeting of January 14, 2014, the special board meeting of January 28, 2014 and the budget workshop of February 4, 2014. Motion passed 5-0.

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4. Announcements

- a. Alfred Community Coalition – will meet in February
- b. Triple Divide Film – will be shown in March; about hydrofracking and consequences in Pennsylvania

5. Guests –

- a. **Colby Cotton: Exception to Noise Ordinance for DOGFEST Concerts – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to extend the noise ordinance until 12:30 a.m. on Saturday April 26, 2014. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Doug Turner – Spoke of the Sierra Club water sentinel program and water testing; asked whether the village used sand/salt mix or fracking brine; response was that salt or a sand/salt mix is used.

6. New Business

- a. **Local Law #2014-2 Property Tax Cap Override Law – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/Bowden to pass Local Law #2014-2 property tax cap override. A vote passed 5-0 by roll call vote:
 - i. Trustee Bowden – Yes
 - ii. Trustee McDowell – Yes
 - iii. Trustee Prophet – Yes
 - iv. Trustee Rasmussen – Yes
 - v. Mayor Grigg – Yes

7. Reports –

- a. Justin Grigg (Mayor) – Mayor Grigg highlighted segments of his written report.
- b. Virginia Rasmussen (Code Enforcement/Planning Board/Community Coalition) – Trustee Rasmussen gave a written report in advance of meeting.
- c. Becky Prophet (Youth & Recreation/Fire Dept) – Trustee Prophet reported Alfred Montessori School will hold an art auction in March to repair/upgrade Kenyon Park, and suggested a celebration for the upcoming anniversary of the traffic light. Ambulance calls in January numbered 28 and they are halfway to that number already in February.
- d. Brad Bowden (Wastewater Treatment Plant) – Trustee Bowden gave a written report in advance of meeting.
- e. Tom McDowell (Streets & Water) – Trustee McDowell gave a written report in advance of meeting.
- f. Tim O’Grady (Police) – Chief O’Grady gave a written report in advance of meeting.
- g. Kathryn Koegel (Clerk-Treasurer) – Clerk-Treasurer Koegel gave a written report in advance of meeting.

8. Working Groups/Committees

- a. Town Board Meeting attendance – February 13 – Trustee McDowell will attend.

9. Review of January Action Items

10. Finance

- a. **Budget Adjustments** –
 - i. **General Fund** – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to make the following budget adjustments, motion passed 5-0:

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1. Purchase computers for village office; (leaves \$380 remaining in training account)
 - a. Increase A16802 Data Processing Equipment \$850
 - b. Decrease A13254.4408 Clerk Training \$850
 2. Purchase recycling container for Main Street.
 - a. Increase A81602 Garbage Equipment by \$1,300
 - b. Decrease A85602 Shade Trees by \$1,300
 - ii. **Water Fund – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/McDowell to make the following budget adjustments, motion passed 5-0:
 1. To recognize additional revenue from sale of truck and to cover costs of Well#1 Redevelopment.
 - a. Increase FX2665 Sales of Equipment by \$2,275
 - b. Decrease FX83404.4100 Water Distribution Supply \$750
 - c. Increase FX83404.4400 Water Distribution Professional Services \$3,025
 - b. **Fiscal Summary – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to acknowledge receipt of the January financial statements. Motion passed 5-0.
 - c. **Water Account – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Prophet to approve a credit on Account E330 in the amount of \$435.71 for sewer and fire protection charges above the last annual four quarter’s annual use for an outside faucet leak that did not cause water to go through the sewer system, and to extend payment through March 31, 2014 without late penalty. Motion passed 5-0.
 - d. **Bills – Abstract 2014-9 – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Rasmussen to pay bills in the total amount of \$89,035.87 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. Motion passed 5-0.
 - i. General Fund \$56,085.60
 - ii. Water Fund \$11,310.48
 - iii. Sewer Fund \$21,639.79
11. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
12. **Upcoming Meetings**
- a. Budget workshop Tuesday, February 19, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
 - b. Budget workshop Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
 - c. Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. after public hearing on Hydrofracking and Related Activities Moratorium at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel, Clerk-Treasurer