

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

March 11, 2014

Present: Mayor Grigg; Trustees Bowden, Rasmussen, McDowell; Clerk-Treasurer Koegel; Police Chief O’Grady; approximately 6 members of the public; and 1 member of the press

1. **Meeting Opening** –Mayor Grigg opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Minutes – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/McDowell to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 10, 2014, the public hearing of February 11, 2014, the regular board meeting of February 11, 2014, the budget workshop of February 19, 2014 and the budget workshop of February 25, 2014. Motion passed 4-0.
3. **Announcements**
4. **Guests –**
 - a. Town of Alfred – Council Member Bob Ormsby discussed the challenges regarding the need to prohibit or allow (but not regulate) gas drilling in the town, especially pertaining to shallow conventional gas wells. He invited village residents and board members to attend a public hearing to be scheduled in the next few months.
5. **New Business**
 - a. **Bonfire – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to authorize a bonfire, to be held by the Institute for Cultural Unity as a community-building social event, on the Brick lawn from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2014 pending approval by the fire chief. Motion passed 4-0.
 - b. **Retirement Plan 384-D Exemption Bill – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/McDowell to support special legislation draft 13281-01-4 for police officer Ryan McKee to enroll in NYS Retirement Plan 384-D. Motion passed 4-0.
 - c. **2014-15 Tentative Budget –**
 - i. Garbage Service – There was discussion of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system or removing garbage service entirely and how such changes would affect the budget, village staff and village residents. It was decided to bring forth the issue to the public for more input before making a decision.
 - ii. **Public Hearing - A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/McDowell to acknowledge receipt of the 2014-15 Tentative Budget and to set a public hearing for April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed 4-0.
 - d. **Local Law #2014-3 Extension of Hydrofracking and Related Activities Moratorium – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to pass Local Law #2014-3 to extend the moratorium on hydrofracking and related activities. A vote passed 4-0 by roll call vote:
 - i. Trustee Bowden – Yes
 - ii. Trustee McDowell – Yes
 - iii. Trustee Prophet – Absent
 - iv. Trustee Rasmussen – Yes
 - v. Mayor Grigg – Yes
6. **Public Comment Period –**
 - a. Taxation – There was discussion and some debate about fairness of property taxes and exemptions (village and school, including STAR exemption) and services used by tax-

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exempt entities, rental property owners, and homeowners (police, garbage and primary/secondary education).

7. Reports –

- a. Justin Grigg (Mayor) – Mayor Grigg gave the report and mentioned meetings regarding neighborhood concerns, college presidents and A.E. Crandall fire & ambulance dept.
- b. Virginia Rasmussen (Code Enforcement/Planning Board/Community Coalition) – Trustee Rasmussen gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
 - i. Alfred Community Coalition – Measures have been taken for improved communication between planners and public safety agencies for Hot Dog Day.
 - ii. NYS Financial Restructuring Board – Talked about initial telephone conference.
- c. Becky Prophet (Youth & Recreation/Fire Dept) – Trustee Prophet gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
- 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.
 - i. Water Main Break Ford St./Fraternity Row – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to send a bill to Alfred University for 221,000 gallons of water lost during the break in their system February 12-13 in the amount of \$979.03. Motion passed 4-0.
- 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 – March 13 – Trustee Bowden will attend.
- b. Tax Exempt Property Assessment Committee (Tom McDowell, Jason Rodd, David Rossington) – Trustee McDowell met with Assessor Sue Putt who has received a volume of paperwork from Alfred University and needs time to go through it.
- c. Village Tax Review Work Group (Drew McInnes, Peter McClain, Joe Dosch) – Mayor Grigg reported the group met with the town and will run through the budget line by line; there are no conclusions at this point.

9. Review of February Action Items

10. Finance

- a. **Budget Adjustments** – none
- b. **Fiscal Summary** – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Rasmussen to acknowledge receipt of the February financial statements. Motion passed 4-0.
- c. **Bills – Abstract 2014-10** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustee McDowell/Mayor Grigg to pay bills in the total amount of \$48,959.05 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. Motion passed 4-0.
 - i. General Fund \$36,375.39
 - ii. Water Fund \$3,452.54
 - iii. Sewer Fund \$9,131.12

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11. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

12. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. Public Hearing on Tentative Budget, Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
- b. Organizational meeting Monday, April 7, 2014
- c. Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel, Clerk-Treasurer