

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

July 13, 2010

Present: Mayor Clark, Trustees Bowden, Dosch, Rasmussen, Clerk-Treasurer Koegel
Police Chief O’Grady, Tom Swift, Jason Rodd, M.A. Mitchell, Bob McArthur, Matt
Mueller, and Justin Head from the press

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

2. Minutes

- a. A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 8, 2010. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

3. Announcements

4. Guests

- a. Village Broadside – Village resident Jason Rodd stated that he found a particular section of the Village Broadside newsletter to be objectionable and politically slanted, and asked that such material not be published with village funds. Mayor Clark responded that the village board would review the situation.
- b. Taxable Property – Jason Rodd requested that due to the high percentage of tax-exempt property in the village, no further property be taken off the tax roll without a referendum. Mayor Clark responded that while we have some authority over zoning and some aspects of property tax assessments, much of it is up to the town of Alfred, and the village needs to talk to them about it. Clerk-Treasurer Koegel will follow-up with research into last year’s communication with the village attorney Tim Embser on the subject.

5. Bids

- a. WWTP Digester Cover – The bid opening on Friday, June 25 included bids from 4 vendors. The low bid options were as follows:
 - i. Base Bid A – Blue Heron Construction rehabilitation of Digester Cover in the amount of \$480,657.
 - ii. Base Bid B – Blue Heron Construction replacement of Digester Cover in the amount of \$532,812.
 - iii. Tom Swift from Clark Patterson Lee explained the digester cover project, which is to fix a badly corroded digester cover that would eventually fail structurally, as well as to install a more efficient mixing unit. The last digester had a life of at least 50 years, and this new digester is expected to last as long. He recommended replacement because of the risk of unknown (and potentially costly) expenses that could arise in rehabilitation. **A motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to accept Base Bid B from Blue Heron Construction in the amount of \$532,812 for replacement of the Digester Cover. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0. The materials are expected to be completed in Nov. or Dec. 2010, and painting will be delayed to the spring.

6. New Business

- a. Wemco Pump Control Panel – Tom Swift stated his professional opinion that the quote from Aqualogics for a custom control panel looks complete and the prices look reasonable. He confirmed that the village would be prudent to retain this vendor for

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these custom controls that allow equipment to be linked in a useful up-to-date manner, especially with the prior record of good service history.

- b. **Cable Franchise Agreement** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to approve the cable franchise agreement with Time Warner Cable. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.
- c. **LL#1985-5 Housing Law, Section 215.00** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Rasmussen to amend the Local Law #1985-5 Housing Law, Section 215.00 Garbage and Refuse, to read as follows: In SINGLE AND multiple dwellings, it shall be prohibited to store garbage or refuse containers in front of or on the front porch of buildings except during hours designated for garbage pickup. In dwellings of two or more units it shall be prohibited to store or accumulate garbage or refuse in public halls and stairways. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.
- d. **LL#2010-3 Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Law** – Jason Rodd asked for board rationale in passing a law that seems to him to be favoritism for a select few. Trustee Rasmussen responded that it provides public incentive to place value on certain community priorities, the soft value being appearance, and the hard value being monetary. She and Mayor Clark explained that the exemption is only on a *portion* of the assessed valuation – that increase due to the preservation work – and that even that partial property tax exemption is only for a temporary time, after which full property taxes are paid on the full assessed value. In time the value disperses among all. After the Mayor noted Jason Rodd’s objection, a motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to adopt Local Law #2010-3 Historic Preservation Tax Exemption Law as attached. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.
- e. **Full-Time Police Officer** – Chief O’Grady recommended hiring Ryan McKee to fill the full-time police officer vacancy created by P.J. Sherman’s transfer. Mayor Clark stated he had interviewed the candidate and was in agreement. A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/Bowden to hire Ryan McKee as full-time police officer with a start date of August 16, 2010. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.
- f. **Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment** – Trustee Rasmussen asked for this appointment to be postponed to the next meeting. Jason Rodd claimed there is no representation of landlords on the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals, and that the landlords are feeling slighted. Trustee Rasmussen responded that a requirement to be on the boards is residence in the village, and she and Mayor Clark said while they have asked landlords to be on those boards, they would look into this issue.
- g. **Community Theatre** – A representative of the community theatre group requested that the village board meet elsewhere when the group is conducting its dress rehearsals upstairs in July, as it is disruptive for them to have their rehearsal interrupted by the village meeting. Clerk-Treasurer Koegel expressed surprise at the request, as she had given the theatre group information on the standard village meeting schedule from the start of its use of the village hall. Mayor Clark acknowledged the difficulty for the theatre group. He also stated he would write a letter explaining that community theater

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events would be best scheduled in the future such as to avoid conflict with regularly scheduled village meetings.

7. Reports

a. Mayor

- i. Wind Energy – We have been informed that Empire State Wind Energy Corp. is no longer pursuing a commercial wind project in the community, which includes Alfred State College. President Anderson met with Keith Pitman, CEO of Empire State Wind Energy Corp., and Tom Golisano two weeks ago where the decision was made.

The primary reason for this decision was driven by the decline in wholesale electricity prices—a decline which began some 18 months ago and gives no indication at this time of rebounding. This information is based on a report generated by The New York Independent System Operator's (NYISO) Wind Generation Study of June 2010.

- ii. Sustainability – The news of no local commercial wind farm is unfortunate from a potential economic development point of view. I ask that the community continue to be involved with other sustainability efforts. The ongoing discussions are important for the community. There is a sustainability community group that meets regularly and both colleges are planning a conference for next summer. We need to all be good stewards and the village needs to work on being a leader in the community. I propose we start to work hard to have all the village operations be more sustainable which needs to include policies and review of our operations including facilities.

b. Youth/Recreation

- i. The summer recreation program at Alfred State is in full swing.
- ii. Alfred Community Theatre has a nice three production line-up for mid-July through the end of the month.
- iii. The Village Band is struggling. They need leadership, commitment, and volunteerism, particularly in the areas of recruitment and publicity.
- iv. Carillon concerts will be held every Tues. evening in July.
- v. Alfred Alive is joining in the publicizing, recruitment, and creation of the "Welcommunity" event of mid-August. We are adding a "Ping-Pong Ball Regatta" to this event where the community welcomes new Alfredians and local groups and organizations provide information for those new to town and those not so new.
- vi. Alfred State College has a new position in "Community Engagement" to find ways to engage Alfred State students in the community and for Alfred State to connect with many community projects and needs.

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c. Police

- i. Portable Radio Grant – The village received award of a Federal Byrne Jag Recovery grant in the amount of \$6,840 to purchase portable radios.

d. Planning and Zoning Board

- i. Building Permit – Trustee Bowden requested board discussion of a surcharge on violations of building permit requirements at the next board meeting.
- ii. 17 Reynolds St. - # Allowable Units – Trustee Rasmussen explained the need to request legal advice on this issue from the village attorney, and Mayor Clark agreed.

e. WWTP

- i. Overall operation of the facility continues to be satisfactory, meeting or exceeding requirements. Regular and summer maintenance continues with the assistance of summer help.
- ii. The new WEMCO pump has been installed, but there are problems with the control panel. It has been suggested that a new control panel that coordinates with the main control panel would be advisable. Tom is working with Tom Swift on this issue.
- iii. Smoke tests were performed on both campuses. Both schools have been notified about any drainage problems that were uncovered.

f. Streets/Water

- i. Reynolds Sewer Main Plug
- ii. Well Flow Testing
- iii. Sewer Televising – This will be funded through our sewer bond if there is funding remaining. Mayor Clark emphasized that timing is important for bidding.
- iv. Alfred University Street Ownership – Trustee Dosch is still working with A.U. on this project.
- v. Alfred University Central Water Meter – Trustee Dosch is still working on this project.

g. Housing

- i. Rawady Building – A meeting is scheduled with Marc Rawady, Code Enforcement Officer Steve Kilmer, and Trustee Rasmussen on Friday, July 16, 2010 at noon. The board agreed that it is important for the Code Enforcement Officer to communicate in writing about important and/or complicated issues.

h. Clerk-Treasurer:

- i. Time Warner Cable – High Speed internet access has been installed at the Village Shop and WWTP.
- ii. Water Meter Readings – We will leave door tags this July requesting owners to read their water meters and drop off, email or mail in their readings, subject to verification by the village. This should bring our attention to outside readers that aren't functioning properly.

8. Executive Session - None

9. Working Groups

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10. Budget Adjustments

- a. Paving – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Dosch to reduce the budget by \$44,300 according to the detailed budget adjustment attached, to put toward South Main St. paving in 2011-12. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

11. Fiscal Summary

- a. A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Rasmussen to acknowledge receipt of fiscal summary and financial statements for May 31, 2010 and June 30, 2010. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

12. Bills

- a. **A motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Rasmussen/Bowden to approve payment of bills from **Abstract 2011-2** in the total amount of \$135,903.62 as stated in detail below and on the attached abstract list. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

- i. General Fund \$99,935.88
- ii. Water Fund \$12,899.69
- iii. Sewer Fund \$17,832.85
- iv. Capital Projects Fund \$5,235.20

b. **Abstract 2011-3 - Preauthorization**

- i. Due to the August board recess, **a motion was made and seconded** by Trustees Bowden/Dosch for the Clerk-Treasurer to pay in advance of the September board meeting those bills from Abstract 2011-3. All members present were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

13. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

14. Upcoming Meetings

- a. August Recess
- b. Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.