

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees  
Special Joint Meeting with Alfred Town Council  
March 24, 2011

**Members Present:** Mayor Clark; Trustees Prophet, Rasmussen; Clerk-Treasurer Koegel  
**Guests Present:** Four members of Alfred Town Council, the Town Clerk, Two County Election Commissioners, and 4 members of the public

- 1) Meeting Opening – Supervisor Tom Mansfield called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Alfred Town Hall with a pledge to the flag. He explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Town Election Districts and Polling Sites.
- 2) Allegany County Board of Elections –
  - a) Commissioners Herdman and Lorow stated that since it is considered a Town Election, the Election Commissioners have been working with the Town Officials. They explained the position of the Board of Elections as follows:
    - i) Election Districts: It has been determined that there will be one Election District, because the Commissioners do not believe there is any reason to have two polling places considering the increased cost of voting machines, the annual setup and maintenance costs, the availability of election inspectors, and the workload on the county election board.
    - ii) Polling Site: The Village Hall was ruled out as a polling site primarily due to inadequate space on the first floor, and recommendation from the State Board of Elections that polling sites be located on the first floor whenever possible. Parking was also listed as a limiting factor. The Town Hall garage bay would meet the Commissioners' requirements.
- 3) Alfred Town Council -
  - a) Garage Bay Polling Site Cost: In answer to a question about how much an update to the Town Garage bay would cost, Supervisor Mansfield said the cost would be minimal and would involve lighting improvements, a tarp, and turning up the heat.
- 4) Alfred Village Board -
  - a) Election District Consolidation: The Mayor and all Village Trustees present voiced their opposition to the consolidation of election districts.
    - i) Former Trustee Marion Weaver stated the central village polling site supported the unique culture of the village and for centuries made it easy for all of its citizens to vote. She said it's not about wanting to be separate, but rather about wanting to stay local.
    - ii) Trustee Prophet pointed out the importance of considering the democratic process when making such a decision as this, and expressed concern for the ease of voting for village residents who do not have cars or the ability to drive. She reminded those on the Town Board and Election Board that Village residents are also residents of the Town who should have a voice in this matter, and that they comprise a demographic that has not chosen to drive everywhere, as have town residents.
  - b) Suggested Polling Site: Mayor Clark suggested the Alfred State College Horticulture Center on State Route 244 as a Polling Site, having already gotten approval from President Anderson. The Election Commissioners and Town Board were receptive to the suggestion, with possible use of the Town Garage bay as an alternate site. They arranged for further investigation of this option.

- c) Election Inspectors: Trustee Rasmussen requested more communication from the Election Board about the shortage of election inspectors, and expressed willingness to assist in recruiting inspectors from the area.
- 5) **Adjournment**: There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel  
Clerk-Treasurer