

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

May 14, 2013

Present: Mayor Grigg; Trustees McDowell, Rasmussen, Bowden, Prophet; Clerk-Treasurer Koegel; Police Chief O’Grady, Code Enforcement Officer Cagle, 16 members of the public and 1 member of the press

1. **Meeting Opening** –Mayor Grigg opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
2. **Mayoral Appointments** – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to approve the mayoral appointments of Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members (attached). Motion passed 5-0.
3. **Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/McDowell to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of April 9, 2013. Motion passed 5-0.
4. **Announcements** –
 - a. Alfred Community Coalition Meeting – June 6th at 8:30 a.m. in Village Hall; year-end review
 - b. Saxon Inn Assessment Meeting – May 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in Town Hall
5. **Guests** –
 - a. Marketing Alfred – Catherine Jaycox – Mayor Grigg explained one of his first goals in office is to understand information acquisition, including how Alfred markets itself, and then gave an introduction and background for Catherine Jaycox. After hearing of her interest in serving the community, the board expressed much appreciation and support for Ms. Jaycox to learn of interest in Alfred and ways of working with Allegany County and other agencies. Specifically, she described having conversations to learn “what is the ‘voice/face of Alfred’ and then to “get it out there” through a brand strategy. She also emphasized centralization of communications. It is possible she may identify grant opportunities, and she would bring that information to the village board for consideration.
 - b. Hot Dog Day – Zach Hamm, A.E. Crandall Fire Department Chief; Kathy Woughter, Alfred University Vice President for Student Affairs; Greg Sammons, Alfred State College Vice President for Student Affairs; and Javon Nunes, Alfred University Student Senate President
 - i. Behavior – Village resident Alan Littell expressed concern about what he sees as an annual weekend out-of-control. He said people come from distant parts to “party central” and described intolerable noise and specific experiences with students this past Hot Dog Day, stating the central village residents give up tranquility. He asked that the village consider its responsibility and potential liability if a death were to occur during the event, and indicated the St. Patrick’s Day parade was discontinued due to bad behavior. Trustee Rasmussen responded it is a campus-sponsored event that the police make as safe as possible, and turned over the conversation to the Police and Fire Chiefs and Student Affairs representatives.
 - ii. Police – Police Chief O’Grady said it wasn’t the worst Hot Dog Day he’d seen. There were 38 arrests, and while the majority of them were minor, the police were busy the entire night. Most arrests were from people who came into town from elsewhere. Based on fire and ambulance reports, it would seem the assaults were

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not all reported. He suggested the campuses might want to consider whether the people causing the problems have always been from outside the area or if that number has increased over the years.

iii. Fire & Ambulance – Chief Zachary Hamm gave a written report.

iv. Student Affairs –

1. Alfred University – Vice President Kathy Woughter said they haven't yet reviewed the event with the Alfred Community Coalition, but from the AU perspective the outside element does seem to have increased. She stated it might be helpful to look at the history about why the St. Patrick's Day parade was discontinued, as well as to reach out to other colleges with festivals to see how they address these issues. She mentioned proactive measures that were taken a few years ago, such as concerts that offer an alcohol-free span of time to prevent alcohol-related violence, medical emergencies and misbehavior. She and others in attendance expressed the interest in continuing what has become an important tradition to students and community members.

2. Alfred State College – Vice President Greg Sammons, who has a law enforcement background, stated there were lots of people this year but it wasn't the worst behavior he's seen statistically. He described steps that have been taken by Alfred State in the last five years, such as programming fireworks and a comedian and a "wristband" system allowing limited on-campus guests, to improve accountability. He mentioned that removing sanction from an event deemed problematic, such as the 'naked mile,' doesn't always halt the event right away. In response to a query by Trustee Rasmussen about how the campus addresses assaults, Sammons stated suspects are placed on interim suspension pending a hearing, based on the threat posed to the campus community. If the suspect is a guest there is a hearing scheduled on the host of that guest, and if convicted the guest would be refused future access.

3. Binge drinking seems to be a problem to some residents; both campus representatives agree there is a need to focus on anti-intoxication measures, VP Sammons referred to an ASC "Signals" program to assist students who experience medical emergencies as a result of alcohol use and VP Woughter said she's already seeing a trend toward moderation through AU's targeted efforts. Town resident Brennan Lang mentioned the Amethyst Initiative in relation to the problem.

v. Guests – There were the following additional general comments:

1. Student behavior is a problem, not just on Hot Dog Day but throughout the year.
2. The children would miss the carnival if the event were to end.

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3. The event seems to generate goodwill and business for the village during the day; could we control the sale of beer?
4. The event generates money for charity.

6. Reports –

- a. **Housing and Code Enforcement** - Code Enforcement Officer Cagle gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
- b. **Mayor** – Mayor Grigg gave a written report in advance of the meeting and expressed his plan to distribute his monthly report to the major village departments as well as the board.
 - i. Student Participation in Community Building – Mayor Grigg reported Alfred University Student Senate President, Javon Nunes, is involved in efforts to build community between students at Alfred State College and Alfred University through intentional planning of certain events, like the Club Fair, to be joint-campus events.
 - ii. Bandstand – Mayor Grigg described the status of the highly visible bandstand in the center of the village, and relayed recent communications between Planning Board Chair Anne Wenslow and AU regarding origination of the bandstand and future plans to remove hurricane fencing and rebuild. It was reportedly built through collaboration between the village and both colleges in the 1980s. Mayor Grigg requested that the village board continue discussions with Alfred University about this issue.
- c. **Streets & Water** – Trustee McDowell gave the report. He has been learning about daily well checks and weekly water testing.
 - i. Creek Remediation – Trustee McDowell, Mayor Grigg and Supt. McNulty met regarding erosion related to a dam built across the creek; Allegany County Soil & Water was contacted and property owners will pursue remedies to the issue.
- d. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Trustee Bowden gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
 - i. Energy Curtailment Program – Trustee Bowden considered overtime and timing issues related to program objectives and the associated practicality of entering such program; he invited program representatives to schedule a presentation to the board.
- e. **Police** – Chief O’Grady gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
- f. **Planning and Zoning** – Trustee Rasmussen gave a written report in advance of the meeting. The Planning Board is preparing for a late June meeting with Attorney David Slottje regarding the zoning law, which the Village Board will be strongly urged to attend. Also under discussion is congregate housing and the possibility of an overlay zone.
- g. **Youth and Recreation** – Trustee Prophet reported the Village Band is scheduled to hold four concerts in July.
- h. **Clerk-Treasurer** – Clerk-Treasurer Koegel reported that the County Board of Elections was very helpful during the 2013 village election process and requested the board send a letter of appreciation.

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7. New Business

- a. June Public Forum – The board agreed to continue the tradition of holding a semi-annual public forum, well-attended so far, at 7 p.m. before the regular board meeting on June 11th.
- b. Marketing Alfred: ‘Reasons to Live in Alfred’ – Trustee Bowden reported he has drafted an outline of ‘reasons to live in Alfred’ that could be made available for distribution by real estate agencies and incorporated by Catherine Jaycox in ongoing efforts. Trustee Prophet agreed to work with Trustee Bowden on development of the material.
- c. Police Union Negotiations – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to appoint Mayor Grigg and Trustee Rasmussen to negotiate with the Police Union on the upcoming contract renewal. Motion passed 5-0.
- d. Summer Employment – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/McDowell to hire Justin Haynoski and Alex Minnick (Streets/Water Dept.) and Javied Townsend (Wastewater Dept.) as temporary full-time summer laborers at \$8.50/hr. between May and September within budgeted amounts. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Part-time Police Officer Wages – Chief O’Grady discussed with the board the minimum wage increases and the advisement of an increase to the \$11.50/hour wage for part-time police officers. The board agreed to take the issue under consideration at the June board meeting.
- f. Sale of Police Car – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to authorize Chief O’Grady to put the police car out to bid via Teitsworth auctions. Motion passed 5-0. It was recommended that interested local parties be directed to the online auction.
- g. Cats in the Village – Village resident Jason Rodd requested the village change its animal control law to require that cats be kept inside because they are eating birds. Mayor Grigg thanked him for his suggestion.

8. Old Business –

- a. Street Ownership Committee – Mayor Grigg explained to the public that the goal is not to try to give anything away, but to learn the legal options and to identify who owns and maintains what. Village resident Jason Rodd pointed out that maintenance of streets and water lines doesn’t necessarily correspond with ownership, and suggested the village investigate to see if any streets were previously misappropriated. **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Rasmussen to establish a committee of Trustee McDowell and Joe Dosch to review the project with a new legal opinion and make recommendations to board. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Water Bill Collection – Village resident Al Littell asked the payment status of the Alfred State College water bills. Trustee Rasmussen responded that there has been progress made but no payment of the past due amount; the board believes its position is solid with its rates lower than other college towns, and plans to discuss the issue later in the meeting.

9. Fiscal Summary – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/Bowden to acknowledge receipt of April fiscal summary and financial statements. Motion passed 5-0.

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10. **Budget Adjustments** – Mayor Grigg described the budget adjustments, and a motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to adjust budget amounts as follows, motion passed 5-0:

a. General Fund:

- i. To share costs of garage door between streets and police budgets and account for air compressor cost increase due to purchase at year-end:
 1. Increase A51104.4600 Gen. Rprs Maintenance \$480
 2. Increase A51102 Gen. Rprs Equipment \$100
 3. Decrease A51104.4100 Gen. Rprs Supplies \$100
 4. Decrease A31204.4700 Police Misc. \$480
- ii. To account for scheduling shift due to personnel change in police department:
 1. Increase A31201.1400 Police Part-time Wages \$3,000
 2. Decrease A31201 Police Wages \$3,000
- iii. To allow for unanticipated professional services
 1. Increase A2701 Refund of Prior Year Expenditures \$4,841.75
 2. Increase A14201 Attorney fees \$6,100
 3. Decrease A19894 Special Items \$1,258.25

b. Sewer Fund:

- i. To close 2010 Wastewater Treatment Plant Capital Project account
 1. Increase G5031 Interfund Transfer \$7,621.82
 2. Increase G97106 Debt Service on Bond \$7,621.82
- ii. To account for 50% EFC grant funds expected in May in partial refund of present and prior year expenditures:
 1. Increase in G3902 State Aid Planning Studies \$15,000
 2. Increase in G81104.4411 Sewer Lab Tests \$1,500
 3. Increase in G81304.4205 Sewer Electric \$6,400
 4. Increase G81304.4100 Sewer Supplies \$5,000
 5. Increase G81304.4600 Sewer Maintenance \$4,000
 6. Increase G81304.4404 Sewer Auto Repair \$600
 7. Decrease G81304.4207 Sewer Natural Gas \$2,200
 8. Decrease G81304.4700 Sewer Misc. \$300

11. **Bills**

a. **Abstract 2013-12A – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Bowden to pay bills in the total amount of \$173,882.92 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. Motion passed 5-0.

- i. General Fund \$82,038.19
- ii. Water Fund \$9,950.95
- iii. Sewer Fund \$81,893.78

12. **Executive Session** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations and litigation. Motion passed 5-0. No action was taken. A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to leave executive session. Motion passed 5-0.

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13. **Alfred State College Water Bill Collection** – A motion was made by Trustees **McDowell/Rasmussen** to petition Harris Beach law firm to commence action against Alfred State College seeking a money judgment for the non-payment of its water bills and request an order permitting the termination of water services to Alfred State College for continued non-payment. Motion passed 5-0.
14. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 p.m.
15. **Upcoming Meetings**
 - a. Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. beginning with a Public Forum.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel, Clerk-Treasurer