

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Meeting

June 11, 2013

Present: Mayor Grigg; Trustees McDowell, Rasmussen, Bowden, Prophet (7:15 p.m.); Clerk-Treasurer Koegel; Police Chief O’Grady, Code Enforcement Officer Cagle, 2 members of the public, 3 members of the Village Planning Board, 1 member of the Allegany County Board of Legislators and 1 member of the press

1. **Meeting Opening** – Mayor Grigg opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Community Discussion** – Community discussion involved the following items:
 - a. Tough Mudder Event in July – The village may place a welcome banner; it may be helpful to coordinate the event with local artisans and business owners, and with other events such as the farmer’s market, especially since spectators may involve family and friends of race participants. Mayor Grigg will meet with ‘marketing’ volunteer, Catherine Jaycox, about these ideas.
 - b. Alfred Business Association – Mayor Grigg will meet with Bob Volk regarding invitations to business owners for the July meeting with Gretchen Hanchett from the Allegany County Chamber of Commerce.
 - c. Village Bandstand – Based on the 2010 guidelines, New York Main Street grant funding may be a future possibility for village bandstand renovations.
 - d. Tax Exempt Property Assessment – Recent news of the Saxon Inn going back on the assessment rolls and planned re-assessment of the reconstructed Rose Apartments leads residents and board members to consider review of tax exempt property status throughout the village.
 - e. Choice: Alfred Village Residency – A meeting between Mayor Grigg and Trustee McDowell with Alfred University President Edmondson led to community discussion about living in the village. Major points made were:
 - i. Tax Rate – The tax rate may be considered prohibitive.
 - ii. Spousal Employment – Spousal employment may lead college employees to live elsewhere (while not usually those who choose a town within a 15-minute radius.)
 - iii. Historic Homes – Many of the historic homes require substantial financial investment in order to update them with current wiring and insulation, and people may instead settle in areas with more acreage for their investment. Some college towns reportedly update old houses for faculty so they may reside near the college and be present to attend more campus events, thus benefiting the college itself.
 - iv. Climbing the Ladder – There may be generational trends of changing jobs regularly to achieve promotion, but this may be changing due to job shortages.
 - v. Retirement – The area may be appealing as a retirement community due to proximity to college programs, events, and the art school. It may especially appeal to those retirees from busy city atmospheres who desire a quiet, natural environment. Fraternity and Sorority alumni may be potential retirees, and special Greek events may bring those people back into the community.
 - vi. Facility Memberships & School Districts – Some college communities offer memberships to residents to facilities such as gyms and libraries. Membership to Foster Lake was suggested. Montessori and Alfred-Almond schools were

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mentioned as local incentives, to new hires of other large employers in the region as well as those of the college institutions.

1. Marketing – Mayor Grigg emphasized the importance of including any such existing or new ‘perks’ in marketing materials for new faculty and staff to reach them during their decision-time about where to live. Trustee Bowden noted the importance of village contact with real estate agencies, and Trustee Prophet said village contact with the Deans and Department Chairs doing the hiring would be helpful as well.
- vii. Student Activities – There may have been more students living off campus before Alfred University closed its Greek organizations, with the result that grocery stores and other businesses were supported by those students. It may help if there become leisure activities available that would draw students into the community, such as pool halls or other popular college-age attractions.
- viii. Goals – Mayor Grigg expressed his goal of finding exceptions to those trends that may have been leading people away from village residency.
- f. Official Straight-8 Day – Inventor Peter McClain requested a proclamation of August 8th as Straight-8 Day in recognition of the card game he recently invented. Peter will meet with Trustee Prophet and prepare a proclamation for the board to consider in July.
- g. Festivals and Events – Discussion about Tough Mudder and marketing Alfred led to general discussion of village events and festivals. It was suggested that the village may want to make Hot Dog Day into a larger community event and/or merge it with some other area event. There was a suggestion for an outdoor art festival similar to the Allentown art festival, with wine, cheese and music. Local specialties such as organic farming and recumbent bicycles could be part of local vendor offerings. Money has to be generated or vendors will not do it again.
 - i. Event Committee – Trustee Rasmussen suggested the board consider the formation of an events committee. Large area events such as the Andover 4th of July and Wellsville balloon rally are held by independent non-profit organizations. In July, Gretchen from the county chamber can help with guidance about how to structure such organizations to work within the community.
3. **Minutes** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2013. Motion passed 5-0.
4. **Announcements** –
 - a. Gretchen Hanchett from Allegany County Chamber of Commerce will talk with business owners at 7:00 p.m. before regular business at the July board meeting.
5. **Reports** –
 - a. Justin Grigg (Mayor/Police) – Mayor Grigg gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
 - i. Tax-free New York: NYS Lieutenant Governor will present Thursday June 13th at Alfred State College, village board members welcome to attend.
 - b. Virginia Rasmussen (Code Enforcement/Planning Board/Community Coalition/Town) – Trustee Rasmussen gave a written report in advance of the meeting.

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- i. Code Enforcement: Weed Law enforcement during these spring months; list of work that requires building inspection.
 - ii. Planning Board: Working on congregate housing, family definition; meeting with Attorney Slottje June 26 at 2pm on zoning and fracking laws.
 - c. Becky Prophet (Youth & Recreation/Fire Dept) –
 - i. Community Theater will have one production this summer.
 - ii. Summer Youth Sports Program will be publicized through Alfred-Almond school.
 - iii. Community Band will hold concerts on Wednesdays in July.
 - iv. Carillon Concerts are Tuesdays in July.
 - d. Brad Bowden (Wastewater Treatment Plant) – Trustee Bowden gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
 - i. Summer Laborer – Upon notice that the previous hire is leaving to pursue an internship opportunity, **a motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to advertise in the Alfred Sun for a summer employee in the Wastewater Plant. Motion passed 5-0.
 - e. Tom McDowell (Streets & Water)
 - i. Sidewalk – Sidewalk will be replaced from Saxon Drive to Sun Publishing
 - ii. Street Ownership & Central Water Meter – Trustee McDowell met with former Streets & Water board liaison Joe Dosch and was brought up-to-date on the project. He referenced an attorney memo about selling village streets, board meeting minutes and a deed from 1972; and he talked about the issue of village infrastructure underneath the streets. Trustee McDowell stated the next step is to establish who is responsible for various aspects of maintenance. When it was questioned why Alfred University would not have to maintain trunk lines that only serve its campus, Trustee McDowell explained that is not how the system is presently set up, but Supt. McNulty and our engineer have been working with village and campus officials toward establishment of a central water meter and lines that would more clearly delineate ownership and responsibility.
 - iii. Hillcrest Paving – It was requested by a Hillcrest resident that, in the course of paving, a storm drain be placed in the middle to make the street last and prevent driveway erosion. Trustee McDowell stated he would ask Supt. McNulty for a recommendation and cost estimate.
 - f. Tim O’Grady (Police) – Chief O’Grady was unable to provide report statistics due to computer issues.
 - g. Kathy Koegel (Clerk-Treasurer) – Clerk-Treasurer Koegel gave a written report in advance of the meeting.
- 6. **New Business**
 - a. Village Band Director – **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to approve the Village Band nomination of Chris Foster as band director to be paid a \$1,800 honorarium for summer concerts in July. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b. Part-time Police Officer Wages – After discussion with Chief O’Grady about wages in nearby locales for part-time police officers and budget impact, **a motion was made** and

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seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to increase part-time police officer wages 50 cents from \$11.50/hour to \$12.00/hour. Motion passed 5-0.

- c. **Sale of Police Car** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees McDowell/Rasmussen to accept the high Teitsworth online auction bid of \$4,051 for the 2006 Dodge Charger police car. Motion passed 5-0.
 - d. **Sale of Skid Steer** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/McDowell to put the old skid steer on Teitsworth online auction and to authorize Chief Operator Costello to accept the highest bid above \$7,600. Motion passed 5-0.
 - e. **Audit Proposals/Committee** – A motion was made and seconded by Mayor Grigg/Trustee Prophet to approve annual audit engagement of Buffamante Whipple Buttafaro CPAs in the total amount of \$8,000 and to establish an audit committee of Mayor Grigg and Trustee Rasmussen. Motion passed 5-0.
 - f. **Southern Tier West** – After some initial queries about membership in this association, a motion was made and seconded by Mayor Grigg/Trustee McDowell to table further discussion of Southern Tier West membership options to the July meeting. Motion passed 5-0.
7. **Old Business** –
- a. **Review of May Action Items** – The board noted items that remain outstanding.
8. **Working Groups/Committees** – All groups were clarified during the course of the meeting.
9. **Finance**
- a. **Interfund Transfer** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustee Bowden/Mayor Grigg to transfer \$76,260 from the Water Fund to the General Fund per the 2012-2013 budget now that it has received the entire amount of commercial water revenue. Motion passed 5-0.
 - b. **Annual Invoices** – After discussion, a motion was made and seconded by Trustees Rasmussen/Prophet that the board write a letter to Alfred University and Alfred State College and accompany it with an invoice for $\frac{3}{4}$ of one police officer before the end of June. Motion passed 5-0. Mayor Grigg and Trustee Rasmussen will write the letter.
 - c. **Budget Adjustments** – Mayor Grigg described the budget adjustments, and a motion was made and seconded by Trustees Bowden/McDowell to adjust budget amounts as follows, motion passed 5-0
 - i. 2012-2013 Budget/2013-2014 Budget Encumbrances
 1. General Fund
 - a. \$259.98 Decrease A80204.4408 Planning Training in 2012-13
 - b. \$259.98 Increase A80204 Planning Expenses in 2013-14
 - i. For bookshelf on order in May 2013
 - c. \$627 Decrease A31204.4410 Police Computer Service in 2012-13
 - d. \$627 Increase A31204.4410 Police Computer Service in 2013-14
 - i. For computer on order in May 2013
 2. Water Fund
 - a. \$7,770 Decrease FX83404.4400 Water Professional Services in 2012-13

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- b. \$7,770 Increase FX83404.4400 Water Professional Services in 2013-14
 - i. For Booster #2/Pump #2 maintenance service on order in May 2013
- d. **Bills** –
 - i. **Abstract 2013-12B – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Rasmussen to pay bills in the total amount of \$39,719.59 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. Motion passed 5-0.
 - 1. General Fund \$15,461.26
 - 2. Water Fund \$2,968.86
 - 3. Sewer Fund \$5,679.47
 - 4. Capital Projects Fund \$15,610.00
 - ii. **Abstract 2014-1 – A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Bowden/Prophet to pay bills in the total amount of \$27,150.42 as detailed below and on the abstract list distributed to the board. Motion passed 5-0.
 - 1. General Fund \$17,606.48
 - 2. Water Fund \$4,399.42
 - 3. Sewer Fund \$5,144.52
- e. **Fiscal Summary** – **A motion was made** and seconded by Mayor Grigg/Trustee Prophet to acknowledge receipt of May 31, 2013 preliminary fiscal summary and financial statements. Motion passed 5-0.
- 10. **Executive Session** – A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Prophet/McDowell to enter executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations. Motion passed 5-0. No action was taken. A motion was made and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Rasmussen to leave executive session. Motion passed 5-0.
- 11. **Police Union Contract**– **A motion was made** and seconded by Trustees Prophet/Bowden to renew the police union contract for one year with a 1-1/2% cost of living wage increase. Motion passed 5-0.
- 12. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.
- 13. **Upcoming Meetings**
 - a. Next Regular Board meeting Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. beginning with a Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn L. Koegel, Clerk-Treasurer