

MINUTES – Alfred Village Board of Trustees Public Hearing

April 14, 2020

DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THIS PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ONLINE

Present: Mayor Prophet, Deputy Mayor McClain, Trustees Gill, Brown and Ninos; Clerk Hasper; Police Chief Griffith; and approximately 17 members of the public

1. **Hearing Opening** – Mayor Prophet opened the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.
2. **2020-21 Tentative Budget** - Deputy Mayor McClain gave an overview of the budget summarizing changes from the prior year and providing a view of his screen with the summary cover sheet for all to see. He showed the decrease in revenue mainly due to a 40% lower water consumption (affecting revenue from water and sewer bills), continually declining assessments (lowering the revenue from property taxes) and the State aid remaining flat (same as 4 years ago). Therefore, there is a need to increase the property tax rate by 1.73% (within the tax cap) and raise the water and sewer rates to compensate for lower revenue.
3. **Public comments** received and discussed:
 - What fueled the lower consumption?
 - Does the Village make money on the garbage fee? No, the income equals the expense.
 - All are having lost revenue especially now with the students gone with the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - It was noted these revenue shortages were here before covid-19.
 - The proposed sidewalk between Alfred and Alfred Station and the cost of its maintenance was discussed.
 - The new electronic parking meter will be installed ultimately saving the Village money and meanwhile providing convenience to users.
 - Difficulties in this new budget were acknowledged. It was noted how the rate increase has come down substantially since the board began dealing with the budget in January.
 - The Village is playing catch up as the rates in the past have not been raised enough to cover costs. The sewer department has not been breaking even for years and new costly regulations continue to be put on the department.
 - A suggestion to table the budget and have another budget hearing to allow time for further input was received and discussed.
4. **Adjournment** – With no further comments, a motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by Trustees McClain/Ninos. The hearing was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Hasper, Clerk