

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 10, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Alfred was held at 7:00 pm Thursday, April 10, 2008 and opened by Supervisor Jeanne Cartwright with the pledge to the flag. All board members were present. Also present were William MacCrea, Pam Jones, Mayor Craig Clark, Yuri Karminsky, Janice Higgins-Burdick, and Jamie Mansfield.

Guests: Mayor Craig Clark explained that John Anderson, President of Alfred State College, stated that the first thing he wanted to do was to help the community. Keith Pittman from Empire State Wind Energy met Tuesday with the Village Board and members of the Town Board. Mr. Pittman stated that the first thing to do is to see if the Community wants the windmills, then determine if there is enough wind for them. They prefer to come up with a contract where everyone shares in the profits. If all three parties (Village, Town and Alfred State College) are interested, then they would like a commitment letter. They will conduct the SEQR at no cost to the Town. Jeanne Cartwright stated that there were several people who seem to be in favor of this and feels it should be looked into further. Mrs. Cartwright stated that if everyone agrees. Would like a letter of intent approved at the May meeting. William MacCrea asked if local landowners would be contacted. Craig Clark answered that the College has enough land to place them there – minimum of 8-10 windmills. Jeff Johnston asked what level of commitment does the Town and Village have to have? Mr. Clark responded that when it comes time for the siting, then concerns of the residents will have to be addressed. Mrs. Cartwright stated that ESWE wants the Town and Village Boards to talk to people and see if they are interested. It was also suggested that if anyone can, they go to Centerville or another location where Windmills have been erected. Craig Clark stated that it is important that the public be educated and that they are aware that we will have local control. Jeff Johnston stated that he sees this has a real opportunity for the community to take control – potential of being a good investment for the area. Definitely feels it should be investigated. Mr. Clark added that there are pros and cons and a meeting has been scheduled for the public. A resolution will be prepared for the May meeting which is only to say that the Town and Village are interested enough for ESWE to go forward with studies. Mr. Clark added that he feels it fits very well with the College and Organic Farm.

Yuri Karmnsky – Mr. Karmnsky stated that Steve Kilmer, Codes Enforcement Officer, visited him and told him he had had a complaint. Mr. Kilmer called the DEC and had them meet him at Mr. Karmnsky's. The complaint was in regards to the number of cars being stored on the property and that they seem to be spreading onto other areas of the property. Mr. Karmnsky stated that he needs the cars to repair. If he doesn't have any he buys them at the auction and fixes them up to see – he is car dealer. Mr. Karmnsky added that M. Kilmer complained about the turkeys on his property and the U-Haul trucks parked on the front lawn. Feels Steve doesn't like him and if no one likes him he will sell and move. Phil Curran explained to Mr. Karmnsky that it's not an issue of the number of cars, it's the fact that the cars are spreading and they are junk cars. Mr. Karmnsky stated that he gets paid for junk cars but it takes time. Also, that he is an American citizen, not a Russian spy. Mr. Curran explained that if he would get rid of the carcasses and the junk that would help. Mr. Curran added that in every country you have to consider your neighbors. Mr. Karmnsky stated that his neighbors said they would sign a letter saying they didn't complain. Jeanne Cartwright added that you also have to consider the people driving into and out of the Village and driving by it. Phil Curran explained the complaints the Board has received – that it is turning into a junk yard. If you have cars that are unlicensed for a certain period of time they are junk. The ones shoved up on the hill are junk and should go. Mr. Karmnsky stated that they are waiting for parts to be repaired. Mr. Curran stated that he will get copies of the rules and show them to him. Also, if he is selling cars that is a change in use for the property and he has never applied for a permit for that.

Discussion by the Board after Mr. Karmnsky left included Jerry Snyder stating that the Town needs to communicate with people – when you receive a notice from an authority it is intimidating. Mr. Snyder added that Yuri really is a very caring and compassionate person. Mr. Karmnsky visited Mr. Snyder after

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Steve Kilmer and the DEC were there and he was very upset. "Very delicate balance, have to talk to people and help and educated them." Jeff Johnston agreed stating he is an immigrant and not totally familiar with the laws, need to compromise. Don't want to send them away but do need to educate them on the rules. Mr. Snyder added that he not oppressed to drawing the line but the initial approach needs to be different. Phil Curran dated that he will find out the rules and regulations.

Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the March 13, 2008 meeting were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Police - Reviewed the written report for March.

Codes Enforcement – Reviewed written report. Included in Mr. Kilmer's report was an inspection request. It was noted that Alfred University is requiring a Certificate of Occupancy before anyone can rent to AU students. Does the Town want all rentals inspected? Jeff Johnston asked if the Town enforces it for everyone would this give the Town more muscle when dealing with landlords such as Henry Bauer? Phil Curran stated an inspection would have to be done when it is rented or only when someone needs a CO. Jeff Johnston added that he feels there need to be some standards and then they need to be enforced. Phil Curran stated that the standards are there and the Village does inspections every other year. Mr. Curran suggested that the Codes Enforcement Officer be put on a cycle with the ones calling done first, then gradually include all. A motion was made by Phil Curran for the Town to be proactive in regards to inspections of rental units and if renting to AU students, must have a CO, call for an appointment for an inspection. The motion was seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Assessor- Letter sent to Sugar Hill denying their request for property tax exemption. Jerry Snyder stated that he spent time reviewing the packet they provided at last months meeting. Mr. Snyder stated that he read portions about paying taxes and the intent was to pay taxes – now that they don't have any money requesting for exemption. Feels there is a flaw in the whole thought process – if NYS is not a good climate for businesses, it seems it would be a risky plan t build a building. There has already been a lot of grant money, state money, etc. invested in this. Mr. Snyder added he would like to see their Annual Reports. Concerned that they didn't have a legitimate ground level plan. They went out on a limb. Mr. Snyder went on to say that Tax exempt status is reserved for something that has to be for the benefit of the people – a church, school, etc. They are a business – hard time justifying some of their statements. Mr. Snyder explained that he is not opposed to what they are trying to do. Phil Curran added that he feels the best solution is to move the business that is up there and turn the land into a housing development. Also asked how much of a burden would it be for the Town to take it over?

Review of Monthly Report – all ok.

General Abstract #4-2008 – Vouchers #48-62 in the amount of \$18075.16 were approved with a motion by Tom Mansfield seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0.

Highway Abstract #4-2008 – Vouchers #42-55 in the amount of \$17161.72 were approved with a motion by Jeff Johnston seconded by Phil Curran and carried 5-0.

Highway Report

- Reviewed written report.
- Removed plows and sanders, patching potholes.
- Replaced sluice on East Valley Road. Several sluice pipes need to be changed.
- Attended safety meeting and attended the Equipment Show in Rochester.
- Opened seasonal roads and fixed washouts on Walter and Terbury Roads.
- Grade and Roller ready to go.

Teitsworth online auction – Ended yesterday – the Drott sold for \$3900.00 and the pickup \$1225.00. Motion by Jerry to accept the bids for the Drott and the pickup, seconded by Jeff Johnston and carried 5-0. Jamie Mansfield added that he also has the gas tank; does the Board want to sell it online or bid it locally? A motion was made by Tom Mansfield to sell the gas tank on the online auction through Teitsworth's, seconded by Jeff Johnston and cared 5-0.

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Town Clerk – Received the latest inspection report from NYSDEC regarding Patton's landfill.

Committee Reports:

Tom Mansfield stated that he looked into the Boy Scouts taking on the job of providing fire numbers for all properties in the Town. An Eagle Scout needs to do 100 hours. The project has to go to the Boy Scout Council for approval which could take could take 2-3 months. Jamie Mansfield stated that he would check with Andover to see what process they went through when they did their 911 numbering.

New Business – Spring Clean-Up Day – May 6, 7, and 8th. (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

A motion to adjourn at 9:10 pm was made by Jeff Johnston, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Higgins-Burdick
Town Clerk