

SPECIAL MEETING WITH THE VILLAGE OF ALFRED BOARD AND TOWN OF ALFRED BOARD

March 24, 2011

A Special meeting was held at 7:00 pm Thursday March 24, 2011 and opened by Supervisor Tom Mansfield with the pledge to the flag. Board members present were Tom Mansfield, Jerry Snyder, Mary Stearns, and Donn Lang. Village Board members present were Mayor Craig Clark, Becky Prophet and Virginia Rasmussen. Also present were Cass Lorow and Elaine Herdman; Commissioners of the Allegany County Board of Elections, Village Clerk Kathy Koegel, Marion Weaver, Martha Mueller, JoEllen delCampo and Janice Burdick.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the Election Commissioners the reason for merging the two voting districts and to discuss a location for future voting.

Elaine Herdman explained how this all came about – last year they looked at the two polling places (Village and Town) and told the Town and Village Clerk's that they would give them one year leeway to find another place to vote – felt neither location was large enough with the new voting requirement and the new machines. Been trying to find a place that meets all the new requirements – ADA, enough room for privacy booths, first floor, and parking. It was determined by the Commissioners that due to the number of voters there will be one polling place and need a long term commitment once that location is determined. Mrs. Herdman added that she had talked to the State Board of Elections and they told her she should not be considering anything other than a first story floor. It was also explained that this is a Town election where Town officials are elected. The Village elections would still be held in the Village Hall for now. There are 1100 registered voters in the Town. After looking over the Town garage it was determined that that would meet all requirements. It was suggested that the College could run a shuttle bus throughout the day for students and others that need a way down here.

Marion Weaver expressed concern about the elderly and students being able to get to the Town Building to vote. Mrs. Herdman stated that in 2010 there were 58 registered students of which only 2 voted. Students also have an option to vote in their hometown with an absentee ballot. The majority of students are registering at home so they can vote in the local elections. Marion Weaver stated that by moving the polling place to the Town, shutting down the opportunity to vote.

Supervisor Mansfield presented statistics for the last several years comparing the number of Voters in District I (Village) vs. District II (Town) and showed that the Town outnumbered the Village in number of voters every year.

Mrs. Lorow stated that other Towns are also being combined and Wellsville is going from 6 districts to 3.

Mayor Clark stated that he feels one polling place can be found but upset that the Districts are being combined. Marion Weaver added that there has been a history of voting in the village and feels this will put up a barrier. Becky Prophet felt that this would disenfranchise students.

The commissioners also expressed a concern on being able to get Election Inspectors and it was suggested that they advertise. Mary Stearns stated that it is not the responsibility of the Commissioners to get inspectors – it is the responsibility of the Party Chairman.

JoEllen delCampo asked Tom Mansfield to explain what would have to be done to the garage to convert it to a polling place. Mr. Mansfield stated that the Fire Co. was willing to donate chairs and tables to use those days. Some kind of partition would be erected, additional lighting installed and the heat would be turned up that day.

Mr. Mansfield stated that he met with Mayor Clark last week and asked if the old Horticulture center could possibly be used as a polling place. Mr. Clark contacted ASC President John

March 24, 2011

Anderson who approved that use. The Election Commissioners will have to look at it and approve it.

Virginia Rasmussen stated that she feels it is very important to involve the students and anything that can be done to make it easier for them to vote should be considered. Also would prefer to keep the 2 polling places which Mayor Clark agreed with. Virginia Rasmussen stated she would like them to look at more than numbers.

Donn Lang stated that this is happening across the state.

After further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm with a motion by Donn Lang, seconded by Jerry Snyder and carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice L. Burdick
Town Clerk