

ALMOND TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

July 20, 2021

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of the Almond Town Board was opened at 6:13 P.M. by Deputy Supervisor. Also present were Board Members: Bryan Snyder, Larry Perry and Jo-Anne Freeland, Codes Enforcement Officer Bill Ells, Village Board Member Bill Lockwood, Residents Keith Stanley, Quinton Castle and Dave Burns.

Absent: Supervisor Dawn Wildrick-Cole

Bryan Snyder will replace Jo-Anne Freeland during the Town Highway Union negotiations.

Minutes: A motion was made by Bryan and seconded by Larry to accept the June 2021 regular meeting minutes with the noted correction referencing the Executive Session held. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Board discussed having the Five Star Credit Card issued in the new Town Clerk's name and removing the former Clerk. Jo-Anne expressed that the account should be closed. It was brought up due to automatic payments on it for CallCentric (telephone) and Microsoft 365. Julie informed the Board that the account currently is a Rewards Card and expressed concern about an annual fee. It was also recommended that the account is not a Reward due to possibility of an employee benefiting personally from the rewards. It appears that a new application needs to be submitted.

Dan informed the Board the issue of keys not working has been resolved. It was determined that when the panic bar was installed, it was set up to keep the door locked and remotely open it.

Quinton Castle addressed the Board regarding the Proposed AACSA project for the improvement of the parks and connecting of the two, as well as a CFA grant application. The grant writer informed AACSA that the grant has a higher probability of being accepted if it submitted on Behalf of the Town and Village jointly. The Town would administer the grant and AACSA will be the Project Manager. It was recommended that the Board passes a Resolution to endorse the project, authorize AACSA to apply for the grant, and the Town to administer the funds if awarded. The estimated amount of the grant may be \$600,000. Dan motioned for the Town to pass a Resolution supporting the Project, a letter of support, and the application for the grant. Larry seconded the motion. It passed with all in favor.

It appears that the Town/Village may have a 20% match. Dan made a motion for the Town to authorize the use of Youth/Park Reserve and in-kind services from the Highway Department for the Town's share if the grant is awarded. Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes; Jo-Anne voted nay. Jo-Anne wants more investigation. She also asked what amount of funds AACSA would be contributing.

Jo-Anne requested a copy of AACSA Balance Sheet. Jo-Anne wanted to know what happened to fees paid for participation before the Covid shut down. Quentin responded some parents wanted a refund; others wanted the fees to be held for this year. Jo-Anne stated AACSA needs to provide Financial Statements regularly.

If the grant for the project is awarded, a Resolution accepting it will be necessary.

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A question was raised regarding a statement on the playground conceptual plans about supervision. The discussion regarding the “supervision caveat” is believed to be boiler plate liability statement for the designer.

There was discussion about the surface at GNMP.

Supervisor: Jo-Anne mentioned that it did not appear that the Line Transfers approved previously have not been completed. Julie will contact Baldwin Business Services.

Part of a deposit to JM from the village went into the wrong account. It will be corrected.

Discussion regarding scrap monies for the Highway Department, the current receipt is Highway monies. There was a check the previous month which has not been deposited. The undeposited check should have been payable to AACSA instead of the Town of Almond. Julie has contacted the vendor twice and is currently waiting for a call from the Office manager.

A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Jo-Anne to accept the June 2021 Supervisors Report and Monthly Budget. The motion passed with all in favor.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Jo-Anne asked Julie if she has access to all she needs. Julie said she needed to contact NYS Department of Health for full access to the EDS. Julie is still working on getting the Gmail account discontinued. She is constantly informing vendors and contacts of the change of emails.

A motion was made by Larry, seconded by Dan, and to accept the June 2021 Clerk’s report. The motion passed with all in favor.

Highway Superintendent:

- Highway Superintendent’s report submitted in writing.
- Larry asked Jamie about the Town pit DEC compliance. Jamie said the DEC Permit does not renew until 2024.
- Jamie discussed a possible State ban on Brine use. Jamie has emailed our Senator regarding this. He did not receive a response by the time of the meeting. Brine permit is good until 2024. If the Governor signs bill renewing
- Jamie presented an additional voucher from Mirabito Energy for fuel that was not on the voucher.

Dan motioned accept the Highway Superintendent Report. Bryan seconded and it passed with all in favor.

Dog Control Officer: Nothing to report. There was discussion about Town/Village Animal Control Officer as opposed to DCO. Allegany County does not have an Animal Control Officer.

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Dan is not interested in becoming Animal Control Officer due to liability issues, training etc. Larry agrees that the Town does want not the responsibility.

Codes Officer: Bill Ells gave an update on building permits. Dan asked if the Solar Permit was for a Solar Farm. Bill said it was for a private property. The Planning Board Committee is having numerous meetings. They want to get several things accomplished by the end of the year. Bill expressed that he would like the Assessor to return to the office in Almond. He must wait until the Assessor has hours in Alfred in order to have discussions with her regarding building permits. There is no phone for the Assessor in Alfred, so no one is unable to reach her by telephone. The discussion was tabled for Executive Session. The Flaitz case is court, waiting for DA Nights to resume. C Gaynor is bringing in more dumpsters. The time limit has passed since the letter from the attorney was sent. Bill does not believe Gaynor is not bringing more stuff in.

The Board discussed the use of Gmail for Town Business, regarding security and discontinuance of the Town Clerk Gmail account. Julie has been notifying contacts of the Almondny mail address as new emails are received. The Town is unable to cut off the gmail account as it does not own it. The board discussed issues with both the gmail account and the almondny.com emails.

Review of Abstracts: Dan made a motion to accept Abstract #7 for July 2021 for a total of \$29,119.96. Larry seconded the motion with the addition of the fuel invoices. The additional fuel costs are included in the figures above.

- General Fund A claims in the amount of \$7,630.39
- General Fund B claims in the amount of \$0.00
- General Fund DA claims in the amount of \$4,991.70
- General Fund DB claims in the amount of \$16,388.70
- Joint Municipal Fund JM claims in the amount of \$10
- Fire Protection District SF claims in the amount of \$0

Dan motioned to accept the Abstract with the addition of the Highway Fuel voucher added. Larry seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Old Business:

- Dan asked Jamie if he wants to table the garage doors. Jamie said he is trying to get additional bids.
- Additional Camera purchase for the park due to vandalism. Dan is still waiting for a quote. There were 3 people arrest and charged with 3rd degree Criminal Mischief. Subject has been tabled until August meeting.
- Solar Policy – Dan received a copy of Town of Alfred Local Law regarding Solar Energy Systems and Facilities. The Board members were given a copy to review. This item will be brought up again at the August 2021 meeting.

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New Business:

- None

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan and seconded by Bryan at 7:43 pm. The motion passed with all in favor.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Phillips

Town Clerk