

ALMOND TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

September 21, 2021

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING of the Almond Town Board was opened at 6:00 P.M. by Supervisor Dawn Wildrick-Cole. Also present were Board Members: Deputy Supervisor Dan Hegarty, Bryan Snyder, Larry Perry and Jo-Anne Freeland, Town Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield, Town Code Enforcement Officer Bill Ells, Village Board Member Bill Lockwood and Paul Gabriel, Residents Keith Stanley and Cathy Cardet.

Absent: None

Minutes: A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Jo-Anne to accept the August 2021 regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with all in favor.

Supervisor: Dawn asked about an amount to A2770 – Miscellaneous in the amount of \$170.60. That amount represented a check payable to the Town rather than AACSA, the funds were being paid to AACSA on Voucher #309 upon approval of the abstract. A motion was made by Dawn and seconded by Larry to accept the August 2021 Supervisors Report and Monthly Budget. The motion passed with all in favor.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

- Julie has opened the Town Clerk's office Wednesday evenings from 6 – 8. She posted notices to inform residents of the additional hours, and had the website changed to reflect the same.

A motion was made by Dawn, and seconded by Dan, to accept the August 2021 Clerk's report. The motion passed with all in favor.

Highway Superintendent:

- Highway Superintendent's report was submitted in writing.
- The Highway Department had worked on two water leaks for the Village.
- The Department has been repairing flood damage to roads
- He has met with State and County Representatives regarding the flooding. He will also be meeting with FEMA to discuss reimbursement for flood damage.

Dawn motioned to accept the Highway Superintendent Report. Larry seconded and it passed with all in favor.

Dog Control Officer: Nothing to report.

Review of Abstracts:

- Julie said that the invoice from Evening Tribune for the Joint Board Meeting legal ad for the IT hearing is being paid by the Village. The Village will submit an invoice to the Town for ½ of the amount.

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- General Fund A claims in the amount of \$19,024.64
- General Fund B claims in the amount of \$243.16
- General Fund DA claims in the amount of \$2,203.35
- General Fund DB claims in the amount of \$56,607.97
- Joint Municipal Fund JM claims in the amount of \$0
- Fire Protection District SF claims in the amount of \$0

Dawn motioned to accept the Abstract #9 in the amount of \$78,079.12. Larry seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.

Proposed resolutions: None

Tentative Budget Hearing:

- Jo-Anne had a question about the health insurance. The amount in both the DA and DB lines have been changed to \$43,000.00. She also asked about a meeting with the union. The meeting is scheduled for October 14.
- Salaries will be discussed in an Executive Session.
- There was a discussion about budgeting for DA9950.9B Employee Benefit Reserve, DA5130.2A Bridge Reserve and DA0962.4 Budgetary Provisions for Machinery.

At 6:52, Dawn motioned to go into Executive Session, Larry seconded it.

7:02, the Board returned to the Regular Session.

Dawn motioned to accept the Tentative Budget to Preliminary with a change to A5010.1 to \$62,500.00. Dan seconded it. The motion passed with Bryan and Larry voting aye and Jo-Anne voting nay.

The Public hearing on the Preliminary Budget was set for 5:45 pm before the Regular Meeting on October 19, 2021, at 6:00 pm. Julie will have the Legal Notice published and post it on the Almond/Alfred Folks Facebook page.

New Business:

Laptops:

- Julie gave an update on the IT upgrade. It has taken about two days to map the current network with the help of Josh McGraw. Integrated Systems said that it would have taken much longer without his assistance. The firewall hardware and antivirus software has been installed in both the municipal and Highway buildings. Due to the unknown timeframe for delivery of laptops, Integrated Systems had started the migration of data to the cloud server.

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- Dan mentioned that the Town will eventually have to conduct Board Meeting by Zoom. It was asked if these meetings would be held on the private Wi-Fi or the public. Julie mentioned that we would not want the meetings held on the private network due to the risk of someone accessing our data.
- Dan motioned to buy three laptops for the Town. The Town Supervisor, Highway Superintendent and the Clerk would each get a new one. Larry seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Marijuana Laws: The topic of whether to pass a law prohibiting a dispensary in the Town was discussed. No action taken

Old Business:

- Garage door replacement is tabled for the October 19 meeting.
- Budget Modifications – Did not receive the corrected modifications for the meeting. Dawn said she usually asks for any modifications quarterly. Hopefully Baldwin Business Services will provide the modifications for the October meeting.
- Have not received quote for the additional camera purchase for the park. Dan will work on getting other quotes. Topic is tabled for another month.

Codes Officer: Codes are OK.

- Attended school in Salamanca for required hours.
- **Solar policy** – No action has been taken yet. Dan went to Alfred's meeting regarding their proposed solar policy. At this point, without a policy the Town is unable to say if and where a solar farm can be built in the Town. Dan suggested the Board read the policy from Alfred he provided at a prior meeting. Dawn asked if a site plan review law would help. It was mentioned that the Town might have to do a PILOT program on solar farms. It was mentioned that the Town of Clay lost money by not doing a PILOT since green energy is not taxed. Life expectancy of the equipment is 20 to 25 years, and the company should be bonded for disposal of equipment after the useful life. Dan stated the Town needs a policy so that any entity wanting to build a farm knows what the Town will allow. Dan will resend the Alfred Proposed policy to the Board members to review. The issue has been tabled to October.
- Bill had a zoning meeting with Nick and Kier. The next meeting has not been scheduled at this time will be checking with Don Weidman. It was suggested that the meetings be moved to the Community Room due to Covid concerns. There have been projects done with special use permits. These permits must go to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The topic of the Assessor is tabled for the time being.

Paul Gabriel brought up the eaves above the fire bay doors are leaking. His concern is that ice will form on the aprons and possible injury happen to a first responder. He suggests the eaves be replaced to prevent further damage or possible workman compensation claims. Larry said the eaves and gutters need to be repaired or replaced. Dan suggested getting quotes. Bill will get the quotes for repair or replacement.

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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bryan at 7:39 pm and seconded by Larry. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Phillips

Town Clerk