

ALMOND TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

October 13, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Almond, County of Allegany and State of New York was held at the Almond Municipal Building on the 13th day of October, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Richard Stuart at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Supervisor Stuart, Board Members Kim Costello, Larry Perry, Dawn Wildrick-Cole and Jo-Anne Freeland, Town Clerk Arlene McMahon, Bookkeeper Debra Castle-Harvey, Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield, Justice Paul Johnson, Assessor Bobbi Elderkin, Codes Officer Bill Ells, Don Weiman and Charlie Stevens.

Assessor: Bobbi explained her proposal for doing the revaluation to bring the Town's equalization rate back to 100% from the current 95%. She will do field review; she will take pictures and look at every property, which is required in order to be considered a full reval. A notice should be sent to each taxpayer whose assessment has been changed to inform them what, if anything, has happened to their assessment. She also explained that the money received from the State for being at 100% is a one-time payment as a result of a complete revaluation and is not received every year even if the equalization stays at 100%. The rate paid per parcel also fluctuates according to the State budget. The expense for doing the update will be Bobbi's mileage and the postage for mailing notices. Bobbi will also receive whatever money NYS pays to the Town for doing the reval. She said that an update should be done every three years to avoid the cost of a full revaluation like the one which was done in 2012-2013.

Charlie Stevens: After explanation from Bill Ells and Charlie Stevens about the condition of the eaves troughs on the Municipal Building and the roof over the kitchen in the fire hall, a motion was made by Dick and seconded by Larry to approve spending \$2,000 from the Joint Municipal Building Reserve for the installation of a heat tape to prevent the formation of ice in the downspout at the front of the building, and patching to make immediate repairs to the roof over the fire hall kitchen. The motion passed with all in favor. Charlie will also submit an estimate for more extensive work to be done in 2016.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Larry, and seconded by Jo-Anne to approve the minutes of the September, 2015 meeting. The motion passed with all present in favor.

Supervisors Report: A motion was made by Dick, seconded by Dawn and passed unanimously to accept the Supervisor's report for September with the following budget modifications:

- A1990.4 CONTINGENCY \$246.91
 - A1650.4 COMMUNICIATION \$246.91
 - Not enough budgeted for communications
- DA2650 SALE OF SCRAP & EXCESS MATERIALS \$775.35
- DA2665 SALE OF EQUIPMENT \$1,800.00
 - DA5130.2 MACHINERY \$2,575.35
 - Using scrap & excess materials

The complete report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

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The hearing on the Preliminary Budget will be November 10th at 5:45. The Town Clerk will place the legal ad in the Evening Tribune.

Newsletter: After discussion, the Board requested that the next newsletter be submitted to the entire Board in time for edits to be done before printing and distribution. In order to do that it was suggested that Debi make her article submission deadline at least 2 weeks in advance of the date of layout. Debi's plan is for the next issue to be included in the tax bills which are mailed the last week of December. She will be sure the newsletter is small enough to avoid the need for extra postage on each tax bill, and volunteers will be responsible for inserting them into the bill envelopes.

Town Clerk: It was noted that the annual meeting of the Association of Towns will be held in February in New York City. A motion was made by Dick and seconded by Kim to accept the Town Clerk's September, 2015 report. The motion passed with all present in favor.

Highway Superintendent: September 8, 2015 – October 12, 2015

- We have graded Gas Springs, Roots, Hills, Wyatt, Prior, Bush, Ellis and Dungan
- We installed a driveway pipe on Pennsylvania Hill; also did some ditch work there.
- We did ditch work on Ellis and Bishopville Roads also.
- We did a replacement pipe project on Henderson Hill for the Village. We had to install head wall blocks to hold back the bank on Maple Ridge for the Village. Sent them a bill for \$4207.60. This figure includes labor, pipe and equipment use charges.
- We have been working on Mike Dixon Road on a CHIPs project. Road reshaping, doing ditch work, etc.
- We have been mixing sand salt for the County and Town. Most of the County salt has been hauled to the shop. Just started to haul the Town supply.
- We had to put rear brake pads and rotors on the Ford pickup.
- We had to replace a brake chamber on the Mack.
- We serviced the '01 and '05 Sterling dump trucks. Going for Inspection on 10/13/15.

Jamie submitted a Seasonal Road list to be filed with the Town Clerk as required by State law Section 205-A .

Code Enforcement: Bill reported on several active permits. He also reported that he asked Keith Stanley to continue to assist with the comprehensive plan and Keith agreed.

Dog Control: Kristina submitted a proposed fee schedule for Board review. The Board, in 2013, directed the DCO to charge a flat fee of \$10 to redeem a seized dog, which is in contradiction with the Town's Local Dog Law as adopted in 2010 which states a fee of \$20 per day for up to 5 days. schedule for the Board to review and approve or revise, to document that the DCO is operating according to Board direction. After discussion, the issue was tabled. Dawn will look at our existing Dog Control Local Law.

Municipal Building:

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- The Board reconsidered the request by Guiding Eyes for the Blind to use the assembly room as a community group at no charge, and with no security deposit. Dick made a motion to grant permission. Jo-Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- Boiler Inspection: The inspection failed because of no pressure relief valves installed on the boilers. Kuhn Plumbing was notified, and the valves have now been installed on all three boilers. Kuhn's will perform the annual maintenance on the boilers.
- A discussion was held regarding the request by the fire company to have heat available more quickly in their meeting room. Jamie was asked to call Kuhn's to get a price on a space heater after Bill checks on code requirements. Larry suggested a timer or program that will lower the heat after a certain time.

Batavia Water Program: A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Dick granting permission for Dawn to attend the Batavia Water Funding Program. The motion passed with all in favor.

Abstracts: A motion was made by Dick and seconded by Larry to approve Vouchers #320-355 on Abstract #9 of 2015 in the amount of \$26,788.45:

- General Fund in the amount of \$11,653.11 (A)
- Highway Fund in the amounts of \$8,210.07 (DA) and \$5,954.69 (DB)
- TA voucher numbers 27-29 in the amount of \$970.58

The motion passed with all in favor.

Other Matters To Come Before the Board: The Woodlawn Cemetery is requesting financial assistance to have 2 trees professionally removed for safety reasons at a cost of \$800, 2 new weed eaters at \$300 each, and a used lawn mower at a cost of \$400 for a total of \$2,200. A motion was made by Dawn and seconded by Jo-Anne to appropriate \$2,200 from the Cemetery Reserve Fund for the Woodlawn Cemetery. The motion was passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm with a motion by Larry and second by Dick. The motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene McMahan, Town Clerk