

Town of Albion
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 9, 2024

Present: Supervisor Mike Faulkner
Councilman Rick Stowell
Councilman Steve Steinfeld
Councilman Corey Holcomb
Councilman Vern Mowers
Recording Secretary: Amy J. Ford, Town Clerk

Supervisor Faulkner called the meeting to order at 6:48pm; the Pledge was said prior at the Organizational Meeting.

Previous monthly minutes (12/28/23): Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Steinfeld to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye. Councilman Mowers abstained because he was not on the board at the time.

Reports: 1) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon: Mr. Yerdon reported the following:

- He gave a list of the tax delinquent properties in Oswego County for 2022 (2 yr.) or prior.
- The County Legislature had their organizational meeting on Thursday, January 4th.
- The County budget has passed, and the tax rate has gone down.

2) DCO: Mr. Cronk stated he has nothing to report; however, another town had an issue and the NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets got involved. He now knows what to do if this issue ever comes up in Albion.

3) Tug Hill Circuit Rider: Mr. Baxter reported the following:

- He stated Happy 2024 to the Board and wished them well.
- The 2024 Tug Hill Government Conference announcements have been sent out. The scheduled dates will be May 1st & 2nd at the Turning Stone Conference Center. He then handed out extra copies of the program and a detailed description of each class given for the two days.
- Mr. Baxter has been assisting Supervisor Faulkner and Mr. Daly (Town's IT consultant) on transitioning to a new e-mail system. Supervisor Faulkner retains the same e-mail address, but the primary means of accessing will change.
- The first Salmon River Council of Governments meeting of 2024 is still being scheduled; he would keep the Board informed.
- Supervisor Faulkner stated the Town has been granted \$50,000.00 toward the completion of the storage building for the Fire Dept. He asked if the Tug Hill Commission could assist with obtaining a grant writer. Mr. Baxter stated he would check into it.

4) Fire Dept.: Chief Holcomb submitted his report for December 2023 as follows:

- Calls = 12; total calls for 2023 = 212.
- He asked about the old ventilation fan in the old Hwy garage that came out of the new garage after the fire back in 2014. Board agreed the Fire Dept. could have it.
- Bids for the completion of the storage building. There was a legal notice in the paper and the four scopes of work are as follows:

- I. Electrical: Elite Electrical Innovations = \$6,597.28
- II. Insulation/Interior: hunter Brothers = \$27,500.00
- III. Garage door opening: Mike's Garage Door Openers: For 2 doors = \$3,800.00 (\$1,900.00/ea.)
- IV. Heating: P & J Mechanical Contractors = \$28,626.00

The total would be \$66,523.00 with the grant of \$50,000; the town would cover the difference of \$16,523.00.

Resolution # 2 of 2024
Acceptance of Bids

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Albion, Oswego County, New York, at a meeting of said Board on the 9th day of January 2024, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Town of Albion Town Board has found it necessary to approve 4 bids to complete the construction of a storage facility for the Altmar Fire Department,

NOW, THEREFORE, the following bids have been approved: (See bids for details)

1. Completion of the interior of the building: \$27,500.00
2. Completion of electrical: \$6,597.28
3. Supply and Install 2 Lift Master Garage Door Openers: \$3,800.00
4. Heating Design and Build: \$28,626.00

Total for completion of building: \$66,523.28

This resolution is written for submission as a requirement for receiving a grant from DASNY for \$50,000.00 to help offset the cost of the building.

Dated this 9th day of January 2024

Motion made by Councilman Mowers seconded by Councilman Stowell to accept resolution #2 of 2024 and all bids awarded therein. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.

5) Planning Board: Chairman Clint Rossbach stated he would notify Ms. Rose about her re-appointment to the Board next month; he also stated there wasn't anything new. He does, however, have a game plan for coming up with a comprehensive plan; he has taken a couple courses. Mrs. Ford stated the ladies' room light switch wasn't working correctly, he would investigate it.

6) Supt. of Cemeteries: Mrs. Walter was absent, but she submitted her report for December 2024 – there was no revenue.

7) Assessor: Mr. Maxwell reported the following:

- Double taxes were sent out.
- School tax relevy's were added to the 2024 taxes.
- Town, County & School exemptions are all different with different levels of income required. He stated they should all be on the same level.
- He was in the office on Friday, January 5th and had a few people in.
- Sales are down.
- Chief Holcomb stated the Fire Dept.'s tax rate was wrong the 2024 taxes; Supervisor Faulkner stated it may be his fault.
- Councilman Holcomb stated the veteran exemptions were hit hard due to the equalization rate not being at 100%.
- Mr. Maxwell stated apartments are going for more.
- He's not sure if Micron is still coming.
- Supervisor Faulkner asked about doing another re-val; Mr. Maxwell stated the Town should wait until 2025.

8) CEO/BI: Mr. Marsden was absent, but Councilman Mowers briefly went over his report for December 2023. Any issues that pertained to court were not discussed.

9) NOCA: Mr. Goodnough reported the following:

- Finances are still strong.
- Still struggling with hiring staff.
- They had 2419 calls for 2023, with 255 being for the Town of Albion.
- In December 2023 they covered about 94% of calls. The total percentage for 2023 of calls that were covered was 93%.
- The majority of hospitals have gone back to mandating masks being worn in the emergency room.
- Supervisor Faulkner thanked Mr. Goodnough for the detailed reports he gives each month.

10) Town Clerk: For the month of December 2023 as follows:

- Total take in/disbursed = \$784.50 (Town = \$775.50; NYS Ag & Markets = \$9.00).
- Issued: 7 dog licenses; 1 certified birth certificate; 15 certified death certificates.
- Sent out: 22 dog renewals for January 2024; 4 late dog license notices for December 2023 (gave until 01/16/24).
- Entered: 10 building permits.
- Petty cash is \$25.00 as of 12/28/23.

Motion made by Councilman Stowell seconded by Councilman Mowers to accept the report as read. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.

11) Supervisor: This report was given to the Board prior to the meeting and a full copy will follow the minutes in the official minutes book. **Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Steinfeld to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Audit General Bills: Abstract #1, bills #1 - #17 = \$127,885.27. Supervisor Faulkner stated he received a Thank you from the Altmar Union Station for the town patronizing them. Supervisor Faulkner would check if the amount for bill \$17 is correct before payment is made. **Motion made by Councilman Stowell seconded by Councilman Steinfeld to accept and pay all general bills for January 2024 as submitted and checked. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Reports continued: 12) Hwy Supt.: Mr. Cronk reported on the following:

- He checked truck prices. FX Caprara's deal of 10% rebate is gone; they were not on the OGS list. The town would like to go with OGS or a lesser price.
- The town board has agreed and will be getting a Ram 2500 crew truck.
- Mr. Cronk stated the white pickup he drives has mileage and an electrical problem.
- The red truck (fire truck) is having issues every time it gets used. He would like to keep his truck and get two other pickups (sell after 5 years) and sell the red (fire truck) one.

- Councilman Stowell stated he has information on OGS mini bids; he would like to keep the red (fire truck) and put another box on it if possible. He then briefly went over the OGS mini-bid list. The Board will have a workshop on Tuesday, January 16th at 6pm on this issue and the OGS mini-bid list.
- Supervisor Faulkner stated a representative for a new salt shed would be at the Hwy garage tomorrow at 2pm.
- Mr. Cronk stated the push blade is almost ready for use.
- Councilman Stowell asked Mr. Cronk to get report R256 from the County for next months meeting. Councilman Holcomb stated he would check with the County for a copy.

Audit Hwy Bills: Abstract #1, bills #1 - #13 = \$21,776.44. **Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Mowers to accept and pay all Hwy bills for January 2024 as submitted. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Old Business: 1) Playground equipment: Nothing yet.

2) Credit card: Supervisor and Town Clerk have one; the percentage rate would apply every month, but the town would pay every month to avoid it. Councilman Stowell suggested the Town's Federal ID # be scanned into the phone to help with sales tax.

New Business: 1) Pay-Chex quote: The Board had a discussion; Pay-Chex states that any problems the town may have they will handle, whereas, with QuickBooks (the town uses now), the town would have to handle the problem themselves.

Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Steinfeld to enter into executive session at 8:02pm to discuss medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye Supervisor – aye.

Motion made by Councilman Steinfeld seconded by Councilman Holcomb to re-enter into the regular meeting at 8:12pm. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.

Adjournment: **Motion made by Councilman Steinfeld seconded by Councilman Mowers to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Adopted (5-0) Councilman Steinfeld – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell -aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**
Supervisor Faulkner called the meeting to a close at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy J. Ford
Town Clerk