

Town of Albion
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2024

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

Supervisor Faulkner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm then led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Previous monthly minutes (2/13/24): **Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Mowers to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Stowell to approve the Justice Books & Files the Board had audited at the workshop prior to this meeting. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.

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

- ACCESS Oswego County is a curb-to-curb transportation service available within the County and is available when other public transportation is not available. Info will be on the table in the foyer of the municipal building.
- Office For the Aging (OFA) is now providing transportation to out of county Doctor appointments for those 60+ years of age. To register for a ride, contact OFA at 315-349-3484.
- Camp Zerbe has expanded their Day Camp from 9am to 4pm for kids 6-12yrs old. The camp will run from July to August 16th, with a different theme each week.
- Youth Court has a new PILOT program currently underway at the Oswego Middle School. During the COVID pandemic the program faded; hopefully this will help it come back.
- Oswego County Human Services Committee is proud to announce Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is starting again for 2024.
- The 19th Annual Oswego County Career Summit for 8th graders will be at the Oswego County Fairgrounds in Sandy Creek on Wednesday, June 5th.
- Oswego County Veterans Services Agency has trained service officers that will assist veterans, their spouses and dependents with filing for VA benefits. They can assist with Disability Compensation, pension, burial, survivor benefits, education, home loans. To schedule an appointment either call 315-349-9100 or email: veterans@oswegocounty.com.
- Supervisor Faulkner asked Mr. Yerdon if rumors of illegal migrants were being housed in Pulaski. Mr. Yerdon stated NO – but Governor Hochul would like towns to accept them; the County of Oswego has passed a law stating that anyone harboring any illegals will be prosecuted. He then stated that some grants the state is offering have stipulations attached, he advises each grant to be read carefully.

2) Fire Dept.: Chief Holcomb gave the following report:

- He submitted his report for February = had 17 calls
- The interior, electric & doors have been completed for the storage building.
- 1 heater is on back order.
- He has put in a grant for showers. Supervisor Faulkner stated that Makayla Mullin would oversee the grant process.
- There was additional electrical work that needed to be done that wasn't part of the original bid. **Motion made by Councilman Mowers seconded by Councilman Holcomb to pay for the additional electrical from Elite Electrical Innovations in the amount of \$378.00. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.** This will be on general abstract #4 in April.

3) DCO: Mr. Cronk reported: There was an issue with a missing dog from Parish, but it was found in Albion with the help of a drone and has been returned to its owner. He stated that the Orwell Town Clerk has given him information regarding the new regulations NYS Ag & Markets are coming out with for shelters. Mr. Cronk has already stated to the Board that he was not going to have a shelter to keep any dogs when the new rules take effect.

4) Supt. of Hwy's: Mr. Cronk gave the following report:

- He showed the Board the incident letter regarding the Hwy plow that was stuck.
- He also showed quotes for the road work that needs to be done on Mattison Rd – 2 to 3 culvert pipes (12”); also quotes for paving/motor pave of S. Albion Rd from ST 13 to ST 104.
- He stated Red Onion Rd (Albion), aka Main St. (Richland) needs to be fixed.
- The Town of Parish plans on doing Searles Rd again, and he hopes Albion could hook in with them for Albion's part of the road.
- Councilman Holcomb received the final bid price from Burdick Ford in Central Square for the new F250 4x4 super cab of \$59,065.00. **Motion made by Councilman Mowers seconded by Councilman Holcomb to purchase said pick up from Burdick Ford in Central Square for \$59,065.00. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner - aye.** The Town should get it by the end of April 2024.
- Mr. Cronk stated the 2007 is back from being repaired and has been painted. He would like to put the 2010 up for sale ahead of the 2007. Supervisor Faulkner would contact Auctions International to see what is happening with the three trucks the town already has for sale.
- The Hwy has a new email: highway@townofalbion-ny.us; and Mr. Cronk's new email is: stevecronk73@gamil.com. The Hwy laptop also has a new password on it & the new printer is up and operational (the old printer became obsolete).
- On April 15th the new one-ton truck should arrive.

5) Planning Board: Mr. Rossbach was absent, there was nothing to report.

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

- Deadline for the 2024 Tug Hill Government Conference is approaching – April 1st.

- The Village of Pulaski will be hosting the Commission's next meeting on Monday, March 18th at 10am.
- The Tug Hill Commission's annual report will be released soon. Their Headwaters newsletter will be sent out soon as well. Mr. Baxter then thanked Mrs. Ford for updating the town's information.

7) Supt. of Cemeteries: Mrs. Walter was absent but submitted her report for February. Total revenue = \$980.00 (1 sale of plot = \$500; 1 full burial = \$400; 4 corner markers = \$80.00). Supervisor Faulkner has deposited this money.

8) Assessor: Mr. Maxwell reported the following:

- Most senior exemptions should be in now. He has 5 to 6 residents who haven't returned theirs and he doesn't know how to contact them.
- Sales are down 80% - they are still 20 – 30% over assessment.
- Most of the Agriculture exemptions have been returned.
- The equalization rate is going down again across the County and there is nothing he can do about it. Everything else is running smoothly.
- He's waiting for the sales market to stabilize before doing another re-val.
- There is more interest and sales for single/doublewides.
- Enhanced Star applicants 65+ years who qualify for the enhanced star exemptions should also qualify for the senior exemptions.
- The school districts need to up their exemption amounts; this would help with senior citizens. Supervisor Faulkner would check with the County on this.

9) CEO/BI: Mr. Marsden was absent but sent his report for February to the Board. Councilman Mowers then read the report as follows: Issued: 3 permits (1 renewal; 2 other); 2 certificates of occupancy; 6 certificates of completion; 4 code violation notices; 1 formal complaint. Mr. Marsden has 16 continued education credits to date. Mr. William Adams stated his neighbors across from him had their portable car ports blown into the powerlines from the last windstorm. The Board will investigate to see if any building permits were issued for the car ports. Supervisor Faulkner then asked Mr. Mowers if the board members could drive around and take notes of violations then give the list to Mr. Marsden to issue the code of violations. Councilman Mowers stated they could and that the violations are to be hand delivered as per the law and not mailed.

10) NOCA: Mr. Goodnough reported:

- Finances are good.
- They're still having staff issues, there aren't enough people.
- Calls are increasing and those that were missed were due to the staffing issue.
- Everything else is running well.

11) Town Clerk: For the month of February 2024 as follows:

- Total take in/disbursed = \$294.00 (Town = \$257.50; NYS Ag & Markets = \$14.00; NYS Dept. of Health = \$22.50).
- Issued: 8 dog licenses; 5 certified death certificates; 1 marriage license; 1 FOIL (charges \$5.00).

- Sent out: 13 dog renewals for March; 6 late dog license notices (gave until 3/14/24).
- Entered 1 building permit.
- Petty cash is \$25.00 (as of 03/01/24).
- On April 16th at 11am she will be in Oswego returning the 2024 tax books to the County Treasurer.

Motion made by Councilman Stowell seconded by Councilman Holcomb to accept the report as read. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Stowell – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.

12) Supervisor: March's report (including February's numbers) was given to the Board prior to the meeting. A copy will follow the minutes in the official minute book. **Motion made by Councilman Mowers seconded by Councilman Holcomb to accept the report as submitted. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Audit Bills: General bills; abstract #3, bills #53 - #86 = \$56,576.83. **Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Mowers to accept and pay all general bills for March 2024 as submitted. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Hwy bills; abstract #3, bills #33 - #42 = \$10,722.20. **Motion made by Councilman Holcomb seconded by Councilman Mowers to accept and pay all Hwy bills for March 2024 as submitted. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman mowers – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Old Business: 1) Playground: Mr. William Adams, Deputy Supervisor stated he had gone to Williamstown to look over their playground and how it was set up; and he has compared it to what we have. He was thinking about a 30x40' area for toddlers that will also have handicap accessibility. The cost alone for the equipment would be between 20-30 thousand. Councilman Holcomb would check for the company the county used for Camp Hollis to install their equipment. The Board discussed how much ARPA money was left to use and stated Mr. Adams should look within the price range of \$34,500 and up to see what can be done.

2) Supervisor Faulkner stated that all town business will now be conducted using the new town emails.

New Business: 1) Newsletter: The Board discussed having a quarterly newsletter with the cost being \$.20c per mail. Supervisor Faulkner would do more research on this.

2) Water & Infrastructure grants: Supervisor Faulkner would do more research on this.

3) Reminder to the Board that the Town Clerk's books & files will be audited at 6pm prior to May's regular meeting.

Adjournment: **Motion made by Councilman Mowers seconded by Councilman Holcomb to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Adopted (4-0) Councilman Mowers – aye; Councilman Holcomb – aye; Councilman Stowell – aye; Supervisor Faulkner – aye.**

Supervisor Faulkner called the meeting to a close at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy J. Ford

Town Clerk