

ALMOND TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING

1 Marvin Lane, Almond NY

January 16, 2024

THE Public Hearings, Organizational Meeting, and Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Dan Hegarty at 6:03 pm with the Pledge to the Flag. Present were Council members Jo-Anne Freeland, Bryan Snyder, Nate Woodruff, Council member and Town Deputy Supervisor Danyelle O'Brien, Village Representative Bill Lockwood, Keith Stanley, and Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Cardet.

Absent: Highway Supervisor Jamie Mansfield and Town Clerk Julie Phillips

Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Local ATV Law: Opened at 6:04

Question regarding registration of vehicles: Most ATV's are under 1,000 pounds and therefore are required by New York State law to be registered and have insurance. Vehicles over 1,000 pounds, which is most UTV's cannot be registered in New York at this time but still require insurance.

By the Town requiring a sticker, issued by them, insurance can be verified. A copy of the law will be given when a sticker is obtained.

The speed limit will be 20 mph.

Question regarding the effective date of the law: After the Public Hearing, if any changes need to be made and approved by the Board, the final ATV Law will be sent to New York State to be recorded.

Helmets are required and stated in the law.

Enforcement of the law: Since the Town does not have a constable, the Board can appoint a person to enforce said law.

There will be signs placed listing requirements of law: insurance, registration, speed limit, etc.

6:15, the Public Hearing for the Proposed ATV Law is closed.

Public Hearing regarding the Proposed Solar Energy Systems and Facilities Law, Local Law #1 for the Town of Almond: Opened at 6:15

The Proposed Law does not prohibit Solar Energy in the Town but regulates the projects. Dan explained the 3 different tiers of Solar Energy projects.

The Law provides for an exit strategy for large commercial solar farms. There will be a bond in place to assure the company and not the Town is responsible for the disposal of them when they are no longer efficient. The bond will be 125% of the cost of installation, with an additional 2% per year added.

There are setback requirements, height regulations, building permits are required for any of the tiers. Tier 3 (large commercial) requires a special building permit, a public hearing etc. This also addresses the battery storage system. After decommissioning the system, the land will be restored to the way it was before the system was built. In the proposed law are there provisions to provide training and equipment to the Almond Fire and Rescue should there be a fire? The training and equipment for the fire department can be negotiated. There is verbiage requiring access for emergency vehicles.

At approximately 6:26, the Public Hearing for the Proposed Local Law #1, for Solar Energy Systems and Facilities Law is closed.

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The Organizational Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Dan Hegarty at 6:23.

Assessment Board of Review: Tom Stuart was reappointed January 2023, term to expire 9/30/26. Susan Olix-Anderson has been reappointed with her term expiring 9/30/2027.

Planning Board: Keith Stanley has been reappointed. His term is to expire 12/31/27. Keith Stanley and Sandra Dennison are Co-Chairpersons of the Planning Board.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Dave Hardy was appointed to the Board January 2023 with his term to expire 12/31/27. Scott Dumond was also appointed January 2023 to fill the vacancy to expire 12/31/2025. There is a vacancy left for the position of Steve Pilgram who has moved from the area.

Joint Municipal Board: Bill Lockwood is the Village Trustee and Peg Jefferds is the Village resident.

Bryan made a motion to accept the 2024 Appointments with Nate making the second. The motion was passed with all in favor. There was discussion regarding fee schedule for applying to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board. This something the Board needs to address.

Minutes:

Dan motioned to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and table the Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 28, 2023 for clarification and corrections. Nate seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Supervisor:

Bryan motioned to approve the Supervisor's report. The motion was seconded by Nate. The motion passed with all in favor.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector:

Bryan motioned to accept the Town Clerk's report. Dan seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Highway Superintendent:

Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield was absent and there was not a report.

DCO: Nothing to report.

Code Enforcement:

No report of activity in the Town of Almond. A financial report was given. Jo-Anne has requested an activity report for the Town. The Board would like a Town activity report which has not been received every month. The report has been hit and miss. This has been tabled.

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Discussion regarding Grant Writer and what they are working on. Cathy said there is up to a \$1,000,000.00 in grants available for fire departments. Grants can be used for a new sign at the corner, updates to the building, etc. Cathy is waiting for the grant writer to send a contract for the fire department. The grant writer is working on the same grants for other departments at this time.

Review of Abstracts:

Board wants to have conversations with Baldwin regarding budget allocations being over budget due to things paid with ARPA.

Abstract #14 (Actually 13 for the fiscal year 2023) of December 28, 2023 was presented.

- General Fund A claims in the amount of \$7,224.59
- General Fund B claims in the amount of \$0.00
- General Fund DA claims in the amount of \$4,816.34
- General Fund DB claims in the amount of \$172.97
- Joint Municipal Fund JM claims in the amount of \$234.22
- Fire Protection District SF claims in the amount of \$0

Bryan made the motion to approve Abstract #14 in the total amount of \$12,448.12. Nate seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Abstract #1 of January 2024 was presented.

- General Fund A claims in the amount of \$7,441.40
- General Fund B claims in the amount of \$4,279.50
- General Fund DA claims in the amount of \$2,768.49
- General Fund DB claims in the amount of \$0
- Joint Municipal Fund JM claims in the amount of \$0
- Fire Protection District SF claims in the amount of \$0

Jo-Anne motioned to approve Abstract #1 of 2024 in the amount of \$14,489.39. Dan seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Dan would like to set up a special meeting regarding the Zoning. Board wants to have Baldwin Business Service come to the office for a meeting regarding Budget Modifications for Fiscal Year End 2023.

Dan motioned to set up a Workshop to discuss Zoning on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:00 pm. Legal Notice is to be advertised in the paper. Danyelle seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Proposed Resolutions: None

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New Business:

Town and Village Contracts –

Town/Village Highway Contract – Nate motion to approve the Contract with a second by Dan. The motion was approved by all.

Fire and Ambulance Contracts – Dan would like to discuss the contracts, specifically the Ambulance, before signing the contracts. Dan is concerned that the Ambulance Corp will be able to provide services in the future.

Jo-Anne motioned to approve all the contracts and was seconded by Nate. Motion approved by all.

Board of Assessment Review –

Tabled for the time. Keith reminded the Board that a Re-valuation will need to be completed in the near future.

Zoning Law Review – Tabled until after the Zoning Workshop on January 25, 2024

Mandatory Training – Annual Sexual Harassment, Discrimination and Workplace Violence Training is on February 14, 2024, 9:00 am in the Board Room.

Fire Department Renovations – Grant – discussed above during Contracts

Old Business:

Garage Specs – Have been provided previously. Dan motioned to approve the specifications; Nate made the second. Motion passed with all in favor. Jamie will put it out to bid.

Village Representative: Fire Department would like to do renovations. Is it possible that Joint Municipal funds may be used. Tabled until more is known.

Town Representative: Nothing to report

7:39 – Executive Session – To discuss payroll

7:45 – End Executive Session and return to Regular Meeting

Discussion regarding the proposed Zoning and the proposed Solar Law. Are these able to be combined and passed as one? Dan will contact Kier Dirlam of the Allegany County Planning Board for clarification.

ATV Law – Delete Section 4. Change Section 8d. replace “Mayor” to “Supervisor”. Bryan motioned the ATV Law be approved with the changes noted .Jo-Anne seconded it and the motion passed with all in favor.

8:03 – Jo-Anne motioned to adjourn, Nate seconded it, motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes recorded by Deputy Town Clerk Catherine Cardet

Transcribed by Town Clerk Julie Phillips