

**TOWN OF ALMA REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2019**

Members of	the Town Board:	Also Present:	
Supervisor:	Ronald Staedt	Town Clerk:	Michelle Staedt
Deputy Sup:	Karen Linza	Deputy Town Clerk:	Jan Baldwin
Councilperson:	Vincent Bock	Bookkeeper:	Michelle Dunbar
Councilperson:	Robert Warboys	Hwy. Sup't:	Dan Ford
Councilperson:	Beverly Root	Deputy Hwy. Sup't:	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of Alma was **called to order at 6:00PM** in the Town Hall by Ronald Staedt.

Public Hearing: 2020 Budget:

Shaun Taylor spoke on the safety of this town and the plowing of the county roads. Malena Dunham questioned that there was no notice for the budget workshop, when the snow & ice contract was voted on. Karen Linza stated that when there is more than 3 members of the board present, then it's a public forum. Steve Dickerson questioned about the attorney line item amounts. Ron Staedt mentioned that the doing of the town vs. hwy, the attorneys are being paid directly by the town insurance company. There are no retainers for attorneys. Karen Linza explained that there are two line items, one for regular attorney and one for the union. Dan Ford asked about the fuel line item being separated into fuel and oils. Mr. Ford sees a reduction in the amount for the fuel and oil. The board combined the winter and summer fuel. And the miscellaneous amount should have come out of the machinery contractual, that's why the amount was lowered in the fuel item lines. Summer help line item was taken away. Ron Staedt stated that the weeds & brush line item should come out of the snow line as a miscellaneous expense as in Town Law 141, Mr. Staedt stated. Mr. Staedt said that it was removed because Dan Ford did not use it. According to Dan Ford, he said he did not hire for summer because he would of gotten a grievance from the Union every day because one of his Union workers was not being paid. Vinny Bock asked, because of a union worker not being paid and Mr. Ford not hiring any summer help, how does that collate. Dan Ford also asked about the funding for capital improvement (cement pad for new fuel depot), and Karen Linza and Michelle Dunbar (Bookkeeper) stated that the money to pay for it would come out of General funds (Building funds) not highway. Also asked about was the Road signs line (A3310.4) to Zero. Karen Linza stated that the funds were in the contingent account and will be rolled forward, and could be transferred if needed. Steve Dickerson asked about the Playground line item. He stated that the playground committee does not want money from the town and to cost taxpayers money. Steve Dickerson said that the playground committee did fundraisers and scraps collecting and never wanted to be a burden on the taxpayers. Karen Linza said that the parks are the towns. Michelle Dunbar stated that there have always been funds for the playgrounds. Paula Clayson stated that at the budget workshop, specifying the separation of fuel, and oil & lubricants. "This is not your budget, it is the Highway budget, and should be looking at it and making it easier for Dan Ford to differentiate what his funds are going for." (Paula Clayson). Karen Linza stated that she asked Dan Ford specifically if the one account, and had mentioned that the fuel and asked if the fuel is putting into the fuel account and not separated, then it went to the other account. Which that's where it belongs. Karen Linza said that it is up to Dan Ford to separate his bills for the board. Dan Ford gets all of his bills, and they need to have the invoices present (not statements) with his voucher of by law the board is not to pay them. Karen Linza asked Dan Ford if when doing his bills, if he could make a running tape of the bills for a total. Beverly Root asked about the equipment fund is up to \$80,000, which was \$15,000. Karen Linza stated that there has been loans, and because there are not any more loans, \$65,000 has been moved to the equipment fund for the future purchase of equipment, trucks, etc. Beverly Root also mentioned that

there use to be 4 drivers, down to 3 drivers, and now that 3rd position has been removed. Malena Dunham inquired about the Town Board PS, then the informational officer. Was someone hired? Karen Linza said that NYS stresses that there should be an Information Officer(appointed), which would not only answer questions but also dealing with the website. Paula Clayson talked about everyone being neighbors, faces, and the legacy of this town. Malena Dunham asked about increases to the Supervisor CE, Deputy Clerk CE, and Assessor. Michelle Staedt stated that the Deputy Clerk CE increase was because of the minimum wage increase for 2020. Discussion was made on increases of the budget of 2%, town vs. county-wide increases, etc. Ezura Taylor questioned the Deputy Supervisor, Board member, and Informational officer pay combined that Karen Linza now holds. It was explained that if Karen Linza was appointed, that she would only make \$100/month (as of 1/1/2020 Karen Linza is no longer a board member). Someone who is a Councilperson would be appointed Deputy Supervisor (making \$22/month) plus \$104/month as councilperson totaling \$126/month for Councilperson & Deputy Supervisor. Gerry Harris commented of leaving his paystub with Dan Ford to pick up. Mr. Harris will stop at Michelle Staedt's office to sign paper allowing that to be done. Dan Ford asked about what was budgeted for overtime per guy. Karen Linza stated that it was 9 hours per week for 20 weeks for 2 guys. Gerry Currier stated that when he worked for the town, they had 4 guys working, 2 trucks, 2 drivers and 2 wingmen. Then after a while they went to 3 guys and three trucks. Beverly Root asked who gave the board the authority to get rid of the third man. Ron Staedt stated that the board is the only one that can add or take away a position. Heather Trask asked how much the taxes are going up. Ron Staedt said 33 cents/thousand. Heather also asked about the \$69,732 plus that is not going into the highway, where were those funds. Karen Linza stated that on page 9, it shows the modified budget for 2019, then it shows the preliminary 2020 budget, you will see that expenses have gone down, so has revenue. So it looks like the board has brought down expenses but why is the per thousand is going up, because of property values. On the last page, the taxable assessed value is down compared to last year. A new assessment will be within the next 4 years. It's on a rotation.

A motion to close the public hearing by Vinny Bock, 2nd by Karen Linza.

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Before approving the 2020 Budget, there are funds to be moved as follows:

1. Reval fund: A1355.4, \$5,000 to Reval reserve
2. A7140.4, \$1,000 to playground reserve
3. A9950.9, \$10,000 to Building fund reserve
Creation of Employee benefits (EVLAR reserve) and \$500 transferred into it including and insurance money that was not used in that particular year.
4. DA9950.9, \$65,000 to Highway Equipment reserve fund.

For a total of \$81,500. Motion by Karen Linza, to move funds to the reserve funds on the balance sheet, 2nd by Vinny Bock.

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root Nays: 0 Motion Carried

Also, a name change of adding "reserve" to those individual items.

Motion to approve & except the 2020 budget by Karen Linza, 2nd by Ron Staedt with names changes.

Roll call:

Beverly Root – No, Vinny Bock – No, Karen Linza – yes, Rob Warboys – yes, Ron Staedt – yes

Ayes: 3, Linza, Warboys, Staedt Nays: 2, Root, Bock Motion Carried

A question was asked about why the funds were being moved. Ron Staedt answered that 2019 funds were being moved so the funds would be used for that particular purpose. Karen Linza stated that the funds are still there, the funds are just being moved into the reserve fund that they are intended for.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Vinny Bock to accept the October 1, 2019 minutes, 2nd by Beverly Root.

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Clerk’s Report: as presented

Highway Report: as presented. Dan Ford was asked to read the highway report. Dan asked about selling the old truck frame. Someone was interested in it. Dan was going to get quotes to see what it is worth for next board meeting and asked what the board thought. The price to fix the truck was outrageous.

Justice: as presented

Code Enforcement Report: as presented

Dog Control Report: as presented

General Fund: Claim No. 154 – 165, in the amount of \$9,515.01

Highway Fund: Claim No. 134 - 146, in the amount of \$50,438.85

Motion to pay the General and Highway bills by Rob Warboys, 2nd by Beverly Root.

Ayes: All Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS:

Allegany County Real Property, Exemption for 65 yrs & older: Karen Linza explained that anyone over 65 yrs old, would receive a partial exemption with limited incomes. She then explained that if the board raised the amount higher than \$7,000, then the rest of the tax payers would pick up the difference. To find out by the next board meeting who this exemption effects. Motion to keep it at \$7,000 by Vinny Bock, 2nd by Karen Linza.

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **Motion Carried**

2020 Census: Michelle Staedt spoke about the upcoming 2020 Census. Michelle was approached by Allegany County. Someone will come on November 21st, 4-6 pm to have a presentation of the upcoming 2020 Census, to be able to answer questions.

Public Hearing for December 3rd, to revise Local Law #1-2015: to take the Assessment board from 5 members to 3 members. Karen Linza made a motion for the public hearing, 2nd by Vinny Bock.

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **Motion Carried**

A letter from Paula Clayson to revisit the reimbursement Claim #130 for Shared Services in the amount of \$37.14. Someone made a claim that it was always paid for through the scrap money. Rob Warboys stated that that was illegal. Gerry Currier said it was legal.

Introduction of Local Law #3-2019, Changing the Office of Town Superintendent of Highways from Elective to Appointed: at the end of his present term. Subject to Mandatory Referendum next November, 2020. It would be the taxpayers to come in and vote yes or no. A motion by Ron Staedt, 2nd by Vinny Bock.

Roll-call vote:

Beverly Root – yes, Vinny Bock – yes, Karen Linza – yes, Rob Warboys – yes, Ron Staedt – yes

Ayes: 5, Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **Motion Carried**

Motion to adjourn at 6:27pm by Rob Warboys, , 2nd by Ron Staedt

Ayes: 5 Staedt, Linza, Bock, Warboys, Root **Nays:** 0 **MOTION CARRIED**

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for December 3rd, 2019.

Year-end meeting: Monday, December 30th, 2019

Submitted by Michelle J. StaedtNovember 26, 2019

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