

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2018
(6:00 P.M.)

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee's, Jolene LaSiege and Stacy Gushea

Also in Attendance: Sewer Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Esther Gushea, Clerk Treasurer/Deputy Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford,, Kyle Hartman, Bonnie St.Denny, Greg Storie, Ralph Hammond, Ernie Swartfigure, Greg Sloan, Jarod Murray and Elwin Couglar

Absent: Trustee Connie McAllister and Village Attorney Henry Leader and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.
2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of November 5, 2018 Regular Board meeting were approved.

Motion: Jolene LeSiege Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Appropriations:

- a. General: \$2,303.49
- b. Sewer: \$782.76

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

4. Department Head Reports:

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford gave a verbal report, stating that all is running well at the plant. Jarrod Murray was present and will be available to start working part time at the plant with Basford, replacing Gary White soon.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Mayor Hammond received a verbal report from Tim Tuttle

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Gushea reminded everyone of December 7, 1941 when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Gushea shared her memory of the day as it happened on a Sunday morning while she and her sister were laying on the living room floor listening to the radio. A moment of silence was held in memory of all affected by this tragedy.

Clerk Hammond reported that she has been in contact with Eastern Shores about providing cancer coverage for interior fire fighters. Hammond also reported that discussion are being held between Attorney Leader and the Town of Canton about taking over the vital records for the Village of Rensselaer Falls.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report:

Under Oswegatchie Blue Way item, with Trustee LaSiege

- f. Committee Reports:

Trees - none

Playground - Jolene LaSiege reported on the purchase of corn hole games

Fall Festival - none

- 5. New Business:

- a. Snowmobile Trails:

Discussion was held between the public and the Board about snowmobile trails through the Village. Bonnie St. Denny and Greg Storie expressed their concerns about the newly designated trail. Greg Sloan and Elwin Couglar, members of the snowmobile club were present and after discussion it was decided to leave the trail as is for this year. The Village board had previously consented to this but will go on the recommendation of the club to keep it the way it is now. Mayor

Hammond thanked the club members for the time spent on this matter.

b. DANC Assistant Director:

Star Carter from Development Authority of the North Country gave a presentation to the Village Board member on mapping of municipal infrastructure for interested communities. The grant purpose is to convert hard copy records to electronic and make them available in a secure internet based GIS application. This is a shared service project grant. Carter stated that the Village of Gouverneur is the lead agency. DANC will scan all maps, papers, etc. DANC will do all the field work. After discussion it was decided to participate in this grant with by passing attached resolution.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

C. Oswegatchie Blue Way Grant - Town of Canton:

Trustee Jolene LaSieve gave an overview of the meeting she and Mayor Hammond attended in Canton. LaSieve reported that several other municipalities were present that have the Oswegatchie River running through their municipality. This grant that was started in 2015 has not had much movement due to funding. Canton asked other municipalities to contribute monies, but no real commitments were made.

A brief discussion was held on the Comprehensive Plan wrapping up soon. Mayor Hammond and Trustee LaSieve agree it is a waiting game to see how the Comp Plan looks and if the document proves itself before deciding on an amount to contribute to it.

6. Updates:

a. State Street Rehab Project Invoice:

Discussion was held on the excessive billing of equipment and Town Employee benefits from the Town of Canton. Trustee LaSieve reported that she and Mayor Hammond spoke to Canton Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley about the changes in billing. LaSieve asked Ashley about plowing Village Streets in the future and Ashley said the Village of Rensselaer Falls will not be billed for plowing, keeping in past practice. Ashley told LaSieve that everything she receives comes directly from the

Highway Superintendent Terry Billings.

Mayor Hammond stated that he spoke with Billings and Billings does not believe the Village should be charged like this. Billings stated he will not be signing any more bills in the future. After discussion it was decided to pay half of Bill #13-2018 along with a letter stating the Villages concerns. LaSiege added that she told Canton Supervisor Ashley that this has to be addressed for the future relationship with the Town.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

b. Ditching Estimates:

Mayor Hammond reported that he is waiting on Jeff Crowbar and a couple others for estimates.

c. Light up the Falls:

Mayor Hammond and Trustee LaSiege reported that the Light up the Falls was well attended, with a movie, snacks and lighting of Santa in the Park along with caroling. Crafts were made by the children. The new Letters to Santa Box was a big hit with the children in the community. This event was held in the bottom of the Historical Building. LaSiege suggested that next year we hold a lighting contest in the Village of residents homes.

d. Snow Removal:

Mayor Hammond reported that the snowblower is on backorder, but is forthcoming. Hammond reminded Ernie Swartfigure that Tim Tuttle offered to help out with his plow if we should see a large snowfall.

7. Trustees Sworn In:

Clerk Lisa Hammond swore Charles Fifield in for a two year term as Village Trustee.

Trustee Connie McAllister will be sworn in at the January meeting.

8. Appointments:

- a. Clerks: Clerk Esther Gushea and Lisa Hammond remain Mayor Michael

Hammonds clerk for the remainder of his term.

- b. Deputy Mayor:
Mayor Michael Hammond appointed Charles as Deputy Mayor
- c. Planning Board: Current
- d. Zoning Board: Current

9. Any other business that may come before the Village Board:

Bonnie St. Denny commended the Village Board on the decorating for the holiday and their progressive approach to the future of the Village.

7:18 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Stacy Gushea

Seconded: Charles Fifield

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond
Village Clerk