

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2019
(6:00 P.M.)

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

Also in Attendance: Sewer Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Esther Gushea, Clerk Treasurer/Deputy Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Ernie Swartfigure, Ralph Hammond, Mark Bomyea, Mike, Heather and Eliana Wainwright

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

Mayor Michael Hammond added two additional items to the agenda:

Fire Task Force Discussion and Executive Session personnel recreation

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

Minutes of January 7, 2019 Board meeting were approved.

Motion: Charles Fifield

Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

3. Appropriations:

a. General: \$8,359.75

b. Sewer: \$2,316.70

Motion: Stacy Gushea

Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

4. Department Head Reports:

a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford submitted a written report and was present for questions. Basford added that he has some items to talk about during the upcoming budget process. Basford to email particulars to Mayor Michael Hammond for consideration. Discussion was held on the Grant that has been applied for through DANC.

Motion to approve Sewer Report by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in Favor. Motion carries.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Written report was submitted by Tim Tuttle, read by Clerk Lisa Hammond

Motion to approve Code Enforcement Officer report by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Jolene LaSiege. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- c. Clerk's Report: nothing to add
- d. Mayor's Report: Discussion during Old/New Business
- e. Committee Reports:

Trees -

Playground - a brief discussion was held on account balance in bank. Jolene LaSeige purchased three cornhole boards in the amount of \$327.00

Small Business - none

Fall Festival - A Corn-Hole Tournament March 2, 2019

Motion was made by Trustee Connie McAllister to accept the committee reports, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

6. New Business:

- a. Vital Statistics Resolution -Discussion Possible Approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported that the Town of Canton passed a resolution accepting the Vital Records under the Town of Canton.

Motion was made by Trustee Connie McAllister to pass a resolution dissolving the Village of Rensselaer Falls Vital records, to have recorded in the Town of Canton, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

b. Sexual Harassment Policy - Discussion Possible Approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported that he had discussion with Attorney Henry Leader on the Policy.

Motion was made Trustee Charles Fifield to adopt the Sexual Harassment Policy as presented, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

c. Town of Canton Joint Meeting - Discussion of time frame:

7. Updates:

a. Ditching Estimates: Discussion

Report was given that Mr. Greenard will be giving the Village an estimate on ditching, but has just been busy. Mayor Hammond stated that he hopes things turn around and get better with the highway issues. Hammond wants to see work done and CHIPS monies spent.

b. Workers Compensation:

Mayor Hammond reported that the Village received the reimbursement check from the County.

Motion was made to pay this years bill for Workmans Comp by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by trustee Connie McAllister. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

c. Falls Festival:

Mayor Hammond reported on a meeting he went to at the Fire Department, explaining that the Festival committee wants to hold a cornhole tournament as a fundraiser. Hammond got approval for March 2nd to hold this tournament at the Firehall. Trustee Jolene LaSiege stated her concerns about the Fire departments support for the annual Festival and added that she enjoys the event, but wants more cooperation from the fire department. Mayor Hammond added that he feels things are working better and going in a better direction.

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

Mark Bomyea a member of the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department was present and gave the Village Board members a brief update on Junior Firefighter status being changed to Restricted Firefighter for a title. Bomyea had Alana Wainwright with him and requested that she be accepted as a new Restricted Firefighter which ranges from ages 16-18, with requirements such as keeping grades up at school, not being at station after 9 p.m. at night unless with a parent or mentor. Restricted Firefighters can not fight fires. Elaina's parents were both present and stated their support of her and the department. Bomyea will be Elaina's mentor and has had a complete physical, but still needs to take the course. Board members reviewed the paper work.

Motion was made by Trustee Jolen LaSiege to accept Alana Wainwright into the Fire Department, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Fire Task Force discussion:

Mark Bomyea was present and stated the he will be representing the Village of Rensselaer Falls along with Fireman Jeff Hammond County Car 4 on the task force. Mayor Hammond updated the board members on discussions at the force level. Hammond stated that the Town of Canton Supervisor wanted to have an facilitar run the meeting, but during the meeting it was decided that the group would run their own meetings as the members on the force are made up of many capable people. Karin Blackburn will be the official record keeper of the task force committee. The Village Board members thanked Mark Bomyea for his ongoing service to Village government. Hammond noted that the Village of Canton gets \$117,000 from the Town of Canton. Village of Rensselaer Falls and the hamlet of Pyrites get \$37,000 from the Town of Canton. Morley is a fire district and gets \$10,424.00 because they are classified as a Fire District under the Town of Canton and collect their own Fire Tax. Bomyea updated the Village board on the fact that the Town of Canton has decided to stop servicing the Village of Rensselaer Falls Fire Trucks, noting that this has been a benefit to Rensselaer Falls for many years with the department buying all parts and materials. Discussion was held on how the pie is being divided between the four fire departments and Fire Tax monies.

Mayor Hammond stated that the Town of Canton has asked to hold a joint meeting with the Village. After discussion of some dates and times it was decided that Mayor Hammond request a committee meeting with the Highway and then revisit the issue of meeting jointly.

7:00 p.m. motion was made by Trustee Connie McAllister to go into executive session for the purpose personnel recreation, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

7:25 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond
Village Clerk