

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2024

5:45 Public Hearing (Budget 24-25)

6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Connie McAllister, Trustee Samatha Booth, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Nicholas Calton and Ralph Hammond

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader, Code Enforcement Officer Grant Backus, Deputy Mayor Charles Ffield, Trustee Jolene LaSiege and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

5:45 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Budget. One member of the Public was in attendance for the hearing - Ralph Hammond

Mayor Hammond asked if there were any questions on the proposed budget - no questions were received from the public. Mayor Hammond stated for the record that the Library line increased \$5,000.00 for the grant loan application process and increased the line item as noted. This still keeps us under the tax cap - strictly for grant writing. See Library update in agenda. Mayor Hammond noted that he is proud of this budget, Trustees Connie McAllister and Trustees Samantha Booth agreed with Mayor Hammond.

6:00 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond closed the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024-2025 Budget

6:00 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the regular monthly meeting

1. Public Hearing: Held at 5:45 p.m
2. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
3. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Ffield and Connie McAllister

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of March 11th, 2024 were approved

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

5. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was absent due to a Mandatory Fire Department meeting. Basford submitted a written report stating that they have treated 1,405,000 gallons of wastewater with no issue. Corning flow is good. Still waiting to hear about sand replacement.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

27 Hours reported by Basford for and 36 Hours reported for Jared Murray for the Month of March

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond spoke with Grant Backus and he stated he is waiting to hear back from the State to see if it's ok for him to carry two badges, as he is a Correctional Officer.
- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she is working on the sewer relieves. These will be presented to the board at the May board meeting. The Fire Department received their Bell Jar License. Batteries have been received for the speed limit signs. Mayor Michael Hammond noted for the record that he and Clerk Lisa Hammond have been in correspondence with Assessor Cindy Brand about the fact that the Verizon Value went up 1,857.3 percent. Brand reached out to the State and got a response. There was installation of FIOS high speed internet and this is the reason for an increase. The Village will receive an increase in tax revenue next year from Verizon due to this infrastructure upgrade. Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that she is meeting every other Monday with the Library board committee and an open house will be held on April 18th, 2024 at the Library .

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samanth Booth Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that his report is all through the agenda. The next Mayors meeting will be held in Waddington at the bowling alley.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Ralph Hammond stated that he and Bob Poor will start on tree planning next week. Nick Calton will assist this year.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Discussion below on purchase of new equipment. The village will purchase the piece of equipment and the Playground/Festival Fund will help support the purchase.

Motion to approve reports

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

6. New Business:

a. Proposed Budget:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted Trustee Charles Fifield verbally approved the proposed budget prior to the meeting and that Trustee Jolene Lasiege was absent from the meeting. Trustees Connie McAllister and Samantha Booth were present.

Trustee Connie McAllister made a motion to pass the 2024-2025 Village budget as presented, Seconded by Trustee: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

Roll Call Vote held:

Connie McAllister	Yes
Samantha Booth	Yes
Michael Hammond	Yes

b. DOT Resolution:

Motion to sign two year agreement with the State Department of Transportation for shared services

Motion: Trustee Samanth Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

c. Playground Equipment:

Mayor Michael Hammond shared information on pricing for playground equipment. Mayor Hammond/Festival Committee member noted that the committee has raised approximately \$26,000.00 to date. Hammond stated that the Village and the Playground/Festival are a shared vision of the community. The basketball court will be relocated from Main Street to the Playground, this had verbal agreement previously from Trustees Charles Fifield, Connie McAllister and Samanth Booth. Discussion and photos were shared with the board members. Motion was made to spend up to \$8,000.00 on new pieces of equipment with the Playground/Festival contributing to the price. Committee member Connie McAllister stated she would like to see the better quality equipment purchased.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

A facebook ad was put out for someone to install the equipment - to date the Village has had one company interested.

d. Town of Canton Highway MOU

\$32.00 an hour to \$35.00 Labor rate increase this year from the Town of Canton. An estimate to remove the basketball court came in at \$1,367.00 - The Village board is hoping to repurpose the fencing.

Motion to approve estimate by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Samantha Booth. Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond added that he met with Canton Highway Superintendent Steven Smith and noted that the Village will be receiving estimates on projects in the Village. One will be a temporary fix on Front Street and ditching around the cemetery area and on Pine Street. Stump removal in this area and culvert replacement. The Town of Canton will also give us an estimate on assisting with the Basketball Court/Pickle Ball Court at the Playground. Mayor Hammond is hoping for community input and help.

e. Guardrail Estimate:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported that Nick Calton met with Jeff Crobar (Contractor) about putting guardrails up in the area of the Fire Department and Canton Street corner. Across from the Fire Department also needs guardrails. Discussion was held on the area behind the Falls Market ditch area putting guardrail there. Waiting to hear back with an

estimate from Crobar. Discussion was also held on removal of metal rails on the corner of Elizabeth and Front Street in front of Palmer residence and replacing it with railing.

6. Updates:

a. Library Project:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that the Canton Library will be applying for another round of funding this summer. The project is slated to start in October or November of this year on the new addition. Hammond went over the prints presented from Books Washburn on the design. Designs include a tech corner. Outside there will be a patio and green space. Discussion was held on having one bathroom or if two are necessary or a requirement.

b. Rensselaer Street Apartment Building:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the County assumed the deed to the property in item 6b. Mayor Hammond noted that he had a discussion with Attorney Henry Leader on the matter.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD - none

6:36 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Samantha Booth

Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk