

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 3rd, 2023

5:30 P.M. Public Hearing Proposed Budget 2023-2024

6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Jolene LaSieve, Trustee Samatha Booth, Trustees Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford. Shirley and Nick Calton

Absence: attorney Henry Leader

6:01 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Regular monthly meeting

Addition to agenda:

1. Public Hearing

5:30 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 proposed budget

6:00 p.m. Deputy Mayor Charles Fified made a motion to close Public Hearing, Seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All in favor.

No public comment during the Hearing. Mayor asked for public comment with none received.

Mayor Hammond thanked the board members for holding meetings on the process and noted that it is a strong budget for the betterment of the Village.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

3. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fified and Connie McAllister

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of March 6, 2023 and Minutes of March 13, 2023

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

5. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was present and provided both written and verbal reports. Flow meter purchase was discussed. Trustee Samatha Booth will contact Assemblyman Scott Gray to see if there is any funding or help with purchasing such an expensive item for the Sewer Plant. Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he would like to commit to looking for funding and purchase this needed item. Basford stated he has some spring clean up to do and the Plant wintered well. The Sand process is moving forward. Sand will be tested before purchase. The Village has approximately \$15,000.00 in funds ready to be used. Basford noted that an excavator will need to be rented when the sand comes in.

33 Hours reported by Basford for March and 30 Hours reported for Jared Murray

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond confirmed with the board members that they all read Mark Basford's email request. All board members stated yes.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: none - Tabled

- c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she has started to work on relieves to go to the County to be placed on Village Taxes in June. Board members asked Clerk Lisa Hammond to check with Farr's Greenhouse to ask about municipal rates for flowers. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Clerk Hammond to check on Porta Potty prices. Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that Bruce Green from Real Property said that a Fire Tax line can be placed on the Village Tax bill. Real Property will need something from Village Attorney Henry Leader in writing on behalf of the Village. The board discussed what the title will be on the Bill. Clerk Hammond is going to reach out to the Attorney to have this in place for the 2024 Tax Bill.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond stated that he hopes the Village Board and the Fire Department start working together and that the fire banquet is an event we all should be at. Dona Brown and Betty Poor both received awards at the recent Fireman's Banquet for years of service. Poor 60 years and Brown 58 years. Hammond added it's a good community event and wants to unit. Hammond noted that the library project is moving but moving slowly. May 20th is the Historical yard sale day. Michael Hammond stated for the record that he has corrected March 6th Agenda as he stated Local Law #5 and it was suppose to be by Local Law #1. Code Enforcement Officer on agenda was updated from Tim Tuttle to Grant Backus.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond added to his report that he had a discussion with Mike Wainwright about Village maintenance. Wainwright is will do mow and weedeat the park, playground, pioneer park and the library for \$160.00 a time. In the past it was \$15.00 an hour. Wainwright will attend a board meeting - Discussion will be held on the historical and railroad bed at every other time. Mayor to get updated information from Wainwright. All board members are in favor of this venture.

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Michael Hammond stated he will get ahold of National Grid about the Maple at Henry Laquires.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Jolene LaSeige talked about equipment and Basketball hoops to go up at Playground.

Small Business: Trustee Samatha Booth stated that Honey Holes wants to do community outreach as they are starting a new league and registration will be coming up soon. Honey Holes has offered to the Festival Committee to run the cornhole tournaments at the September Falls Festival event with a cost. This matter will be discussed during Festival Committee meetings.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

6. New Business:

A. Proposed Budget:

Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield asked board members if anyone has heard from anyone from the Rensselaer Fire and Rescue about the proposed budget. All board members stated they have not heard from anyone.

Mayor Michael Hammond asked if there were any questions from board members. There was discussion on Social Security and the fact that the Town of Canton pays workmans comp on the Rensselaer Falls Firemen. Mayor Hammond noted the loss of seven units in the Village in the past year in the Sewer Fund.

Trustee Connie McAllister made a motion to pass the 2023-2024 Budget, seconded by Trustee Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield
All in favor

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Roll call vote: Mayor Michael Hammond | Aye |
| Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield | Aye |
| Trustee Charles Fifield | Aye |
| Trustee Connie McAllister | Aye |
| Trustee Samatha Booth | Aye |

7. Updates.

Code Officer Training: Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he has not had much communication with Grant Backus. Clerk Hammond was asked to reach out to neighboring Code Officers for temporary assistance as no one has applied for the position.

Paving & Street Project: Mayor Micheal Hammond has held conversations with Canton Highway Superintendent Steven Smith. Hammond discussed a clogged pipe behind the Store and the quick response from Canton Highway.

6:45 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield

Seconded: Connie McAllister

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk