

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2024
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Bob Poor and Ralph Hammond

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustee Samatha Booth and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

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

1. Public Hearing: Remove
2. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
3. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Connie McAllister

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 8, 2024 were approved

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

5. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was excused from the meeting, as he worked a lot of hours due to the flood waters that occurred recently in the community and surrounding areas. A written report was received and accepted. Basford requested assistance in removing grass from one of the sandbeds. Clerk Lisa Hammond will reach out to Mike Wainwright to see if he would be interested in the job.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

The dumpster that was placed at the sewer plant was filled with both Sewer and Village items and picked up by the provider Dave Weaver.

25 Hours reported by Basford for and 36 Hours reported for Jared Murray for the Month of July.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Rusty Lawrence continues to assist with issuing Building Permits. Mayor Michael Hammond noted thanks to Lawrence.
- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that it has been assisting with communication with residents and Rusty Lawrence the temporary Code Officer. \$22,311.49 sales tax received. Cameras are up and working at the Village Office and the Playground. Trustee Connie McAllister suggested a "your on camera" sign. A trail cam will be purchased for the dump property. The total was \$2,418.94 for the Office and \$3,411.25 for the Playground. \$5134.16 was approved at a previous meeting. A difference of \$700.00

Approval was given for the increase. There is no annual cost for these cameras.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Hammond noted sewer bills went out. Taxes are coming to a close. Quickbooks system updated.

Motion to approve Clerk Hammonds verbal report.

- d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he will continue to report throughout the agenda. Hammond stated that trees will be reported on. The Festival Committee has a meeting after the Village board meeting.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifeild Vote: unanimous

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Michael Hammond noted that National Grid has not returned his emails about taking down trees. John Barr and Henry LaQuire have trees that are compromising the electrical line. Hammond stated he would reach out to

possibly another employee of Nation Grid. TTS has given an estimate of \$1,000.00 to cut and remove Village tree on corner of King Street and CR 15. Motion was made to approve by

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

Committee reports approved by motion of

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: Unanimous

6. New Business:

- a. Camera Estimates: Discussion and Possible Approval : See Clerks report above.
- b. TTS Estimate: See Trees committee report
- c. FEMA - Discussion & possible approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he has been housing phone calls and been in contact with Steven Smith, Canton Highway Superintendent and Matt Denner, Chief of emergency services. Hammond attended a zoom meeting with the County Legislators and other Public Officials to be brought of to speed on the conditions of the surrounding areas. Mayor Hammond noted that three or four homes in the Village had minor flooding. Canton was hit much harder. The Sewer Plant held up well. Mayor Hammond noted that flooding basements are not a pleasant thing to any homeowner and he intends on assisting them in any assistance through FEMA that they need. Hammond asked for approval from the board members - all in attendance gave approval to help. Board members are in favor of Mayor Hammond moving forward.

- d. Stormwater Runoff: Discussion & possible approval

Discussion was held on stormwater runoff throughout the Village. Mayor Hammond noted that this matter has been discussed many times. Hammond talked about the main vein of water flow. Hammond noted that a resident in the Town of Canton opened up some land and drained the water off their property/ponds which now has caused a lot of water to come off the wetlands that in the past held it back. The rain this summer has been heavy. Hammond asked for approval to work with the Town of Canton to improve the Main vein. FEMA money can help hopefully. In the past it's always been a concern of whose responsibility is it the municipality or the homeowner.

7. Updates:

a. ½ Basketball Court/Pickleball Court/Playground Equipment:

Mayor Michael Hammond met with Proline Striping at the court for an estimate. Jay Meashaw will also give an estimate for cement work and striping. Mayor Hammond also got an estimate of fencing of \$15,000.00 - all board members agreed that the price is too high. Hammond and Trustee Connie McAllister will continue to work together in finishing up the project. A brief discussion was held on erecting the old fence around the court for the time being.

b. Library/Community Center/ Open House/ CFA Grant Submission

River Street has submitted a bill for \$7,500.00 to move forward on Grant in applying for another \$400,000.00 to finish the project. January 2025 it will be awarded. \$12,500.00 was budgeted. Mayor Michael Hammond asked for approval to pay the bill.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vore: Unanimous

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Mayor Michael Hammond asked the board members to let residents know that there is assistance for flooding and to reach out to him for help.

6:38 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk