

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**August 14th, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting**

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustees Samatha Booth and Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor, Nicholas Calton, James Blackburn, Devon Storie, Michael Wainwright and Fire Chief Roger Newcombe

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader

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

Addition to the Agenda: Possible approval of Fire Department member

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

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Connie McAllister

Motion: Charles Fifield      Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 12th and July 10th, 2023 were approved

Motion: Samatha Booth      Seconded: Jolene LaSeige

4. Reports: Departments and Committees
  - a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was present and provided a written report along with a verbal discussion. Basford reported on items at the plant. Issues are being dealt with at the pumping station in front of Hartmans. Basford is still working on getting the stations painted. Basford reported that he will be out of work due to shoulder surgery and will be out for weeks. Mayor Hammond wished Basford good luck with his surgery.

38 Hours reported by Basford for March and 26 Hours reported for Jared Murray.

Motion: Connie McAllister          Seconded: Jolene LaSiege          Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Mayor Michael Hammond reported that we are still moving forward with advertising for a Code Officer. Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that she has been corresponding with Russell Lawrence about an issue with a fence going up on King Street, but is in hopes that the matter can be resolved. Approval was given via voucher to pay Russell Lawrence for his assistance. Other matters are being followed up by Lawrence. Via phone calls and text messages to Lawrence from Clerk and residence.

- c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collecting is still going well, as of today a total of \$24,331.58. Sales tax check was received in the amount of \$17,913.00. Clerk Hammond stated that she continues to work with Russell Lawrence on Code matters. Clerk Hammond will meet with Becky Donnelly on September 8th. Quarterly reports have been filed and the report to the Retirement System for Basford is complete.

Motion: Samatha Booth          Seconded: Charles Fifield          Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report: Hammond gave a verbal report stating that he has been working on many matters pertaining to the Village. Hammond read a correspondence from Betty Poor about her recent award from the Village Board. Hammond noted Street work is moving slow on the Town of Cantons end. Hammond noted he works very well with Steven Smith for the Highway Department. Hammond updated the board members on the status of the Library grant. Library board is going to do a fundraiser by selling mums . Mayor Hammond is working on ordering new batteries for speed limit signs. A request was sent to put a street light up near the playground.

Motion: Connie McAllister          Seconded: Samatha Booth

- e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - None

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Meeting to be held after the Regular Village Board meeting.

Small Business - none

5. New Business:

a. Summer Street Work:

Mayor Michael Hammond and board members approved Street work on State Street/Rensselaer Street with an amount given at the July meeting.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige

Seconded: Charles Ffield

Street markers were purchased. Work will be done on Front Street. Discussion was held on replacement of guardrails.

b. Local Government Conference: Discussion was held on attendance. Clerk Lisa Hammond will mail notice to all Planning and Zoning Board members. Matter tabled for discussion at August meeting.

c. 2nd Notice Fee Discussion:

After brief discussion it was decided to apply a \$2.00 fee to 2nd notices mailed to residents that have not paid Village tax yet.

Motion: Jolene Samatha

Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: animous

6. Updates.

a. Library Revitalization, Lead Agency

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that things are moving forward and asked for everyone that was present to come up with ideas and suggestions for what the community would like to see happen with the process.

b. Code Enforcement discussion:

Mayor Hammond asked for approval to advertise for a certified Code Officer. Grant Backus seems to be interested and will apply with this round of applicants

if he chooses. David Hartman reached out to the Mayor about demolition permits.

#### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Fire Department Member: Devon Storie was present and his paperwork was reviewed by board members of the Village. Motion to accept Storie as a Fire Department member.

Motion: Trustee Charles Fifield    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

Mayor Hammond and Trustee LaSeige thanked Mike Wainwright for mowing and trimming the Village.

Fire Chief Roger Newcombe requested that in September Sewer Bills please include a flier provided by the Fire Department recruiting FireFighters. Mayor Hammond invited Newcombe to enter the Fire Truck that was recently refurbished in the Classic Car Show coming up at the Falls Festival September 9th, 2023.

Clerk Lisa Hammond asked Fire members Bob Poor and Roger Newcombe who was the current treasurer for the Rescue Squad and they stated Karen Katzman of Dekalb. Hammond thanked them for the information.

6:38 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Samatha Booth              Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk