

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Meeting Minutes

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

5:30 P.M. Special Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSieve and Trustees Connie McAllister, Trustee Stacy Gushea, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Kevin Reynolds, Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor and Sam Booth

Present by phone: Attorney Henry Leader

5:30 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Special meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations: removed - no bills to be paid
3. Reports:

Sewer: Mark Basford requests approval to rent an excavator to dig out the sand beds in an email to board members and the Mayor

Motion to approve.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve

Seconded: Connie McAllister

Code Enforcement:

Tim Tuttle reported clean ups are still in the works - discussion was held on pools being installed in the Village and who does electrical inspections on them.

Motion: Connie McAllister

Seconded: Stacy Gushea

- a. Clerk's Report: Tabled to monthly meeting
- d. Mayor's Report: Mayors dinner will be held in Massena on the 8th
- e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - Bob Poor met with members of the cemetery about tree removal and together with the Village a plan is in motion.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee: Meeting will be held on both the Falls Festival and Historical tonight after this special meeting.

Motion was made to accept Clerk Mayor and Committee reports

Motion: Stacy Gushea

Seconded: Charles Fifield

#### 5. New Business:

209 Rensselaer Street: Discussion was held on the Apartment Building Fire on Main Street owned by Anhminh Reynolds. Kevin Reynolds was present and discussion was held. Mayor Michael Hammond thanked Kevin Reynolds for attending the meeting. Hammond noted progress that Reynolds is making. Reynolds stated that he is trying his best and that he has not gotten any notice from his insurance. Tim Tuttle asked Reynolds about hiring an Attorney and he is up for suggestions. Tuttle asked Reynolds where the material was going and Reynolds stated that he was burning all the wood in his yard. Tuttle stated to Reynolds that he could not burn the wood in the Village. Tuttle stated to Reynolds that at the best we know the debris contains asbestos. Tuttle stated that under New York State law if the building is too far gone, then it is presumed to contain asbestos. Attorney Henry Leader will try to get names of Attorneys in the Watertown area for Reynolds to possibly obtain. Kevin Reynolds asked if he has one year to clean up? Tim Tuttle stated that it is up to the Village Board to extend time. Tuttle stated the law says to start cleaning up within 30 days of meeting with the Village Board. and complete within 60 days. The Board acknowledges the effort that the Reynolds are doing, trying to clean up the debris. The Village Board asked Reynolds to continue cleaning up pursuant of law and come back to our regular meeting on September 12th, 2022 with a more concrete plan. Mayor Michael Hammond asked the Attorney Leader for input and direction on the matter. Leader stated that it is the same for the loss of this structure and it seems like the Board is trying to work with Reynolds and that Reynolds is making great effort. Leader stated that we strive for a timeline and to maintain safety for the community. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Kevin Reynolds if he had anything else to add and Reynolds stated not at this time. Reynolds will contact the Department of Labor for guidance.

State Street Sidewalks: Mayor Hammond stated he got estimates for project from State Street to Cornelia Street. Meashaw and Green Machine estimates were received and shared with board members. It was decided to hold off on the sidewalk until next season all board members were in agreement.

State Street Ditching: Cemetery and Playground locations. Mayor Hammond, TTS, Jim Gushea and Bob Poor met about tree work by cemetery - ditches need to be cleaned out to help with water problems. Two estimates were received \$8,000 at playground and \$12,000.00 from TTS. Mayor Hammond stated cemetery monies are tied up in CD's and they are asking for the Village to split the cost with them due to the Village poor drainage. Mayor Hammond called Watertown about CHIP reimbursements to be considered under removal of roadside obstacles because the projects is protecting and enhancing the integrity of the roadway. Discussion was held on the poor water drainage in the Village and how doing these two projects would help homeowners saturated lawns and protect the beauty of the Village and Road ways. Motion to approve sharing cost with the Cemetery project, using TTS at a cost of \$20,000.

Motion: Connie McAllister

Seconded: Stacy Gushea

Library Grant:

Discussion was held on Electrical updates and what the grant includes.

Community input will be complied with. Riverstreet Planning met with Library members and the Mayor about estimates.

5 Heuvelton Street: Mayor Michael Hammond had a request to discontinue sewer billing as no one is living in the house. Hammond suggests that we should revisit our sewer law and make some adjustments to the billing process. This new owner wants to stay in it when he travels and does not plan on renting it out. Trustee Jolene LaSiege asked Tim Tuttle what he thought? Tuttle stated he would be glad to go into the house to inspect the bathroom to see if a toilet was connected. Clerk Hammond will ask the owner about access upon motion.

Motion: Connie McAllister

Seconded: Stacy Gushea

6. Updates:

Town of Canton Highway Projects:

Culvert is here but not in place. All projects should be CHIPS reimbursable.

7. Any other business that may come before the Board:

The work in the basement will continue after the Festival event. Herb Wainwright's desk

from downstairs has been relocated to the Historical building.

Discussion on playground equipment replacement due to unsafe equipment.

Mayor Michael Hammond noted some of the grant monies from Patty Ritchie may be able to be used. Festival and Village will talk about contributions toward equipment.

Trustee Connie McAllister will haul away rusty equipment.

Trustee Stacy Gushea stated that Robert Jones donated 150 lbs of hamburger meat to the Fire Hall for their festival sales. Gushea noted she did not know about approaching the Firemen about splitting the profits with the Festival Committee. Gushea stated that for right now the Firemen will get the profits. Mayor Michael Hammond added that maybe Mark Bomyea who spearheads the cooking of the food for the Fire Department will consider donating to the Festival. In the end Gushea and Hammond agreed that Mr. Jones' intention was that the Festival was getting the profit, but that in fact Gushea didn't have that discussion with Bomyea.

6:27 p.m closed special board meeting

Motion: Stacy Gushea

Seconded: Charles Fifield

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond  
Village Clerk