

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 2nd, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Esther Gushea, Mellisa Austin, Ernie Swartsfigure and Ralph Hammond.

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

6:05 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Regular monthly meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations:

Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 12th, 2021 were tabled upon motion to August meeting

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote:unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Written report was received.

Mark Basford was present and discussed price increases for chemicals and other supplies. Basford reported that the lawnmower at the sewer plant had died. Discussion was held on the price of chlorine. Basford noted that he still has not heard from NYSDEC on the sand bed replacement project yet.

Motion: Connie McAlliser Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report: No report was received.

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collecting is moving slow at this time. To date the Village has collected \$29,943.24. Half of the Stimulus money has been received in the amount of \$15,000.00 with a long list of things it cannot be spent on. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he would like to see part of it be spent on a piece of technological equipment to allow people to attend village board meetings from their homes by zoom. Quarterly Sewer bills have been mailed out with flyers for Falls Festival information in them.

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted he has been doing alot of homework on Street projects and will be covering his monthly matters throughout the rest of the agenda. Hammond stated he did attend the Waddington BassMasters this year along with other events throughout the County.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he may have a connection to get some Cherry Trees from Kevin Joanette.

Playground - The fund of approximately \$8,000.00 at this time. Mayor Hammond spoke with Grant Backus about possibly putting up the Basketball nets and ball toss. Jungle Gym needs to be removed due to rusting. Playground committee will look into replacing it. Communication on the Dasny grant is still in the works and discussion was held on monies being used for equipment.

Falls Festival Committee: A meeting will be held on August 16th at 5:00 p.m.. Plans are well under way for this year's activities. Mayor Hammond noted the Falls Festival has its own tab under Community on the Village Website. Trustee

Connie McAllister asked that all the Festival equipment be marked and possibly a list written up of what we have.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

a. Ford Tractor BIDS:

Discussion was held on the Village Tractor bid and not being ran properly. This matter will be moved to the September meeting. Mark Basford wrote the notice up and it was sent to the newspaper. Bids will be opened on the date stated and read at September's board meeting.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

b. Resolution recognizing Trooper Benson & Rensselaer Falls Fire & Rescue:

Mayor Michael Hammond read the Resolution and a suggestion was made by Trustee Jolene LaSeige that Benson and Fire Chief Dallas Denny attend a board meeting for a picture of the two and present them with the original Resolution. Mayor Hammond will invite the two gentlemen to a meeting.

See attached resolution.

c. Gazebo/Stage for Pioneer Park:

Discussion was held on the poor condition of the Gazebo in the park and it was decided that we would find someone to tend to it.

A write up was in the newspaper about the progress the Village of Rensselaer Falls is making on beautifying the Village. Mayor Hammond noted that a band stand type stage would accent the park's looks and add to the Villages infrastructure. Hammond asked for approval to order the lumber and enlist someone to build it. Motion was made not to exceed \$5,000.00 on the new stage. Electricity is already at the location. Trustee Jolene LaSiege wants to see this expense come out of the stimulus monies. Mayor Hammond will also check into seeing if it could come out of Street monies. This stand can use this structure for bands, ice cream

socials, yoga classes, etc. Trustee LaSiege wants to maintain the good condition of the playground equipment. Discussion was held on reshingling the gazebo roof. Motion to move forward on the new stage/stand and fixing up the gazebo. This money will not come out of the recreation budget as part of the motion. Materials from JP, built by Levi Miller and moved of the stage by Corey Barney.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

- d. Lawn Sweeper Purchase, Village: Discussion was held on purchasing from Tractor Supply.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- e. Porta Potty Arrangements - Mayor Michael Hammond noted for the record that the Village has been paying for the public use of Porta Potties for events held. Eight or Nine will be ordered for the upcoming Falls Festival. Trustee Jolene LaSiege wants the Village to purchase more lighting for the park. Discussion was held on buying LED lights. Trustee Charles Fifield will check into pricing lights for the Village. Clerk Hammond will provide a tax exempt form if there is a purchase.

6. Updates.

- a. Heuvelton Street Project - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond stated that Sheenans are prepared to come on the 9th of August to do the milling. Hammond has been in contact with Cantons Highway Superintendent Calvin Rose and he suggested working with the County on paving. Discussion was held and there was full board agreement. The Town of Canton will build a subbase and the County will pave with Sheenans material. Rensselaer Falls Fire said they will provide a water source. Motion to move ahead with this and item b under new business street projects.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- b. West Front Street Project - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Same as above (item a).

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

6:52 p.m Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Trustee Charles Fifield

Vote: unanimous to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk