

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Connie McAllister, Trustee Samantha Booth, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Mark Basford Sewer Superintendent, Shane Booth, Shirley and Nick Calton

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader and Trustee Jolene LaSieve

5:45 p.m. Board members entered into an executive session regarding matters of personnel upon motion of Trustee Connie McAllister and seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All in favor.

6:00 p.m. Board members came out of executive session upon motion of Mayor Michael Hammond and seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All in favor.

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

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 the regular meeting of November 7th, 2022 were approved upon motion.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

4. Trustee Oaths:

Connie McAllister was sworn into a 2 year term to serve as Village Trustee, Charles Fifield was sworn into a 2 year term to service as Village Trustee / Deputy Mayor, Samantha Booth was sworn into a 1 year term upon appointment at the November regular board meeting to fill the remaining term of Stacy Gushea.

5. Appointments:

Committees: Trees, Fall Festival, Historical Society, Library and Small Business
Mayor Hammond wants to work with board members on these assignments.

Code Enforcement: Tabled

Attorney: Henry Leader

Planning Board: Current members are Bob Poor, Bonnie St.Denny and Shirley Calton.
Reappointment of Tom Jones and James Gushea.

Zoning Board of Appeals: Current members Leianne Mullaney, Kira Hammond, Heather Wainwright, and Ralph Hammond. Acceptance of Samatha Booths resignation due to acceptance of Village Trustee position. Appointment of Shane Booth to replace Samatha Booth was made.

Official Newspaper: North Country this week and The Journal

Milage: 62.5 cents

Motion to approve appointments by Trustee Charles Fified and seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. Vote: unanimous

6. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: A written report was received by the board members.

Mr. Basford reports there are shortages on pump parts and this will take time. Basford is working on the sand replacement issues and will report as soon as he knows something. Basford stated that the plant is oportating well. Snow blower is on the tractor at the plant. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he has not heard from employee Ernie Swartsfigure about the lawnmower snowblower but will check into having it put on. Basford offered to help with snowblowing in the event our part time help is unavailable.

Basford worked 29 hours in November. Jared Murray worked 32 hours in November.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tuttle was present and a written report was sent by email to the board members.

Tuttle stated that he sent the quotes to members that he read last month for the apartment building cleanup at the Reynolds property. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that it was more clear to see it in writing and easier to understand. Hammond thanked Tuttle for the information. Trustee Charles Fifield asked Tuttle if he had discussed the quotes with the property owner and Tuttle said “no, it’s really not his business, as he has washed his hands of it”, meaning the property owner. Tuttle stated that he tried to reach the lady on state street regarding the camper in her yard but the phone number was disconnected. Tuttle visited the property this evening and could not see that the camper was physically tied into the sewer and does not think there is anything on the books about living in a camper in the Village. Tuttle has not looked at the Villages Sewer use law. Mayor Hammond expressed safety concerns for living in a camper in the winter months. Tim Tuttle stated that he looked and there is nothing in our Code or the State Code in regard to living in a camper. Tuttle said he has nothing in the Code to act on it. Discussion was held on Dobbs property and Tuttle stated that the inspection was done illegally due to the fact that the inspector approved it upon just seeing a picture of the panel and not physically seeing it. The inspector will go back and do it correctly the board is told. The electrical meter will be pulled if it is not compliant. Tuttle to reach out to the inspector. Tuttle and Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that nothing has been received back from the Dobbs concerning certified mail. Tuttle to contact Attorney Henry Leader about possible court action. Tuttle has a picture of the meter box from a previous visit to the home. Discussion on Local Law #5 was held. Tuttle has questions for Henry Leader on the matter the laws title and the reference to Local Law #3, Unsafe Building section. Tuttle stated he has a hard time reaching Attorney Henry Leader. Tuttle encouraged the board members to read through the Local Law #3. Discussion was held on holding a public hearing on the proposed Local Law #5 in needed.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that Sally Hartman wrote a thank you note to the board and a reminder of donation of sandstone in memory of Esther Gushea. Hammond stated that she has been busy and keeping track of the grant monies via Library. The Library grant will cover the sub pump in the basement.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond was sorry to report he missed the December Mayors dinner in Canton. Hammond noted great events happened at the Fire Department sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary along with horse and wagon rides at the park sponsored by the Falls Festival Committee. A NYE event is planned for Dec. 31 at the Fire Department, hosted by The Falls Festival Committee.

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Hammond noted he still needs to contact National Grid about the tree in front of Laquiers house.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee: Mayor Hammond filled board members in on the tree work that was done in the playground area. A piece of equipment needs to be purchased for the playground. A Fall Festival Committee meeting to follow this meeting. All are welcome to attend. Connie McAllister is the treasurer for the Falls Festival Committee / Playground fund and will be the collector of the funds received from ticket sales and donations.

Mayor Hammond noted that the store in the Village has been sold and that the Booth's are making great headway on their recently rented facility with corn hole tournaments being held.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

1. Canton Comprehensive Oversight Committee:

Mayor Michael Hammond discussed and updated the board on the Comprehensive Plan - Canton is in the process of establishing a committee to keep this alive and active and up to date. The Canton Comprehensive Oversight Committee. This proposal from Canton is too vague to get into at this time. All Village of Rensselaer Falls board members agreed to hold off for now. Mayor Hammond spoke with Attorney Henry Leader and he is in agreement to not be

part of the committee at this time. Rensselaer Falls can do what they want to on their own when it comes to the Canton Comprehensive Plan.

2. Local Law #5: Tabled for Mayor Michael Hammond to speak with Attorney Henry Leader after discussing a possible date to hold a hearing.

6. Updates:

1. Library Renovations Discussion:

Discussion was held on the renovations and Mayor Hammond went over estimates received to clean and seal the walls and floor. Oil drum to be removed. Barkleys from Canton coming over to look at the old safes with hopes of removal. Hammond would like to see the Librarian to dispose of unused and old stuff. Nick Calton has been instrumental in working in the basement for demolition this work is kept track of separately and paid for by grant funds in the end. Mayor Hammond meets regularly with the Librarian, President of Library, and Cantons Library Director Emily Hastings to discuss progress and vision goals. Mayor Hammond asked the Code Enforcement Officer to help with the demolition permit. Tuttle asked for a list of things to be demoed. Clerk Hammond said it was discussed at last month's meeting, but Code and Clerk have not gotten together on it.

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

7:05 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond
Village Clerk