

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**December 2, 2019**  
**(6:00 P.M.)**

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee's, Connie McAllister, Jolene LaSiege, James Blackburn

Also in Attendance: Clerk Treasurer Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Mark Bomyea, Ralph Hammond, Karin Blackburn and Peyton Blackburn

Absent: Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle and Village Attorney Henry Leader

1. Mayor/Trustees Sworn In:

Clerk Lisa Hammond swore in Mayor Michael Hammond for a term of two years  
Clerk Lisa Hammond swore in Deputy Charles Fiffled for a term of two years - see below  
Clerk Lisa Hammond swore Trustee Jolene LaSiege in for a two year term  
Clerk Lisa Hammond swore Trustee James Blackburn in for a two year term

2. Appointments:

Clerk: Lisa Hammond 2 years  
Deputy Mayor: Charles Fifield 2 years  
Planning Board: tabled  
Zoning Board: tabled

3. Appropriations approved:

Motion: Jolene LaSiege                      Seconded: Charles Fifield                      Vote: animous

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of November 4, 2019 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Ffield                      Vote: unanimous

## 5. Reports: Departments and Committees

### a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Mark Basford will not be present due to a family loss. A card was passed around for board members to sign. Basford will send report at a later date.

### b. Code Enforcement Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Tim Tuttle will not be present. Hammond added that he and Tuttle will talk via phone. Tuttle for the record is still waiting for Attorney Henry Leader to return his phone calls.

### c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond reported that everything is running smoothly at this time of year. Checks were paid out to the Fire Department, Reque Squad and Historical; noting that these should have been paid in August. Trustee Jolene LaSiege asked for balances on the accounts. Clerk Hammond will email the board members account totals for next months meeting. Sales tax check was deposited on November 13th in the amount of \$13,791.53.

Clerk Hammond also added that she is still working with National Grid about the LED lights and pole plugins.

### d. Mayor's Report: Mayor M. Hammond reported that the Mayors Association dinner on December 5th will be held at Sergis in Canton and the Town Supervisors will also be in attendance to discuss the current Sales Tax issue.

### e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - none

*Fall Festival* - Mayor Hammond hopes to have a meeting in March. Items of discussion will be fundraisers of tshirt sales and possibly popcorn sales with the help of Bill Forbare.

Motion to approve all Committee and Department reports by Trustee James Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Jolene LaSiege. All voted in favor, motion carries.

## 6. New Business:

### a. Firefighter New Member:

After review of Mr. Ayers application a motion was made to accept Mr. Ayers as a new member of the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department. Mr. Ayers has previously went through the Fire Department committee and was accepted with the condition of being on probation for one year while still in high school. He must provide a copy of his report card from school to his Fire Department mentors.

Motion made by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Motion carries. Trustee Jolene LaSiege abstained from voting.

### b. Drainage Issues:

Discussion was held on a correspondence received from a new resident that purchase property on Congress Street about getting the ditch cleaned out to possibly help out with a larger drainage issues. Mayor Hammond talked about paper streets and drainage issues that have been going on for years in the Village. Hammond asked for someone to volunteer to take on the project of working on the drainage issues through a committee, looking forward to comprehensive project for drainage. Mayor Hammond noted that this form of contact is the proper channel to go through to get something done about a problem in the village. Hammond wants the board to consider paying a contractor to clean some of the ditches out. Chips money may be used for these types of things. Hammond wants to work toward a remedy to make the Village of Rensselaer Falls more inviting for people to move in. Red St. Denny has helped in the past with trees and will be approached to see if he's interested in continuing. In ending it was decided that an ad should be put out in hopes of getting someone to clear cut trees and dig ditches out. It was noted that the Town of Canton used to to maintain and perform this task.

Discussion continued on the recent project in the park area that was conducted by Montroy Contracting. Mayor Hammond reminded the Board members that Montroy signed an agreement to correct errors made on project and that Montroy signed the agreement that said these errors would be taken care of by fall. The board requested a letter be written reminding Montroy that he failed to meet his obligation and that the Village hopes to be first on his list in the Spring. Mayor Hammond has spoken to Montroy in public and Montroy acknowledges the

problems openly. Clerk Hammond was asked to draft a letter to Montroy for board approval.

Ralph Hammond asked Mayor Michael Hammond if he checked on the job while it was going on. Both Mayor Hammond and Trustee Jolene LaSieve stated “yes” and that the Mayor addressed it right away. Ralph Hammond expressed his concern about the drainage. Mayor Hammond stated he has full faith Montroy will make good of the project.

c. Fire Department Contract:

Motion to approve Fire Contract with the Town of Canton made by Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee James Blackburn. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

d. Canton Comprehensive Plan Agreement:

Mayor Hammond updated the board on the agreement that was sent to him in August that he did not receive until recently about the amount of money that was paid to the Town toward the plan. \$3,700.00 has been paid since this agreement was sent. Mayor Hammond wants this in the record.

Motion to approve by Trustee Jolene LaSieve, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

5 . Updates:

a. Santa Raising (Holiday Event) Discussion:

Mayor Hammond reported that the Santa lighting was held with low attendance due to the snowy conditions.

b. Mayor’s Association Dinner 12-5-19 Discussion:

Discussion was held on where the Mayor Dinner will be held. There was a previous discussion on the Town Supervisors meeting with the Mayors to discuss County Sales Tax.

c. LWRP Grant Discussion:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he is still waiting to hear from David Hartman about his interest in being on this committee.

d. Economic Development Consortium:

Mayor Hammond stated the EDC meeting was canceled.

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

a. Village Fire Contract was added to the agenda:

Motion to sign Rensselaer Falls Fire Department Contract was made by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Discussion was held on checking into a current disaster preparedness plan.

Trustee James Blackburn asked where the Village is on the Fire Department issue. Discussion was held on the pie still being sliced the same way. Discussion was held on discrepancies. Blackburn stated no report was received besides the bullet points. Mark Bomyea stated that Canton Fire didn't appear at the last two meetings that were held. After discussion was held at length it was decided that a letter will be drafted to the Town Board members asking what has changed and if anything is going to change. This letter will be drafted in a joint effort by both the Village of Rensselaer Falls board and the Rensselaer Falls Village Fire Department. Mark Bomyea stated that the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department can show the Town of Canton a trend of monies spent, showing how bingo is no longer a money maker. James Blackburn to work on draft to be brought back at January 2020 regular board meeting.

Mayor Michael Hammond stated he asked Canton Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley if this meant that this failed and she did not answer him.

7:12 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Jolene LaSiege      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk