

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2020
(6:00 P.M.)

Present In Zoom: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege and Trustee James Blackburn, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Ralph Hammond, Diane Wilcox, John Danis, Scott Rivers, Mark Bomyea

By telephone: Trustee Connie McAllister

Absent: Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford and Village Attorney Henry Leader

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations approved:

General and Sewer

Motion: Trustee Connie McAllister Seconded: Trustee James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of december 7, 2020 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported in absence of Mark Basford that Clarkson tested our waste water treatment system and there are traces of COVID19 in the Village. Hammond noted that he reached out to Corning, Bowhalls Market and United Helpers to let them know. Hammond also told Corning that he would keep them up to date on any changes and discussion was held on possibly isolating Corning to see

what's coming from them. Trustee James Blackburn stated that he wants to know how the generator search is going. Mayor Michael Hammond said he would contact Mark Basfor about that.

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle stated that things are going well. 1 new permit and 2 coming in. One new roof and one for the King Street storage building. Attorney Henry Leader and Tuttle met on consolidating the laws - Junk laws, debris laws and issues. and has not heard back on the matters. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Tuttle if they were able to address some of the items on the agenda and Tuttle stated that he thought so and that the Attorney Leader was going to write some things up and send a draft copy for review. Hammond stated that Leader had called him just this afternoon. Hammond will touch base with the Leader to see what the status is. Tuttle added that the storage building on King Street problem has been resolved and that the homeowner will need to move it over on the lot. Trustee James Blackburn asked Tuttle about the animal problem on King Street and Tuttle stated he believed it also had been resolved.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: Unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she has been fielding phone calls and entering sewer payments. Payment was made to the USDA in the amount of \$1,401.00 for the year. The USDA requested some additional information that Clerk Hammond and Mark Basford worked on and provided to them. Bank Statements were included in the audit package that Trustees McAllister and Fifield reviewed.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the Mayors Dinner has been canceled and that Supervisor Nelson, Mayor McDougal and Mayor Skelly are still working on the sales tax negotiations and wants everyone to pay attention to the item.

Motion to approve by: Trustee Connie McAlliser, Seconded by Trustee James Blackburn. All voted in favor. Motion carries

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground - None

Falls Festival - Mayor Hammond noted that he hopes fund raising is still being discussed at the committee level

Mayor Hammond noted that there is going to be a light decorating contest in the Village that has been put together by Trustee Jolene LaSeige and Britt Backus with three categories. LaSeige stated that it is sponsored by Montroy Contracting at \$25.00 a category and at this time 6 people have signed up. LaSeige is looking for a couple judges to judge.

Motion to approve Mayor and Committee reports by Trustee James Blackburn, Seconded by Jolene LaSeige. Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

a. D.A.N.C Service Agreement: Discussion and Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond asked the board to confirm their approval from November discussion on the agreement of it being a 3 year or 5 year contract. Approval was made for a 5 year agreement. Mayor Hammond noted that Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford supports the agreement with DANC.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

b. Letter of Retirement, Village Clerk - Discussion and approval

Clerk Lisa Hammond stated for the record that she has to retire from Rensselaer Falls along with Canton. Hammond noted that she started in 1999 when the Sewer Plant opened with a break in service and then Hammond was hired back at some point to be Esther Gushea's Deputy. Hammond added that she doesn't have a lot of service credit from Rensselaer Falls because she wasn't in the system for very long. Trustee Jolene LaSeige thanked Hammond for her years of service and stated she hopes Hammond comes back.

Motion Jolene

Seconded: Connie

6. Updates:

- a. LWRP Boundaries: Mayor Hammond reported that he has gone back and forth with the LWRP engineers regarding the boundaries. Hammond held a discussion with Emma at C&S about specific river properties and about the fact that some were cut off in the boundary. Mayor Hammond wanted them to add areas of interest. Process has been very transparent. The development of an LWRP will be beneficial to the development of Rensselaer Falls. The current committee will only complete part one of this two part process for completion of the LWRP. Due to COVID19 and extension has been added thanks to C&S. Mayor Hammond noted maps are in committee possession for right now, but will be available to the public. Townships and Villages included are: Village of Heuvelton, Village of Rensselaer Falls, Village of Richville, Town of Canton, Town of Dekalb and Town of Oswegatchie.

- b. Rescue Squad request - Discussion and Possible Approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he did receive the Rescue Squad Budget and asked James Blackburn what he thought the 10% was going to cost for the life pack 15. \$5,000.00 from their actual fund will be secured. 34,800.00 is what is the remaining balance. Blackburn stated that they still plan on fundraising but it's not a guarantee. Blackburn said there was a lot of back and forth about the payment structure. 10% down and 11 months after the purchase \$13,764.13 annual payment for three years after the 10% down. A three thousand dollar trade in will take off a payment.

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that James Blackburn wears two different hats and has provided the information to the board. Hammond added that Trustee Chalres Fifield is absent tonight and that he believes that it is the board's desire to help the Rescue Squad. Hammond asked the board members if they have any questions and suggested moving the vote to the January meeting. Trustee Jolene LaSeige asked about fundraising and what the plan would be to make payment. Blackburn said he spoke with the regional director the other day about PPE and they said the squads have to wear N95 on every call. Costs continue to go up.

Discussion was held on re-wearing masks between Blackburn and Trustee

Jolene LaSeige, as LaSeige is a registered nurse, reuse along with black light usage was discussed. Blackburn discussed the supply situation and stated they are working with what they have. Diane Wilcox stated the state is issuing fines for not having and wearing what is required. Trustee noted that Rensselaer Falls was not in compliance when she observed them. Mark Bomyea added that he agrees the driver was not in full PPE. Wilcox added that the driver would have to pay the fine if he was caught. LaSeige added that Rensselaer Falls is not the only department not complying. Mayor Hammond noted that the rescue squad paid the Fire Department a rent fee and asked if they could negotiate this. James Blackburn noted that that is on the radar. Mark Bomyea added that the amount is based on call volume. James Blackburn hopes to have the machine within three weeks. Mayor Hammond is still willing to reach out to Dekalb Town Supervisor if need be. This item will be on January's agenda. Mayor Hammond thanked the Fire Department for the assistance in placing Santa Claus in the park. Hammond hopes to get a mask on him this year. \$125.00 was raised by putting it on facebook for the Fire Department. Diane Wilcox added that if you shop on Smile.com.amazon and pick a charity your money goes to that place. Mark Bomyea noted that Believe NNY is on amazon also to help Cancer patients. Mayor Hammond offered to place both these things on the Village Website for Wilcox and Bomyea.

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

6:53 p.m Adjourned meeting by Motion of Trustee James Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk