

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2021
(6:00 P.M.)

Present In Zoom: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Trustee James Blackburn, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Ralph Hammond, Dallas Denny, Klaus Proem, Diane Wilcox, John Danis, Scott Rivers, Ellis Giacomelli, Tim Danehy and Bob Washo

By telephone: Trustee Connie McAllister

Absent: 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:

Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Connie McAllister and James Blackburn

Motion: Trustee Connie McAllister Seconded: Trustee Charles Fifield

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes were tabled to March. Trustee James Blackburn requested to listen to the audio about a HR discussion that may have been typed in the minutes incorrectly. Clerk Lisa Hammond will also go back and listen to the audio, noting that she may have heard it wrong.

Motion: Trustee Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Trustee Charles Fifield Vote:unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report:

Mark Basford reported that the West Front Street lift station problem is all good

now. Basford stated that COVID testing is still being done with Clarksons assistance.

Basford stated that it will be \$810.00 to test the Sand at the plant.

Mayor Michael Hammond mentioned that the CD's are matured and its possible that they could be used.

Trutes James Blackburn asked about COVID testing and why we were doing it? Basford stated that the piece of equipment will only be used for COVID testing and that we are not required to do composite samples for our quarterly testing. Discussion was held on testing, results and keeping track of trends. Discussion was held on separating Corning testing from the residents of the Village. Basford will talk to Clarkson about it. Basford added that the Village of Heuvelton sold the Village of Rensselaer Falls a 80 kl watt stationary generator for \$1.00. The generator is too big for the Sewer Plant and therefore the Fire Department is going to use it. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that Basford has sent in a proposal for the upcoming budget and will share it with the board members.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle reported no new permits issued this month. Tuttle continues to work on vehicle issues. He asked that board if the zoom method can be used to hold a ZBA meeting before May for a request from Brayton Foote for driveway varousance. Mayor Michael Hammond stated he will establish this meeting with the Village's account when needed. Tim Tuttle discussed a letter received from Attorney Henry Leader regarding a maintenance charge on property owners to back charge them costs of cleaning up the property and note that this will have to be put in the Local Law that pertains to the matter. A modification to any law would require a Public Hearing.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that the W2's and quarterly reports were completed and sent out. Sewer billing mailed out and past due filing done.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond stated that a St. Patricks Day fundraiser will be discussed later in the agenda along with an addition to the Agenda

Motion: Trustee Charles Fifield Seconded: Trustee Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground - None

Falls Festival - None

5. New Business:

a. Mileage Reimbursement - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond stated that he was unaware that on December 22, 2020 there was a change to the mileage reimbursement by legislation to the amount of .57.5 cents a mile to .56 cents.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

b. Local Law #1-2021 Village Clerk Residency - Discussion & Possible Approval

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that at last month's meeting there was discussion on residency requirements and that Attorney Henry Leader has put together language for the board's review. Hammond noted that this goes along with item C and D on the agenda. Discussion was held on having public input on the matters and doing local laws as opposed to resolutions. Mayor Hammond will forward procurement policy to board members. Discussion was held on fees to the State if we request copies that are missing, possibly a complete history. Code Officer Tim Tuttle will work with the Attorney Leader on the matter.

c. Ethics Policy - Discussion was held above

d. Index of Local Laws - Discussion was held above

e. Budget Workshop - Discussion

A Budget workshop will be held at 5:00 p.m. before the March monthly meeting on March 8th, 2021 moving it from the 1st of March.

Mayor Michael Hammond and Karen Clary have been working on budget figures.

f. St. Patricks Day Fundraiser - Discussion

Mayor Hammond had residents reach out to him about a possible fundraiser around St. Patrick's Day in 2022. The Dolan family is spearheading the idea and have donated money toward it. Heidi Smith will work with the fire department to start discussions. Fire Chief Dallas Denny stated that with the pandemic they have not been able to do fundraising, but he is in support of starting the planning of fund raising and training.

6. Updates:

a. Reimagining Canton Recreation - Discussion

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that some great meetings have been held with a good group of people on the future of Recreation in the Canton community. Funding streams, job descriptions were discussed. The committee is doing a good job. Two meetings will be held in February. Mayor Hammond will forward the minutes of the meetings to the Village Board members. Hammond noted there is a website and encouraged people to check it out. Tim Danehy added that he would like to pool resources together and make Rensselaer Falls a partner and that progress is being made.

b. Rescue Squad Request - Discussion & Possible Approval

Mayor Michael Hammond updated the community that a letter was received from Diane Wilcox stating they were looking for monetary support from the Village regarding the purchase of a LifePack 15.

Trustee Charles Fifield asked Diane Wilcox if grants were checked into for this machine. Wilcox stated that they are looking into about three different grants.

Wilcox talked about the letter writing champagne that went out and gave a verbal list of names and amounts that have been received for the Life Pack with appreciation to date. After further discussion it was decided to give the Rensselaer Falls Rescue Squad a

\$4,000.00 one time payment and discuss future payments at budget time.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: unanimous

Trustee James Blackburn abstained from voting

Fire Chief Dallas Denny thanked the Village Board members for the contribution. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that all current Board members are willing to help with fundraisers. Scott Rivers, Diane Wilcox and James Blackburn all thanked the Village Board members.

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

7:10 p.m Adjourned meeting

Motion: Trustee Connie McAllister Seconded: Trustee Jolene LaSieve Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk