

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 7th, 2022
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Stacy Gushea, Trustees Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Fire Chief Dallas Denny, Ralph Hammond, James Blackburn and Ernie Swartsfigure

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

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

Addition to agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fified, Connie McAllister and Jolene LaSiege

Motion: Charles Fified Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of January 10, 2021

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Both December 2021 and January 2022 written reports were received. Mark Basford was called to a Fire on the Hutchinson Rd in the Town of Oswegatchie and not present at the meeting. Mayor Michael Hammond read the reports to the board members. All matters are running smoothly at the Sewer Plant. Basford asked in the report approval to purchase tools for the garage at the Sewer Plant. This matter to be discussed at Budget time.

32 Hours reported by Basford for January and 30 Hours reported for Jared Murray

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle was present and gave a verbal report. He and Attorney Henry Leader are continuing to work on the ongoing list of violations in the Village. Tuttle and Leader spoke on phone this date and will start the process of written appearance tickets. Tuttle noted that no one has replied back on their violation notices and these matters are now past the date line date. Discussion was held on a rental issue dispute that Tuttle followed up on in the Village. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Tuttle to remind David and Sally Hartman that the designated snowmobile trail in front of their property should not be plowed up, as it is a liability for the Village. Tuttle stated he would talk to them.

Tuttle reported 5 hours worked the month of January.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that W2's and quarterly sewer bills were mailed out. CHIPS reimbursement total now was \$4,613.81, PAVE NY \$5,109.55 and EWR balance is \$3,899.51. Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he like to the EWR work/monies go into ditching in front of the Fire Station and under the Town Rd (CR14) used. Hammond hopes to tackle that project in the spring.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted the next Mayor's Dinner will be held in Potsdam. Hammond asked for help with coordination with National Grid on matters for the spring, poles, etc. W9's were sent for the Senator Richie Grant funds and Hammond will follow up on this matter.

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Michael Hammond stated he would follow up with National Grid

on the rest of the trees that need to come down.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee:

Michael Hammond stated that there was a date on Facebook of the 21st of February for a Festival Committee meeting at 6 p.m. Location to be determined. Discussion was held on free books this month at the Library. Clerk Lisa Hammond asked everyone present to spread the word.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

A. Budget Workshop:

Mayor Michael Hammond asked about availability.

After discussion it was decided to meet at 5 p.m. on March 7th, 2022 for budget discussions, before the regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that Karen Clary, whom has worked with the budget and other matters in the past for the Village has moved out of State. Both Mayor Hammond and the Clerk have approached Becky Donnelly, Village Clerk for Heuvelton about taking on this role. Donnelly has accepted, as she works 4 days a week for Heuvelton. Board members were in agreement with this.

B. Broadband Committee Discussion:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he attended a couple meetings on the matter. Hammond stated that the Town of Canton entered into an agreement with MC Fiber Solutions, run by John and Andy McAdoo. The McAdoos are running a fiber consulting business. The Town of Canton is paying the business \$4,000.00 to do a needs assessment. After a survey the County put out a RFP, who has broadband, who doesn't and how it's working for them. It was discovered that a lot of people in this area still don't have internet or good internet. Mayor Hammond noted that at this time Canton is not looking for a contribution

from the Village of Rensselaer Falls. A brief discussion was held on access and dead zones.

6. Updates.

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

6:40 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield

Seconded: Stacy Gushea

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk