

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

January 13, 2025

6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Connie McAllister, Trustees Samanth Booth and Nicholas Calton, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Code Enforcement Officer Ronald Dulmage, and Ralph Hammond

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader, Trustee Jolene LaSiege

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 Nicholas Calton and Samantha Booth

Motion to approve bills.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Clerk Lisa Hammond met with new Trustee Nicholas Calton and went over the procedure of auditing the bills. Clerk Hammond added that the bank statements are reviewed and approved each month by the auditing committee.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of December 9, 2024 were reviewed and approved

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was present and reported that two sand beds have been taken care of and that in the spring there will be some clean up to be done. Stout's has not yet billed the Village. Basford requested budgeting for another two beds. Stout's is willing to work with the Village on payments due to high cost. Rivers

Septic pumped out one of the tanks this past month.

27.5 Hours reported by Basford for and 36 Hours reported for Jared Murray for the Month of December.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nick Calton Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Code Officer Ron Dulmage was present, Mayor Michael Hammond welcomed him to the Village team. Introductions were made. Dulmage reported that he has gone over the Local Laws and previously issued permits in the Village.

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that when she sends the sewer bills on January 30th, she will enclose the letter from Mayor Hammond introducing the new Code Officer Ron Dulmage, along with a flyer from the Fire Department about their June 2025 celebration. Hammond also stated that she is working with Community Bank to replace Charles Fifield on the accounts with Connie McAllister, newly appointed Deputy Mayor. Clerk Hammond reminded the board members that the newest Fire Department member has not yet returned proof of physical or application. Board agreed that Clerk Hammond should reach out to the Chief. \$1,167.38 mortgage tax check was received and deposited. Both Mayor and Clerk Hammond met with Canton Library staff on the Grant funding project. Clerk Hammond also met with FEMA members along with Jeff Hammond.

- d. Mayor's Report: Michael Hammond stated that he has been scammed on the internet. Hammond wanted the public to know that he has not sent any emails asking for gift cards. Hammond contacted the State Police and they are looking into it. Mayor Hammond filled board members in on meeting with FEMA on phone, stating that we can potentially be reimbursed for any flood damage. The Fire Department and Village have met on zoom with FEMA. Hammond hopes this will help with all the flooding problems here in the Village.

Motion to accept Code, Clerk and Mayors Reports

Motion Trustee Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - none

Falls Festival/Playground: none

Committee reports approved by motion of: Nick Calton and Connie McAllister

5. New Business:

- a. Fire Department member: See Clerks report
- b. Mileage (.70)

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that mileage rate increased to .70 cents

- c. Library Contract:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he attended a Library/Village Grant meeting in Canton. Hammond stated that the Canton Library has a vision board that is very impressive. With grant opportunities and phases of the grant process. RFP went out in December NCT was the only bidder for phase one of this project. Village Board members were given copies. Attorney Henry Leader has reviewed said contract and made a couple minor revisions to the litigation section. NCT agreed with the change. Attorney Henry Leader noted everything looks good with the contract. Mayor Hammond stated that phase two has not been determined yet for award, adding that it makes him a little nervous that phase one is in motion, but yet we are not guaranteed phase two. Hammond's hopeful will get the grant through the Pro Housing initiative. This almost 1.2 Million dollar project will need fundraising efforts of around \$160,000.00 in which the Canton steering committee (Emily, Agnas) is trying to figure out stated, Mayor Hammond. Discussion was held and permission was granted for Mayor Hammond to sign a contract with NCT to begin the project.

Motion: Trustee Nicholas Calton Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

- d. Health Officer Resolution:

Discussion was held on St. Lawrence County resolution for Health Officer to cover the Village of Rensselaer Falls. Board members agreed to have Mayor Hammond sign and return the County.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

6. Updates: none

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Two proposals for plowing snow were received:

Steve Hammond \$25.00 includes shoveling

Bruce Lester \$40.00 includes shoveling

Motion to accept the lower bid was made

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond recused himself from discussion and voting.

6:26 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk