

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6, 2020**  
**(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, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Bob Poor, Bonnie St.Denny, Dallas Denny, Corey Barney and Shirley Calton.

Absent: Village Attorney Henry Leader

Additions to the Agenda:

Approval of New FireFighter and Executive Session (personnel)

1. Appropriations approved:

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of December 2, 2019 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Ffield              Vote: unanimous

3. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report:

Mark Basford went over brief details of the ongoing problems at Corey Reynolds property with the sewer lines located at the corner of King and Congress. Basford stated that three houses go into the same collection on that street and a sinkhole has caused problems with the sewer line. Basford presented the board with prices he received to solve the problem; from Crobar and Montroys Contracting. Basford noted that we won't really know what it is going to entail until they get at it. After reviewing the quotes the board made a motion to go with Crobar's Contracting due to the fact that Crobar has worked on Village sewer lines in the past and has worked

with Mark Basford. Motion was made to hire Crobar.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve                      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

Mark Basford added that he had a non compliance at the Plant and stated it was his fault. Basford missed reporting a sample for the appropriate amount of time. Mayor Hammond noted that Mark and he sent a form stating that the Sewer Plant has put into place a new policy and procedures so this does not happen again. All hope that there will be no fine or a minimal fine. Mayor Hammond and Basford will report to the board when they hear back.

Approval to accept Basfords report

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Fifield      Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle was present and stated he had one hour in the month of December. Tuttle added that he will check into crossing the Planning Board members with the Zoning Board members due to the lack of members. Tuttle to see if the Village is required to have an zoning audit done do to the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion made to accept Tutttles report.

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Jolene LaSieve      Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond reported she took care of the Fire Department Cancer coverage with the Insurance Company. A mortgage tax check was received from the County in the amount of \$514.44. A thank you card was received from the Bassmaster Tournament for \$100.00. Motion to accept Clerk Hammond's report.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve                      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report: Mayor M. Hammond stated he will report later in the agenda.

The Mayors Association dinner was held on December 5th at Sergis in Canton. The Town Supervisors were in attendance to discuss the current Sales Tax issue.

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - Pine Tree at Matt McAllister's house needs to be addressed.

*Fall Festival* - Mayor Hammond hopes to have a meeting in March. Shelly Sanderson has prices on shirts, t-shirts, sweatshirts etc.

Motion to approve all Committee Trustee Charles Fified, seconded by Trustee James Blackburn. All voted in favor, motion carries.

#### 4. New Business:

- a. RFP's (Tech work, Ditching/Tree work, Part Time Laborer)

Mayor Hammond went over the above items that he placed RFP's on the website. Hammond hopes someone will be interested in applying.

- b. Annual Report on Revenues and Expenditures of Foreign Fire Ins.

A brief discussion was held on Foreign Fire Insurance and James Blackburn assured us that that is not a Village of Rensselaer Falls matter. It is handled by Brandon Kelley who files the appropriate paperwork for the department.

- c. Firefighter New Member:

After review of Corey Barneys application a motion was made to accept Mr. Barney as a new member of the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department. Barney has previously gone through the Fire Department committee and served on the Canton Fire Department.

Motion made by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. Motion carries.

#### 5 . Updates:

- a. National Grid LED upgrade: In the process

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

Discussion was held on St. Lawrence County Sales Tax. A joint resolution by the Mayors Association and the Supervisors Association was passed unanimously at the Dinner. Presentation as given by Sarah Purdy and James Regan regarding County Sales Tax. Outgoing Sheriff Wells made a presentation on the Bail Reform Legislation and a new on board tech feature for police vehicles. Supervisor Bill Nelson spoke. Hammond stated it was a low attendance in light of the topic of discussion. The Village of Rensselaer Falls will consider passing a similar resolution in February.

c. LWRP Grant - Town as Lead discussion:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he will be attending a committee meeting in Canton on January 9th, 2020 for a joint LWRP. Three engineering firms have submitted proposals for the committee to review and ultimately choose one for this portion of the LWRP grant. Interviews will be held on the February 9th. Hammond stated that the Mayor from Heuvelton and Molly Ladacour are serving as Heuvelton representatives on the Committee and that Rensselaer Falls needed a second committee member ASAP.

d. Fire Department Request:

Discussion was held on the appropriations from the Town of Canton to the four fire departments within the Township. A letter was crafted by James Blackburn and Mayor Hammond for approval of both the Village of Rensselaer Falls board members and the Fire Department members. Fire Department to review and approve on Wednesday. All village board members were in support of sending the letter on to the Town Board. Both the Fire Department and Village board members feel strongly that Town Supervisor MaryAnn Ashley needs to circle back and address this situation. How did the pie get divided up in such mis proportioned pieces? It was decided to send the attached letter to the Town of Canton Board. The Village of Rensselaer Falls acknowledged the increase to the Department this year from the town, but also noted that Ashley has taken away all in kind services that have also been provided to the Department fire apporatices in the past.

6. Appointments:

Clerk Hammond went over the list of current Planning and Zoning Board members.

Planning Board:

Clerk Lisa Hammond swore Shirley Calton, Bob Poor and Bonnie St. Denny in as a Planning Board members for a five year term. 2020 to December 2024

Zoning Board:

Clerk Hammond to contact Logan Gushea and Matt Sneller about serving on zoning board and getting the oath book signed.

Both Bob Poor and Bonnie St Denny both expressed their desire to be replaced as soon as possible. They both indicated they dont mind serving but want to see younger people get involved. Clerk Hammond expressed how important it is to attend training. All board members must complete training. Tim Tuttle stated that a person should be able to go to the Department of State website and get the training there.

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

Trustee James Blackburn added that he has been looking into the water issue/ water tables in the Village and has to contact both USGS and the DEC d on checking into a current disaster preparedness plan.

Mayor Michael Hammond read over a draft letter that he will be sending to Montroy Construction concerning unresolved issues. The Board is in full approval of sending a letter.

7:05 p.m. Executive Session for the matters of personnel

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Jolene LaSiege      Vote: unanimous

7:29 p.m. out of Executive Session

Motion: James Blackburn      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

Mayor Hammond stated that discussion was held in executive session to hire Karen Clary as an outside consultant to work with Clerk Hammond with a cap of 2 hours for quarterlies and W2's, 4 hours to clean up quickbooks. Motion was made to pay Clary

\$37.50 an hour.

Motion: James Blackburn      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

7:32 p.m. adjourned

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Charles Fifield      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk