

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2024
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustee Connie McAllister,, Trustee Samatha Booth and Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Shirley and Nicholas Calton, Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor and Director of Engineering Thomas Haynes from DANC and Karrie Tuttle

Absence: Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Attorney Henry Leader, Code Enforcement Officer Grant Backus

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

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

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Jolene LaSeige

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of December 11, 2023 were approved

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees
 - a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was absent - acknowledgement of his absence and hours were approved

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

33 Hours reported by Basford for and 33 Hours reported for Jared Murray.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Tabled

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she is still working on a laptop for Code. Trustee LaSeige is going to send Clerk Hammond information on Walmart tax exempt information. Hammond noted a mortgage check was received in the amount of \$339.00.

Motion: Charles Fifield

Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the next Mayors meeting will be held jointly with Town Supervisors at SUNY Canton. Hammond noted alot going on.

Motion: Connie McAllister

Seconded: Samantha Booth

Vote: unanimous

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Mayor Hammond stated a Falls Fest Committee meeting will be held after the Village meeting.

5. New Business:

- a. DANC and Corning - Discussion & Possible Approval

Mayor Michael Hammond gave a recap of discussions with DANC and Corning officials on a possible pipe line from Corning to Heuvelton onto Ogdensburg Sewer Plant. Corning has done homework on their own of which could bypass Rensselaer Falls Sewer Plant on go onto Heuvelton. Rensselaer Falls may be able to obtain Grant money. Karrie Tuttle of the Development Authority gave the history of her role. Tuttle stated that they operate several Sewer Plants by contract. Heuvelton was granted 75 percent grant money. Corning has reached out for help as they are running out of space. Corning needs to expand their small waste water plant. Corning did a feasibility study to continue their pipeline onto Heuvelton. The study showed that this would be a cost effective solution for Corning rather than having to upgrade their treatment plant. Tuttle went on to say that if Corning goes through the Village of Rensselaer Falls with a pipeline it may be a good opportunity for the Village of Rensselaer Falls to tag along in the process. Tuttle has a draft resolution drafted offering the Village of Rensselaer Falls to undergo a feasibility study, which would be the next step. The study means no commitment, it's

just a study. Tuttle stated that there is funding out there to help pay. Corning would get funding and the Village would get separate funding. \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 would be the cost. Tuttle stated that the IDA has money to help pay for the study, leaving a minimal cost for the Village after Corning pays. Trustee Samantha Booth asked who will do the study and Tuttle replied with a licensed independent company. Richville and Dekalb are in the process of a study at this time. Mayor Michael Hammond stated he would like to see the Village go ahead with the Study and get concrete information before it goes to the public. Facts are important so the information is correct going to the home owners. Mayor Hammond noted that if Corning goes on with this plan, the Village will be losing money. Trustee Jolene LaSeige noted that if Corning goes with this plan it would be less wear and tare on our Village Plant. LaSeige doesn't feel that the Village Plant is in its last life, noting that at the December Board meeting Sewer Superintendent stated that the plant has been well maintained. A brief discussion was held on the possibility of doing a study looking at Canton. Motion to enter into feasibility study.

Trustee: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

Discussion was held on Corning's 1 year agreement extending it to December 31st, 2024 as is the same contract. Mayor Hammond noted no payments from Corning on their Sewer Bill. Mayor Michael Hammond will sign an agreement.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

6. Updates.

- a. Executive Session, Fire Department/Rescue Squad - Discussion - No executive session was held

No Fire Department members were present. Due to high winds the Firemen are out straight. There was no plan for them to attend tonight's meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Attorney Henry Leader spoke with St. Lawrence County Attorney Steve Button about the 209 Rensselaer Street Building that burnt. The property has been transferred from Kevin Reynolds to a Nail Spa and the County is pursuing the delinquency against the property. Within 5 to 6 months the County may acquire the Deed in lieu of foreclosure. Attorney Button hopes at the latest by November the matter should be resolved. Hammond shared the information with Tuttle.

Mayor Michael Hammond wanted to give thanks to Grant Backus for working on the wood pile off Pine Street. Cutting and stacking it. If anyone needs wood, it's there just ask.

Nick Calton stated that in his opinion the Town of Canton Highway is doing a good job clearing the streets of snow and wants to thank them. Calton also added that he wanted to thank Mayor Michael Hammond for using his personal plow to clear snow from in front of the Village Office/Main Street and Historical at no charge.

6:40 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Samantha Booth

Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk