

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 10th, 2023
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustees Samatha Booth and Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Ralph Hammond, Bob and Betty Poor, Nicholas and Shirley Calton

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader 6:00 p.m. Trustee Jolene LaSiege opened the Regular monthly meeting

Addition to the Agenda: Discussion & Possible Approval, Historical Building furnace.

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

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Jolene LaSiege

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 12, 2023 were tabled. This item to be on July's agenda.

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was present and provided a written report along with a verbal discussion. Basford reported on testing of the new sand. Mayor Hammond thanked Basford for the breakdown in his report on the total gallons treated at the plant and separating Corning's usage out. A brief discussion was held on the price and availability of chlorine. Mayor Hammond also thanked Basford for the nice mowing that has been this year. Basford said he will ask about painting the stations again and report back. Trustee Jolene LaSiege thanked Basford for all he has done at the Sewer Plant.

32 Hours reported by Basford for March and 34 Hours reported for Jared Murray.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Mayor Michael Hammond reported that several Building Permits have been issued so far this summer with the assistance of Russell Lawrence from the Town of Oswegatchie and Clerk Lisa Hammond. Mayor stated that we are still in search of a Certified Code Enforcement Officer. Approval was given via voucher to pay Russell Lawrence \$150.00 for his assistance.

- c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collecting is still going well, as of today a total of \$32,897.73 of which will pay the Sewer relieves back \$11,696.00 back. Making total taxes deposited in the General fund to date is \$21,201.73 for the record. Hammond reported that a Mortgage tax check was received in the amount of \$538.38.

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report: Hammond gave a verbal report stating that he has not connected with the Attorney Henry Leader in awhile. Hammond will cover this report during the agenda. Mayor Hammond to reach out to Steven Smith Town Highway Superintendent about matters pertaining to the Village. Friday Nights in The Falls are going well and the next one will be held July 21st and ending August 18th.

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Jolene LaSeige noted she has had good feedback on upcoming events.

Small Business - none

Motion was made to approve Mayors report and Committee report by Trustee Samanthat Booth and second by Trustee Connie McAllister

5. New Business:

- a. Recognition of Community Service:

Mayor Michael Hammond and board members recognized Betty Poor with over 60 years of community service to the Village by presenting her with a plaque. Mayor Hammond read a resolution that was adopted by the Village Board of Trustees declaring June 14th as Betty Poor Appreciation Day (her birthday). Betty Poor and members took a group photo. Poor thanked the board members with gratitude. Poor stated that her birthday memory was taking a ride with her mother and her mother would say, "look Bett everyone put their flag out because its your birthday". Betty Poors birthday is on Flag Day.

Motion to pass resolution made by Trustee Jolene LaSiege and seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. All members voted in favor.

- b. Fire Department new members: no one present - Tabled
- c. Summer Street work: Discussion was held on proposed work in the Village. After discussion it was decided to do Corner of CR 15 and Elizabeth Street, work at Fire Department location Congress Street, Front Street work. Cemetery State Street to South Street and removal of stump on King Street

Motion: Trustee Samatha Booth Seconded: Trustee Connie McAllister
Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond stated for the record that Joe Polinak reached out to him about water runoff around his property. Polinak was concerned about some new drainage issues caused by Kelly Farm business. Polinak has tried to correct the problem but it has been too much for him. Highway Superintendent Steven Smith came over to look at the issue upon Mayor Hammonds request, but Smith said he does not want to touch the matter. Mayor Hammond said that he would like to see a study done on drainage in the Village.

- d. Intermunicipal Agreement: Mayor Michael Hammond asked the board for approval in signing an agreement with the Library to go ahead on working with River Street Planning and commit to sharing in cost of the next grant phase. Library will apply for a \$200,000.00 grant and the Village would apply for a \$200,000.00 grant. \$400,000.00 in total grant to be applied for through the state. Over the course of 3 years the Village would match 10%. \$22,222.00 over three years which is about \$7,000.00 a year. Hammond noted that this is contingent on receiving the grant. Mayor Hammond offered the resolution to the board members. Discussion was held and it was decided to write a

letter of intent and sign the Resolution. Trustee Samatha Booth stated that usually a match is 25%, noting this is a good deal.

Motion: Charles Fifeild Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- e. Millings Request: Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Jeff Dollinger owner of the Falls Market has requested any millings from the Sewer plant to patch the parking lot at his business. All board members agreed to allow Dollinger the millings.

6. Updates.

- a. Library Revitalization, Lead Agency

Mayor Michael Hammond asked for board approval to allow him to sign an agreement to be Lead Agency for the Library project.

Motion: Trustee Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister
Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement discussion:

Mayor Hammond noted that he wants to reach out to the Norfolk Code Officer to see if he is interested in interviewing for the Village of Rensselaer Falls. Clerk Hammond to reach out to Norfolk. Clerk Hammond to reach out to Backus about training or possible commitment. Mayor Hammond stated that things are going along with Code issues, but we are still in need of a body.

- c. Village Tour, Assemblyman Scott Gray

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that Clerk Hammond and himself did a walking tour with Assemblyman Scott Gray of the Village. Met in the Library, toured the burnt apartment building, Couglars building. Lastly we toured the playground. Gray suggested assembling a team consisting of DANC, St. Lawrence County and a Village committee, members of the State. Discussion was held on acquiring the deeds to the property - but then tabled. Cleaning up is going to be costly. Mayor Hammond said the tour and discussion with Gray was very good.

- d. Caucus Dates:

Discussion was held on holding caucus for upcoming elections in November Monday July 24th 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Caucus will be held at the Fire Department. Notices will be provided by the Board of Elections. All interested parties and invited to attend to fill seats of Mayor and two Trustees.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Historical building owned by the Village will get the green light to order a furnace in the amount of \$7,000.00, propane. Preservation is key. The Festival houses items in the basement for now and historical documents are stored in the basement in the winter. Mayor Michael Hammond noted a budget amendment will be needed when the time comes to pay. All board members in full agreement that the heating system is needed.

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

6:54 p.m. went into Executive Session upon motion of Trustee Jolene LaSieg
Seconded By Trustee Charles Fifield Vote unanimous
For the purpose of personal Code Enforcement Officer

7:10 p.m. Came out of Executive Session by motion of Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

7:11 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk