

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**July 11th, 2022**  
**6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting**

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustees Connie McAllister, Stacy Gushea and Jolene LaSeige, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Bob Poor, Ernie Swartsfigure, Ralph Hammond and Tom Grazer.

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader and Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Superintendent Mark Basford and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

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 Connie McAllister and Jolene LaSeige

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Jolen LaSeige                      Vote: unanimous

Trustee Jolene LaSeige asked Clerk Lisa Hammond to compare National Grid bills to previous years to see if they went down due to the new LED lights installed.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 6, 2022 regular meeting were approved

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea                      Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: A written report was received. Mayor Michael Hammond read Basfords report aloud. For the record Basford is still working on sand removal and getting a price to replace.

28 Hours reported by Basford for May and 34 Hours reported for Jared Murray

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

Discussion was held on Corning usage, with expansions and added facilities. Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that she and assistant Becky Donnelly along with Mayor Michael Hammond to have Corning on their radar and it is moving closer to the top of the to-do list. Clerk Hammond noted an in person meeting with Corning officials is in the plan.

b. Code Enforcement Report:

A written report was received. Mayor Michael Hammond read Tuttle's report aloud. For the record Tim Tuttle 6 permits have been issued this year to date. A letter was received from Attorney Henry Leader highlighting recent violation activity at the local court level.

Discussion was held on the recent Apartment Building Fire on Main Street owned by Anhminh Reynolds. Tuttle stated that Atlantic testing has not forwarded him any correspondences on the property, that it can't be tested. Tuttle stated he has put pressure on Atlantic Testing and expects something soon.

Trustess Jolene LaSeige expressed concern that matters are not being fully resolved and that matters are taking too long to get resolved. Mayor Hammond encouraged board members to reach out to Tuttle about these matters. Mayor Hammond also reminded board members that an executive session can be added for further discussion if they wish to do so.

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that tax collection has gone well. To date the Village has collected 77 percent of taxes due. Hammond paid the sewer relieves back to the sewer account. Hammond read a thank you note that was received from past Clerk Esther Gushea's family.

Clerk Lisa Hammond shared a letter from Riverhouse Wares about pieces of Sandstone that the Village was interested in purchasing for the purpose of placing them in Pioneer Park and adding plaques to honor past residents. After discussion it was decided to purchase four from Riverhouse Wares, with the Hartmans donating one in honor of past Clerk Esther Gushea. Total cost \$120. Hartman's are the owners of Riverhouse Wares. Motion was made by Trustee Connie McAllister and seconded

by Trustee Stacy Guhea. All in favor

Motion to accept Clerk Hammonds report as follows

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

Clerk Hammond added that NYMIR will be coming to do an inspection of the Sewer Plant and the Village Office tomorrow July 12, 2022

d. Mayor's Report:,

Mayor Hammond reported that the flags have been put up. New tables have been purchased. Hammond and Laura Bomyea have been working on the grant for the playground.

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - Mayor Hammond reported that TTS tree service out of Canton is coming tomorrow July 12, 2022 to do the prior approved tree removal and stumping in the amount of \$3,100.00. Mayor Hammond asked that this be part of the record, due to emailing the information. Mayor Hammond spoke with Scott Rivers about the removal of trees at his property and he is all good with it. Hammond noted he still would like to see a couple red maple trees placed in the Village and maybe a couple crabapple trees.

Discussion was held on where to purchase them.

*Falls Fest* - Michael Hammond gave a brief update along with Connie McAllister. Big wheels have been purchased. Jolene LaSiege wants to reach out to the automobile business to sponsor. Bri Backus has offered to take over t-shirt sales. Michael Hammond noted the appreciation for the newspapers covering the upcoming events in Rensselaer Falls

Motion to accept committee reports made by:  
Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea

## 5. New Business:

### A. Concessions Shed:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported that prior approval was given in the amount of \$1,500.00, but now the shed has morphed into more than just a storage shed. The shed will service as concessions also and be used for multiple purposes. The shed is larger than the original proposed shed. Hammond asked for an additional 3,500.00. Discussion was held. Money to come from Recreation.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Connie McAllister  
Vote: unanimous

### B. Library Lease:

Mayor Michael Hammond went over the lease agreement provided to the board members prior to the meeting. Discussion was held. Approval was given for Mayor Hammond to sign the lease.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea  
Vote: unanimous

### C. Library Letter:

Mayor Michael Hammond went over the letter of support for the Canton Free Library Board's application to the NYS Public Library Construction Grant provided to the board members prior to the meeting. Discussion was held.

Demolition can begin in the basement. There is no need for prints or an engineer to start this portion.

Clerk Lisa Hammond will contact Atlantic Testing to look at the mold in the basement for an estimate. Hammond will then follow up with the Village's insurance company to see what would be covered.

Approval was given for Mayor Hammond to sign the letter.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea

Vote: unanimous

D. Electrical Work:

Mayor Michael Hammond met with Richard Chase about upcoming electrical work that will be done at the Library building. Hammond also reminded the board that the already purchased speed sign will be going up on CR 14 coming into the Village with the help of Chase and Steve Hammond. Food truck electrical upgrade will be installed. This universal upgrade is greatly needed. Electrical work will be conducted in the park.

Richard Chase will be conducting the electrical work at the Library. Mayor Hammond stated that he's given updates at this point and will be coming back to the board for motions as the larger electrical projects unfold.

E. Sidewalk Estimate:

Mayor Michael Hammond met with a private contractor about the 430 ft of sidewalk on Congress Street. Hammond noted that tomorrow July 12, 2022 he will meet with a second contractor to have two estimates to present to the board members.

6. Updates

A. Town of Canton Highway Projects:

Mayor Hammond noted that the MOU was signed with a change of being billed after each individual project to reflect current gas prices. Discussion was held again on the Town of Canton charging the Village Tax payers for work done. Trustee Stacy Gushea asked the question. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he and Trustee Charles Fifield met with Town Of Canton Officials a few years back and Hammond feels that the Town is billing the Village of Rensselaer Falls for what they consider to be legal and ethical. Hammond noted that is why some private contractors are giving estimates. The Village has millings and soil to be used at some of the upcoming projects. This is cost saving.

B. Library & Village Office Space:

See above discussions

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

Discussion was held on purchasing a trailer for multi purpose use to haul brush, mower, tables, etc. Discussion was held on Clerk Lisa Hammond checking into a gas card for use by employees. Employees are currently getting reimbursed at a later date and or using the Village Credit Card. Hammond will check with other municipalities.

Motion to purchase trailer was made by: Stacy Gushea, seconded by Connie McAllister.

Mayor Michael Hammond added Executive Session for the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. Hammond noted that a correspondence was received just before the meeting tonight.

6:54 p.m. Motion to go into executive session made by Trustee Connie McAllister

Seconded: Jolene LaSeige

Vote: unanimous

7:05 p.m Motion to come out of executive session maded by Trustee Stacy Gushea

Seconded: Connie McAllister

Vote: unanimous

Motion to closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Jolene LaSeige

Seconded: Connie McAllister

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond

Village Clerk