

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Regular Meeting Minutes

July 12th, 2021

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Mark Bomyea, Rick Bomyea, Esther Gushea

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

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

Addition to the Agenda

Mayor Michael Hammond added St. Lawrence County Risk Manager Jody Wenzel to the agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations:

Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Stacy Gushea and Connie McAllister

Motion: Jolene LaSiege      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 7th, 2021 were approved

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Written report was received.

Mayor Michael Hammond read the Sewer report aloud. Discussion was held on Outside users and the Corning Plant. Attorney Henry Leader will be asked to check

into these two matters and possibly have discussion on revamping these current contracts as they are from 1999. Concern was expressed that Corning is constantly expanding with employees but the quarterly billing has not increased. Discussion was held on the tractor at the Sewer Plant and the possibility of putting it up for sale/bid. Discussed later in the agenda. Mayor Hammond noted that Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield is not present so therefore no decisions will be made.

Motion: Connie McAlliser                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report: Written receipt was received.

Tuttle went over his report. Tuttle noted that two items were off the list and taken care of. Tuttle has been in contact with the Attorney for the Village on a particular matter. The Village Board members gave Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle approval to have a contractor Middlemiss Trucking clean up the property at whatever cost with a \$100.00 deposit, plus tipping fees and this will be reimbursed by the resident. Tuttle to communicate with the Contractor and the homeowner with the guidance of the Village Attorney. Board members also gave approval for Attorney Henry Leader to send letters to three home owners in the Village about violations at their properties by Certified mail.

Both motions were approved as follows

Motion: Jolene LaSiegue                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he was contacted by a resident about the recently burnt house of Robert Eatons on Front Street and a garbage issue at Kevin Reynolds rentals. Hammond noted that he has been in contact with Reynolds and in good faith is trying to get matters fixed. Tim Tuttle noted a pool issue was rectified and clean up has happened at Bennetts rental.

Motion to approve report:

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collecting is going smoothly and stated due to family matters she was not in Office on one of the Wednesdays listed on the tax bill.

Mortgage check was received in the amount of \$526.00. The report was received from St. Lawrence County Self Insurance Office on the inspection done at the Sewer Plant and Village Office. Copy of the report was sent to board members via email. Clerk Hammond had the Village Board members review an error made on sewer relevy to the Tax Bill.

Motion to approve and acknowledge error made by:

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Jolene LaSiege    Vote: unanimous

Motion to approve report:

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted he has been doing alot of homework on Street projects and will be covering his monthly matters throughout the rest of the agenda.

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - none

Playground - balance in account is \$8,884.39.

Falls Festival Committee: Meeting was held prior to the Village monthly regular board meeting. Discussion was held on sponsors and raising money for the Festival

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Connie McAllister    Votenanimous

5. New Business:

a. Local ARPA Complete Submission Confirmation:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he completed the submission before the July 9th deadline of the 1.2 million Canton Town is getting; the

Village of Rensselaer Falls is supposed to receive \$31,359.00 of that. This is Stimulus money. This is based on about \$108.00 a head (Village residents) Mayor Hammond noted that he worked with Karen Clary to complete this task. A brief discussion was held on what the money can be used for.

b. Village Tractor BIDS:

Discussion was held on placing the Village Tractor out to bid. Mayor Hammond noted that this is just for bids. Mark Basford to write up specs on the matter and Clerk Hammond will get it to the newspaper.

Motion to put the tractor out to bid.

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

c. Part Time Maintenance Posting:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he and a volunteer have been mowing and weed eating in the Village. Hammond stated that more than just mowing needs to be done around the Village and would like to put out a posting to hire someone with skills to tackle cleanup, mowing and recreational matters in the Village. Motion was made by Trustee Jolene LaSiege to post the job and ask for help with the festival and any other activity that might take place, seconded by Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor.

6. Updates.

a. Heuvelton Street Project - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond stated that he received estimates on both the Heuvelton and W. Front Street projects outside the Town of Canton's quote. One from Matt Murdock and one from Jeff Crowbar. Both were on par to do the middle work, milling, etc. Hammond noted that the Town of Canton now is on page with doing the work and came in under what the private contractors quoted. Hammond wants to send letters out to the Contractors thanking them for their interest, but thinks the Town of Canton is the way to go due to the cost savings. Sheenans will do the milling, Town of Canton grading and excavation work, leveling and

building road up and paving with Sheenans materials.

Motion was made to approve these projects by:

Motion: Jolene LaSeige      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

b. West Front Street Project - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Same as above (item a).

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

Mayor Michael Hammond introduced Jody Wenzel from the St. Lawrence County Self Insurance Plan. Wenzel stated he covers workmen's compensation plans and is here to help. Wenzel handles safety and compliance issues with the surrounding municipalities. Wenzel will be coming out to the Village of Rensselaer Falls to check on safety issues and compliance issues handed down from OSHA. After Wenzel completes his audit he will send a written report with issues found and recommendations for compliance. Fire Department member Mark Bomyea asked about changes to the forms for workmans comp and a brief discussion was held with Wenzel. Bomyea will meet with Wenzel to go over the Fire Department Audit. The Fire Department will be holding a chicken bbq on fathers day June 20. Ron Stiles expressed his concerns over the new sidewalk on Canton Street being hit by the snow plow. A brief discussion was held with Steven Smith on marking it before winter. Mayor Hammond noted this is one of the problems with being disconnected from the Town of Canton adding that he hopes that this changes in the near future.

6:58 p.m Motion:Trustee Connie McAllister      Seconded: Trustee Charles Fifield      Vote: unanimous to close the meeting.

Motion: Charles Fifield      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk