

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Regular Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2018  
(6:00 P.M.)

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Member's, and Stacy Gushea and Charles Fifield, Connie McAllister

Also in Attendance: Sewer Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Esther Gushea, Clerk Treasurer/Deputy Lisa Hammond, Kyle Hartman, Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Brandon Kelly, Mark Bomyea, James Blackburn, Dallas Denny, Ernie Swartfigure, Ron Stiles, John Charmella and Shawn Delorme Jr.

Absent: Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, and Village Attorney Henry Leader and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.
2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of June 4, 2018 Regular Board meeting were approved:

Motion: Charles Fifield      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

3. Appropriations:

- a. General: \$24,169.83
- b. Sewer: \$2,832.23

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Charles Fifield      Vote: unanimous

4. Department Head Reports:

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford gave a written report. Mayor Hammond read Basford's report aloud. Basford is looking for an electrician to work on the lift station on West Front Street. All is well at the Sewer plant.

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Tim Tuttle gave a verbal report by phone to Mayor Hammond. Hammond stated that the court proceedings on a couple properties are moving forward and making progress with the next court date in August.

Motion: Charles Fifield    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond stated that she contacted Gray and Gray on filing the annual updated document.

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report: Mayor Hammond gave a verbal report. Mayors dinner was well attended at the Club on June 7th with a brief presentation on Workmans Comp. Discussion was held on the over billing by the County to the Village of Rensselaer Falls and the importance of having it currently paid to be covered. The Village of Rensselaer Falls will have a seven year credit when the bill is paid.

Motion: Charles Fifield    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

- e. Grant Writer: Mayor Hammond added that he is continued contact with Laura Bomyea and things are moving as expected.

Motion: Charles Fifield    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

- f. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - None

*Playground* - None

*Fall Festival* - Mayor Hammond to put out on facebook to committee members possible meeting dates.

Motion: Charles Fifield    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

## 5. Updates:

- a. RF Municipal Building - Laura Bomyea - Rob Burnett and Blue Line Engineering: Mayor Hammond reported that he talked to Blue Line Engineering on a phone conference call. Blue Line didn't feel there was a grant purpose for the Villages Sewer Plant and they will give Laura Bomyea the figures for working with us.
- b. Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Hammond stated that the Comp Plan will be coming to an end in November, with one more public session to be held. Hammond stated that he and Karin Blackburn have been attending meetings for over a year. Hammond added that there is three components to this grant with the Town of Canton. The NYS grant was applied for a secured by the Town of Canton, the three components are the Oswegatchie Blue Way Trail Plan, a marketing plan for the Grasse River and third piece is the Comprehensive Plan. The money that the Village decides to contribute to the grant is for just the comprehensive plan portion. The Blue Way and Oswatchie will be a whole other portion to be dealt with down the road. Hammond added that this document (the comp plan) is very important and would cost a lot more for each municipality to do this on their own. There is nothing in writing that says the Village of Rensselaer has to contribute, but this is a document that will be very beneficial to us. In ending Hammond said there was discussion on basing the Village of Rensselaer Falls contribution based on our assessed value. Canton Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley was present and stated that this grant was not budgeted for by the past Town Board. Ashley stated that anything that both Villages in the Township can contribute would be appreciated. Mayor Hammond agreed that the Village of Rensselaer Falls stands to benefit from this comp plan and is waiting to see how Rensselaer Falls will be represented in the document. Hammond wants to see what recommendations are brought forward in the document. After discussion this matter was tabled
- c. Mayor Dinner - Reported during Mayors report
- d. Summer Work - Discussion was held

## 6. New Business:

- a. EMT Request:  
Shawn Delorme Jr was present with EMT member James Blackburn requesting to be accepted as Reque Diver for Rensselaer Falls reque. Application was reviewed

and accepted.

Motion: Charles Fifield      Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

Members of the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department were present and discussed the \$50,000 grant that they were awarded to purchase a \$232,000 fire truck. The members asked the Village Board to consider helping fund a portion of the remaining funds. Discussion was held and the matter was tabled. Mayor Hammond noted how important applying and receiving grants are and that the fire department was awarded this opportunity. Brandon Kelly asked for any assistance the Village can give. Kelly feels like its an investment for the Village. James Blackburn talked about the pumping stations that are going to be installed on the island for the fire department to use to pump water faster. Mayor Hammond stated that between the request by the Fire Department for monies and the newly added contribution to the Retirement System may be a call for a budget amendment. Dallas Denny stated that the Fire Department is going to do a fundraiser Chicken BBQ for the Falls Festival to raise money. Trustee Charles Fifield suggested increasing the Fire Department budget by \$2,000. This matter to be presented at a possible special meeting.

b. Your Speed is Solar Signs:

Discussion was held on purchasing a solar “Your Speed Signs” for as you enter the Village limits. Clerk Hammond will contact other municipalities for pricing. Board members were in agreement to get prices and stay within a cap of \$5,000.

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Charles Fifield      Vote: unanimous

c. Apex Solar Discussion:

John Charamella of Apex Solar was present and gave a presentation on community solar. Questions and answers were received and discussed on the benefits of solar.

Mayor Hammond and Charamella met before the regular board meeting and discussed the possibility of including the sewer plant in the estimate.

Charamellas stated that the Village would need at least a 21,000 watt system. The board members thanked Charamella for his time and tabled this matter.

Canton Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley was present and added that the Town was holding a Public Hearing on July 11 @ 5:45 p.m. for a proposed moratorium on community solar.

- d. Drainage Committee: Drainage problems in the Village were discussed. Mayor Hammond stated that drainage will be addressed in the near future and that the Highway Superintendent will be riding around the streets with him to identify issues that can fit into his summer projects schedule. Hammond added that starting at the cemetery area and moving toward the store on State St is his recommendation. Kyle Hartman stated that there is a broken tree in the cemetery that need to be addressed and requested the wood be left. Hartman added a hanging tree on CR 15 near Marian Barrs should be addressed.

- e. Addition to agenda: Ogdensburg Support Letter request:

Mayor Hammond went over request for a letter of support for Ogdensburg Wastewater treatment plant, in support of their project to house sludge.

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

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

7:48 p.m. Meeting adjourned

Motion: Connie McAllister      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond  
Village Clerk