

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Regular Meeting Minutes

June 7th, 2021

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Trustee Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Joe and Diane Wilcox, Dallas and Natalie Denny, Jim Gibson, Steven Smith, Clavin Rose, Mark Bomyea, Stacy Gushea

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader and Trustee Jolene LaSieve

6:01 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 Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Trustee Connie McAllister

Motion: Charles Fifield          Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of May 3rd, 2021 were approved

Motion: Charles Fifield          Seconded: Connie McAllister      Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Written report was received.

West Front Street had some issues of clogging. Sand bed test results came back and DEC is looking over those. Discussion was held on replacing the lawn mower and

possibly the tractor. After discussion it was decided to get a 2nd quote. Basford noted that it will cost about \$700.00 to paint each lift station and should do one a year. Board members in agreement that they wanted a full board to make a decision on any purchase. Basford will give updates on all matters discussed at July's board meeting.

Motion: Connie McAlliser                      Seconded: Charles Fifield                      Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report: Written receipt was received.

Tuttle went over his report. Tuttle had a to-do list and went over with the board members and stated he would be working on it more diligently. Discussion was held on Tuttle spearheading clean up matters. Tuttle admitted he has been a little lax and will catch up on it.

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Fifield                      Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that \$3,906.70 have been collected to date. Clerk will be available each Wednesday at the Village Office to collect taxes. Hammond reported that residents are using the newly installed dropbox.

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Fifield                      Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond reminded everyone present of the Fires upcoming bbq on fathers day. Falls Festival fundraiser will be held on June 18th, 5-11 p.m. with live entertainment, games and food available. June 13th there will be a color run held to raise money to refurbish the fire truck.

Hammond reported that the Mayors dinner held at the Village of Rensselaer Falls Fire Department was well attended with Brooke Rouse as the guest speaker from the St. Lawrence County Chamber about their three new websites.

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Connie McAllister                      Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - none

Playground - balance in account is \$6,177.94. Committee member Connie McAllister stated that they are looking for a laborer to put up Basketball net at the basketball court and install a ball toss game at the playground. McAllister will reach out to Grant Backus to find out if he would do this labor.

Falls Festival Committee: Meeting - see Mayors report above.

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Charles Fifeild    Vote: unanimous

#### 5. New Business:

a. New Member Fire & Rescue:

Joe Wilcox was present with the appropriate paperwork, which was reviewed by the Village Board members. Mayor Michael Hammond stated application was reviewed and Wilcox has completed his physical. Motion was made by Trustee Connie McAllister and seconded by Trustee Charles Fifeild to accept Joe Wilcox as a new member to the Villages Fire and Rescue team. All voted in favor

b. Resignation of Board Member:

Acknowledgement was made in the resignation of Trustee James Blackburn after an official letter was received with effective date. Blackburn has taken on the role of second assistant chief for the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department.

c. Consideration of Board Member:

Past board member Stacy Gushea was present with a desire to rejoin the Village board. Approval was made upon motion

Motion: Connie McAlliser    Seconded: Charles Fifeild    Vote: unanimous

d. Waddington Bassmasters:

A letter was received from North Country Events asking for a donation

from the Village. A brief discussion was held and approval was given to send \$100.00

Motion: Charles Fifeld    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

## 6. Updates.

### a. Heuvelton Street Project - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond stated that he presented the board members on the project. To date the board members have three quotes. Discussion was held at length. Mayor Hammond stressed how important it is to have a shared service agreement with the Town of Canton. Mayor Hammond noted that Attorney Henry Leader is going to work on a rough draft. Mark Bomyea from the Fire Department noted how the Town of Canton has hurt their department financially by no longer servicing their trucks. The raise the Town gave the Fire Department does not cover the cost of losing the servicing of their trucks.

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

Same as above (item a).

### d. Pioneer Park Projects - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that Ernie Swartsfigure has been watering the project. Hammond had discussion with contractor about the sidewalk about placing a marker. Tradesman placed the wire for the Village at no cost. SH Electric installed new services at no cost.

### e. County Hazard Mitigation Committee:

Mayor Hammond noted a zoom meeting was held. A areas of concern were talked about specifically within and around Rensselaer Fall. Fire Department representation and Mr. Basford was available for the conversations with county consultants. Storm water issues were discussed. CR 15 overgrowth was discussed.

## 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.

7:05 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