

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Budget Hearing and
Regular Meeting Minutes by Zoom
June 8, 2020
(6:00 P.M.)

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee's, Jolene LaSiegge and James Blackburn by Zoom

Trustee Connie McAllister was present by cell phone placed on speaker.

Also in Attendance: Clerk Treasurer Lisa Hammond, Mark Bomyea, Brandon Kelley, John & Bonnie Danis, , Adam Akinson from North Country Now, Rick Powell and Renee Stiles

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

6:00 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the regular meeting and read over the rules and procedures of conducting a zoom meeting.

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations approved:

General and Sewer

Motion: Trustee Charles Fifield Seconded: Trustee Jolene LaSiegge Vote: animous

Trustee James Blackburn requested that the bill from Crobar's show details. Mayor Hammond stated that he has that and will forward to board members for approval. Clerk Hammond will attach such detail to the invoice. This scope of work will be helpful moving forward for history purposes.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of May 4, 2020 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Hammond reported on Mark Basford's verbal report, all at the Sewer Plant are good. Basford is still researching generators and requesting more time to do this. DANC has been working with Basford on GPSing and mapping. Hammond noted that Basford is looking into an upgrade on the Sewer lawnmower. Trustee James Blackburn noted that the mower was a discussion for next year's budget.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle was present and gave a verbal report. Currently working on four permits at this time. Discussion was held on previous and past code issues. Tuttle will stay updated as to when the courts will open back up and work with Attorney Henry Leader. A brief discussion was held on farm animals in the Village. Trustee James Blackburn requested this be looked into. Tuttle will look into this matter and check into other requests from board members, covering the whole Village.

Motion Trustee Connie McAllister Seconded Trustee James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Hammond reported that the yearly payment is due on the Sewer Plant payment in the amount of \$4,060.25 to the USDA and asked for approval to pay this amount. Discussion was held on when payment was made to the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. This payment will be paid at the July meeting.

Clerk Hammond added that taxes are coming in nicely. Hammond noted that she holds tax collection hours on Wednesdays during the month of June. Trustee James Blackburn asked Clerk Hammond about office hours and brief discussion was held. Mayor Michael Hammond discussed Karen Clary working on the budget items that are being broken down into different categories. Clerk Hammond noted that she feels the budget breakdown is moving in the right direction and has taken on good changes in the last year. Discussion was held on fire tax.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that things are going well and his report is covered in the agenda.

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - National Grid very helpful. Mayor Hammond to call them back
Playground - Trustee McAllister asked about Jerry Godwin doing some projects.
Falls Festival - Mayor Hammond stated that the committee will meet and decide on canceling the festival.

Clerk Lisa Hammond will share Playground bank statements with all board members going forward.

Motion to approve all Committee reports: Trustee James Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Voted unanimous

6. New Business:

a. Junior Firefighter Request Discussion and possible Approval:

Derek Wainwright phoned in and discussion was held on the fact that Wainwright was approved at the May meeting. Clerk Hammond to check minutes on this matter.

b. Efficiency Grant Resolution Discussion and possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond shared and read over the resolution of mapping of the infrastructure. This is a second grant opportunity. Mayor Hammond will get in contact with the DANC representative and report back at the July meeting.

c. King Street Tree Request Discussion and possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond spoke with Mr. Powell of King Street and he has requested the two trees in front of his home to be removed due to safety hazard. Board members are in support of this. Hammond to get with National Grid to see if they qualify. If not Hammond will reach out another tree removal company.

d. Sewer Generator Discussion:

Discussion held during Sewer report.

e. Historical Society Request Discussion and possible Approval:

Historical members want to paint their building which is now Village owned. The Historical has applied for a grant through the Canton Community Fund. The Historical association is going to spend \$16,000.00 out of their fund and have the building painting and is hoping for grant money. They are asking the Village to help with heating bills during the winter months at an average cost of \$600.00 to \$900.00 a season. After discussion was held it was decided to help with heating the building. All members in agreement. The LaSiege family donated an original cabinet from the Wainwrights Store to the Historical Association. It was noted that the Historical members were delighted.

f. Falls Festival Discussion:

Mayor Hammond will report back and put on July's agenda.

Trustee Charles Ffiled noted that fundraisers have not been held and it should probably be canceled. Trustee James Blackburn noted that most all Fire Departments have canceled events. Discussion was held on the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department discussion of a possible BBQ.

Mayor Michael Hammond asked Clerk Hammond to check into insurance reimbursement if the festival is not held.

Mayor Hammond stated he may ask Matt Denner to come over to Julys meeting.

6. Updates:

a. Summer Street Projects:

Mayor Hammond stated he's just waiting to get together with Terry Billings, Highway Superintendent about projects. A resident on Rensselaer Street has requested that a section of her driveway that came out during the sidewalk project be replaced. Hammond to talk with Billings about fixing this problem. Two paving jobs were suggested on Birch and Elizabeth.

b. Sewer Issue off King/Congress:

Mayor Hammond noted the good job done by Crobars and how well the grass is growing.

c. National Grid Tree Work: Discussion was held on various trees that need to come down. Mayor Hammond to talk with National Grid.

d. Congress Street Project:

Mayor Hamond stated that Matt Murdock did a great job on Congress Street.

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

Mayor Hammond noted that the July meeting may be held at the Fire Station.

7:20 p.m. adjourned

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk