

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustee Connie McAllister,, Trustee Samatha Booth, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford and Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Shirley and Nicholas Calton, Donald Sadik

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader, Code Enforcement Officer Grant Backus

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

Addition to the Agenda: Executive session at the end of the meeting for the matter of Personal; Code Enforcement.

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Jolene LaSeige

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of January 8th, 2024 and February 12th, 2024 were approved

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford stated that he had previously stated that the sand had passed the test, but now says that DEC picked up on something in the sand that's not good. Another sample is going to be taken and tested. Basford has a contact for sand that is tested before it's delivered. Basford will keep the board updated to the cost. Discussion was held on the Town of Canton possibly hauling for the Sewer Plant. Mayor Hammond noted he will ask the Highway Superintendent about it. A brief discussion was held on taking Corning to our Sewer Plant and having it be part of the

ongoing feasibility study. Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that Corning is still behind on payments. Basford was given previous approval to purchase a new flow meter which measures everything that goes out, in May of 2024 to be paid for in the new budget 24-25 year.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

31 Hours reported by Basford for and 28 Hours reported for Jared Murray for the Month of February

b. Code Enforcement Report: Tabled

c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she assisted the Fire Department in obtaining their Bell Jar License. Hammond and Becky Donnelly have been working on the Budget for 24-25 with Mayor Hammond. The AFR "Annual Financial Report" was submitted and certified by the State on 3-8-2024, bringing the Village current on AFR reporting. Clerk Hammond expressed her gratitude to Donnelly. Clerk Hammond sent the Canton Library receipts for reimbursement of materials and labor to be paid by grant monies. Hammond noted that the Library committee is meeting every other Monday on the proposed addition to the Village/Library building. An open house of the Library/Village building is planned for April 18th, 2024 (5:30-7:30).

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he attended the Mayors meeting held jointly with Town Supervisors at SUNY Canton. The meeting was not well attended, therefore not much to pass on to the Board. Madrid will host the next dinner. SUNY Canton Officials talked about microcredential courses offered.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Mayor Michael Hammond noted he will talk with Ralph Hammond and Bob Poor about getting some shade trees purchased and planted for fall.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Mayor Hammond stated a Falls Fest

Committee meeting will be held after the Village meeting tonight.

Motion to approve reports

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: Unanimous

5. New Business:

a. Budget Update - Discussion

Mayor Michael Hammond went over the changes to the Sewer Budget, highlighting Basfords requests. An increase in salary for the Sewer employees has been proposed.

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he has met with Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield on budget matters and discussion was held. Also held discussions with Becky Donnley, Clerk Lisa Hammond and Mark Basford regarding the proposed 24-25 budget. Hammond noted that budget work sessions can be held in small groups, large groups, etc. Hammond noted over the last several years this has been done in all of these ways. Hammond stated that the Fire Department asked when budget discussion was going to be held and he informed them that it would be tonight 3-11-2024 at our regularly held monthly meeting and invited them to attend. Mayor Michael Hammond asked board members where they would like to pay for the new furnace at the Historical building out of the budget. Recreation has some money left and contingency - discussion was held emergency preparedness monies, streets and sidewalks are under to date. Historical decrease in budget was discussed due to taking on the lights, insurance and heat bills at the Historical building. The Village board feels the decrease is justified with the stipulation that if the Historical is in need of assistance that the Village Board members would consider helping fund their need. Mayor Michael Hammond held discussions with Shelly Sanderson, secretary/member of the Historical association and she was in agreement with seed money and spoke of upcoming fundraisers that are planned to raise money. Mayor Hammond and board members went through the line items on the budget and discussions were held. Hammond noted that the tentative changes will be made from the changes discussed tonight. A Public Hearing is set for April 15th, 2024 at 5:45 on the Proposed 2024-2025 Village Budget.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that at the April 15th, 2024 regular board meeting if the budget is not passed, an additional meeting would be held before the end of April.

- a. Fireman’s Banquet: Mayor Michael Hammond reminded the board to RSVP to the Fire Department. After discussion it was determined that all board members and the Village Clerk will attend the banquet.
- b. Solar Eclipse: Mayor Hammond noted that the April board meeting will be moved to the 15th of April due to the Solar Eclipse on the 8th of April.

6. Updates:

- a. Library Project: 1st Grant was \$50,000.00 to demo the basement stated Mayor Hammond, along with cleaning out the upstairs of dated furniture. There is still money left to update lights and exit signs. \$400,000.00 was just awarded from the local efficiency grant funding to do an addition and upgrades to the existing building. Mayor Hammond gave the Canton Library folks a big thank you.
- b. Corning Sewer Project: Tabled due to waiting on Ogdensburg.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

A brief discussion was held on removing the basketball court and placing it at the Playground. Jolene LaSeige would like to see something done at the Playground before removing the basketball court.

Nick Calton stated that he will meet with Jeff Crobar about installing guardrails in the Village. Mayor Hammond thanks Nick for helping out in this matter.

7:00 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

7:01 p.m. Motion to enter into executive session

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

7:15 p.m. Motion to come out of executive session

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

7:16 Motion to close regular monthly meeting with no action taken in executive session

Motion: Jolene LaSeige

Seconded: Connie McAllister

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk