

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Special Meeting Minutes
March 4th, 2022
2:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Stacy Gushea by phone, and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

Absent: Trustees Connie McAllister, Attorney Henry Leader, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege

2:30 p.m. Mayor Michael Hammond opened the Special meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance:

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all

2. New Business:

a. Building Report:

Discussion and updates were given about Kevin Reynold apartment building located on Rensselaer Street that recently burnt. The property is owned by Anhminh Reynolds, Kevin's wife. Mayor Michael Hammond reported that he received an email from Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle stating that wants approval to send a notice of violation and a notice of condemnation to Reynolds. Tim Tuttle states that Attorney Henry Leader in referring to Local Law 1-2007 for this particular problem of cleanup and noted that he somewhat agrees with him. Tuttle added that he wants to stay with the letter of the law because he is fairly certain that this matter will make its way to the supreme court. Tuttle said the first order of business was for him to turn over a report to Village officials that this building is a hazard, in exchange the board members would approve the notice of violation. The owner then has a certain time frame to comply in which is written out in the local law provided to board members from Tuttle. Tuttle said he has spoken with Reynolds, Kevin almost everyday and he is getting quotes from contractors.

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that detour signs and road closure signs are coming in today. Road and tree damage are noticeable in the Village due to the change in traffic patterns. Tuttle noted that the owner is being sincere about cleanup. The owner's payout has been granted. Owner did not have clean up insurance. This building will have

to be hauled away per conversation with a specialist head investigator asbestos division stated Tuttle. Residential properties can be buried on site even if they have asbestos. Tuttle has made a call to the Department of Labor to ask questions about this matter as residents were living in this structure on behalf of Reynolds and has not heard back.

Mayor Michael Hammond asked Tuttle if there was truth to the fact that if a building is so dangerous and hazardous that it does not have to be tested. Tuttle answered with absolutely not, once the building was taken down it was no longer a hazard.

Mayor Hammond noted for the record that the owners are going to be going out of the country.

The Code Enforcement Officer asked the board members to put thought into what if: Reynolds takes the building down and the matter has to go through an actual asbestos company. A certified company that could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Mayor Michael Hammond asked if condemning the building would make a difference if hauling to Redmond? Tuttle stated he didn't think that would make a difference.

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the snowmobile trail will not be closed in this area of the fire; it is far enough back.

Tuttle will get paperwork to the Attorney to file with St. Lawrence County on the notices for Reynolds property.

Motion to allow Tuttle to file notices

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Voted: unanimous

b. Local Laws:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that 3 local laws in past years that were passed at Public Hearing had not been filed properly with the State of New York. The local laws have been re-dated to be filed by the Attorney Leader.

Clerk residency passed in 2021 #1

Ethics Policy passed in 2021 #2

Amendment to 2007 Local Law #1 provided repair and removal of an unsafe building - Mayor Hammond read aloud amendments for Tim Tuttle Code Enforcement Officer. Tuttle asked for a copy so he could speak with the Village Attorney.

These Local Laws will now be 2022 Laws filed at the State. Mayor Hammond stated for the record that these laws were voted on by the Village Board at a Public Hearing.

Motion to approve Attorney Henry Leader file the above three Local Laws with the State of New York

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

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

3:01 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk