

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Budget Hearing and
Regular Meeting Minutes by Zoom
June 4, 2020
(6:00 P.M.)

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

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

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

Absent: Village Attorney Henry Leader and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

1. :

5:45 p.m.to Trustee James Blackburn made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2020-2021 Budget, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister.

There were no questions from the general public present at the Public Hearing. Mayor Hammond noted a couple highlights of the budget.

6:00 p.m. motion by Trustee Connie McAllister to close the Public Hearing on the 20-21 Budget, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor, motion carries.

Roll Call approval in favor of 2020-2021 budget

Trustee Charles Fifield

Trustee Jolene LaSiege

Trustee Connie McAllister

Trustee James Blackburn

Mayor Michael Hammond

6:01 Mayor Michael Hammond opened the regular meeting and read over the rules and procedures of conducting a zoom meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

3. Appropriations approved:

General and Sewer

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

4. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of April 6, 2020 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

5. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report:

Mark Basford reported that all the flows at the Sewer Plant are good.
Basford will be in need of an electrician at the plant and will reach out to someone.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle submitted a written report.

Motion Trustee Charles Fified Seconded Trustee Connie McAllister.
All voted in favor. Motion carries.

c. Clerk's Report

Clerk Hammond reported that the Village received a reimbursement check from National Grid for updating the street lights in the amount of \$3,380.00.
Sewer bills have been mailed out and relevies sent to the County.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond discussed the little libraries that have now become food pantries due to the COVID19 virus. Hammond thanked everyone that has donated to the cause.

Motion to accept Mayors report by Trustee James Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground - Jerry Godwin to put equipment up

Falls Festival - Discussion was held on t-shirt sales

Motion to approve all Committee reports Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. All voted in favor, motion carries.

6. New Business:

a. Congress Street Project:

Discussion was held on a proposal on Congress Street ditching from Matt Murdock including cleaning up the dump by pushing it up and piling it up. This work was put out for bid on the website and no one responded to it. Hammond stated he reached out to Murdock. Hammond asked for approval of the project. Trustee Charles Fified stated that ditching is a major issue in the Village and work should be done to fix matters. Trustee Jolene LaSiege stated she would like confirmation that CHIPS will reimburse us. Mayor Hammond noted these are uncertain times and added that he talked with Watertown Office about CHIPS and is waiting to hear back. Discussion was held on this matter and the fact that the money is in the budget if worse came to worse the Village should pay for it and hope that CHIPS will cover it down the road.

Mayor Hammond talked with Highway Superintendent Terry Billings about a couple pave jobs to be done this summer on Birch Street 470 ft and Elizabeth Street going from State to Congress shim and recoat. Both items qualifying for CHIPS. Hammond noted that these two streets were just a discussion with Billings, nothing in writing as of yet.

Trustee James Blackburn feels we will learn more as this COVID unfolds from the Federal level to the State level and then to us. Questions and discussion were held.

Motion by Trustee James Blackburn and seconded by Trustee Charles Fified to move forward with the project.

All voted in favor. Motion carries.

b. National Grid Tree Work:

Mayor Hammond noted that he is still working with National Grid on trees.

They are coming to West Front Street, Congress Street and then Pine tree on Cornella as of right now. More tree work to follow

c. Sewer Issue King Street/Congress Street:

Mark Basford reported on the ongoing issue at King and Congress Street. The new camera came in and Basford found that the Reynolds house to the street is laid in poor bedding and there is a lot of saggies. The grade needs to redone. There is a lot of rock. Basford got five bids from different people and they ranged in prices. Discussion was held on residents flushing, flushing wipes. Flushable wipes do not dissolve and a letter will be crafted to go out to residents. Trustee James Blackburn stated to Casey Bill that he may have to move a shed on his property and Bill was in agreement if need be. Basford stated that Kevin Reynolds is putting an addition on and wants lines moved. Both Basford and Trustee Jolene LaSiege were in agreement that this will not be the Villages responsibility. After discussion it was decided to go with Crowbar Construction.

Motion: Trustee James Blackburn Seconded: Connie McAllister

All voted in favor. Motion carries.

d. Radar Speed Sign: New sign has been installed and working great. Thanks to Richard Chase for programming and Steve Hammond for installation. Mayor Mayor Hammond is interested in how many violations occur during the next six months. Hammond wants to purchase a second battery to have on hand. Hammond noted that he has had requests on installing them at other entrances of the Village. Trustee James Blackburn noted that the signs are a deterrent, but if they are not creating revenue for the Village. Blackburn would like to hold off on purchasing anymore at this time. Casey Bill noted that Congress Street could use a sign. Trustee Jolene LaSiege added that when Fobares Fruit is in season

people really speed. Hammond reminded the board members that the sign was reimbursed by CHIPS. Trustee Charles Fified would like to see one purchased in each budget year. The sign cost about \$2,800.00 and was fully reimbursed by CHIPS.

e. Pavilion Bids:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he has done a lot of homework over the last couple years on this matter with Laura Bomyea. The bids went out and came back at \$75,000.00. Hammond stated that he feels this is an astronomical amount. Discussion was held on making this a community project. Bomyea and Hammond are applying for reimbursement for things that the Village has spent money on so far in moving forward on this grant.. HELP MICHAEL you talked about more equipment at the playground, etc. You asked them to think about this. Trustee Jolene LaSiege wants to see a pavilion and not use any money toward playground equipment. Trustee Charles Fified wants to hold off on spending the money right now. Mark Basford stated that labor rates are continuing to go up and the longer you wait the more it's going to cost.

7. Updates:

1. Spring Cleanup - Discussion held during Congress Street above. Mayor Hammond noted that the Town of Canton has been over and done a great job. The Village is very appreciative.
2. Summer Street Projects - discussed during Congress Street above Trustee Connie McAllister expressed her concern of the Town of Canton overcharging the Village for work done. A brief discussion was held
3. Sand Bed Replacement - Mark Basford reached out to the DEC about replacement of beds to discuss different options. The sand could be sold or used for other things. It has to be contained in some form. Basford suggests moving sand from one bed and placing it on another. Basford could do this himself if the right machinery was rented to save money on hiring a contractor. Basford will keep the board updated on the purchase of sand.
4. Quickbooks - Karen Clary was present and gave a brief update on cloud service through quickbooks along with Mayor Michael Hammond. The cost is about

\$250.00 but more homework needs to be done on this before any approval is needed. A brief discussion was held on Clerk Lisa Hammond and Clary sharing the laptop. Clary has been working on putting the budget in quickbooks so monthly reports can be shared with board members in the future.

5. Generator - The Generator will go up to the Fire Department and a shed will be placed on site to protect the generator. Trustee Connie McAllister wants to move a head on the transition. Trustee James Blackburn wants to check into funding. Mayor Michael Hammond asked if someone would have time to check into funding. Motion to purchase a new Miller generator in the amount of \$6,242.00 to use at the Sewer Plant. Bill to be paid in June, new budget year.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

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

7:50 p.m. adjourned

Motion: Charles Fified Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk