VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

August 10, 2026

6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Samanth Booth, Trustees Nicholas Calton, Deputy Mayor Connie McAllister, Trustee Shirley Calton, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Dulmage, James Blackburn, Kollin Wright, Bob Poor, Ralph Hammond and Emily Hastings of Canton Free Library

Absence:, and Attorney Henry Leader

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance.

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

Addition to the Agdena: New Fire Department member approval

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Shirley Calton and Deputy Mayor Connie McAllister

Motion to approve bills.

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 13th, 2026 were approved

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Sewer Superintendent was present and gave a written and verbal report. Mark Basford stated that he has started working on the last sandbed and hopes to complete the work sometime this week.

Motion to approve Basford's report made by

Trustee: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report: Code Officer Ron Dulmage was present. Dulmage reported that it was a quiet month and that he has some inspections to follow up on where permits were issued. Dulmage is anticipating hearing from Melissa Dobbs to do a walk through. Brief discussion was held between Dulmage and Micharl Hammond about a fireworks permit for the upcoming Falls Festival in September. Mayor Hammond noted that there is a trailer being removed in the Village, causing the loss on another sewer rent.

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Shirley Calton Vote: unanimous

Trustee Connie McAllister discussed a building permit for her property with Dulmage. Dulmage confirmed that his cell phone number for Village use is 315-322-8840.

c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she reported to the retirement system for the Sewer Department employees. Hammond noted a couple trips to Community Bank for the purpose of signing for CD which is on the agenda later. Clerk Hammond stated that she also has gone to Potsdam and met with accountant Margis Shermon, working on the AFR's for the State Comptroller. Both 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 reports have been filed and accepted. Shermon is now working on the 2025-2026 AFR. $18, 839.15 was received in sales tax for the 3rd Quarter. Sewer bills have been mailed out. Superior Propane and Hammond have met and finalized the changeover from Merriamans. Clerk Hammond shared the balance of the last Sewer loan from the USDA with all board members. Clerk Hammond has reached out to Witherbee and Whalen about placing the plaques on the Sandstones in the Pioneer Park.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

d. Mayors Report: Mayor Michael Hammond stated he reports throughout the meeting.

e. Committees - Falls Festival, Trees and Playground

Mayor Hammond stated there will be a meeting for the upcoming Falls Festival Committee.

5. New Business:

a. 2nd Notice fee Village Tax Bill

A $2.00 second notice fee will be placed on Tax bills.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

b. Playground Project

Mayor Hammond stated that two contractors showed interest in work at the playground. Locke Build Design is the only one that submitted a bid, who did the original work at the playground. Tyler Locke will do the sitework, ceiling, and the fence project. After discussion and reviewing of the bid it was decided to hire Locke Design.

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Shirley Calton Vote: Unanimous

c. Community Bank Sewer CD

Discussion was held on the requirement to have two names and approval for the names to provide to Community Bank. Motion was made to have Trustee Connie McAllister and Clerk Lisa Hammond be listed on the CD discussed at last month's board meeting for the sewer in the amount of $6,000.00.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

d. Fire & Rescue Contracts

Both contracts run from August 2026 to August 2027. Clerk Hammond has prepared the checks and will distribute them upon signatures. James Blackburn was present in representation of the Departments. Mayor Michael Hammond signed during the board meeting both contracts.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

6. Updates:

a. Library/Community Center Project:

Emily of Canton Library was present and spoke on the Grant process and moving forward with the next phases. Mayor Michael Hammond praised Emilty Hastings and Agnes Hoey for their diligence in the process. Hammond noted that Emily is the backbone to the paperwork and coordinating everything. Assemblyman Scott Gray and St. Lawrence County Legislature Joe Lightfoot came to the Library/Community room project last week and spent some time talking about different funding streams. Emily spoke about a local government efficiency grant. Emily is looking forward to finishing the interior of the new addition. Emily added even though we've only done the shell so far, approval has been given for the rest of the project. Solar Panels, Heatpumps, Electrical and NTC will be coming back to do the work. Hasting is submitting a Grant this week for the final stage of the project for gutting this interior, finishing the new construction and finishing the exterior. Emily asked the board members to start thinking about what this is going to look like, the final design. What does the Village want their space to look like? Emily is hoping by March of 2027 the contractors can be in the building finishing the interior, because she feels we are close to receiving that grant for the phase. This is a $300,000.00 grant and matching funds will have to be provided by the Village and Library. Emily asked the VIllage Board what a timeline would be to be able to pay.
Emily stated she is going to go to her Library Board in Canton and ask for a Bridge Loan, similar to what the Village did but for a shorter amount of time. Emily noted that the Canton Library Board is supportive of this project and they have done bridge loans before. 10 percent is what the matching funds are.
The Village of Rensselaer Falls put up $22,000.00 and will get some of that back for the first phase.
Approximately $30,000.00 will need to be approved by the Village of March of 2027, discussion was held and consideration will be given.
Emily stated any fundraising money is going to the Library Association at this time the amount is over $60,000.00 raised.
We can extend for another year without penalty on our note at Community Bank Mayor Hammond stated per his conversations with the Bank.
Successful cardboard creations were done last month at the Library with many children attending.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Kollin Wright was present and wants to be a new Fire Fighter member. James Blackburn was with him as a representative of the Fire & Rescue. Proof of physical will be provided to the Village Board when completed.

Motion for approval

Connie McAllister Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

Next Village Board meeting will be held September 14th, 2026

6:38 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded:Samanth Booth Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk