

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2020**  
**(6:00 P.M.)**

Present In Zoom: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSieve and Trustee James Blackburn and Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Ralph Hammond, Diane Wilcox, John Danis, Scott Rivers

By telephone: Trustee Connie McAllister

Absent: Trustee Connie McAllister, and Village Attorney Henry Leader

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations approved:

General and Sewer

Motion: Charles Fifield            Seconded: Trustee Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

Clerk Lisa Hammond went over the bills that were received in the mail on today's date approval was given to the Clerk to pay them along with Utility bills that have not been received yet.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of November 2, 2020 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister            Seconded: Charles Fifield            Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond welcomed both Mark Basford and Kari Tramper

from DANC. Basford stated done clononating for the year, flows are good and reporting is good. Sand replacement... The application has been sent in to see if the sand can be used as fill at the sewer plant with the DEC.

Basford added that the propane heater at the plant and is old, may need to be replaced at some point. Also the snowblower may be on it's last winter.

Kari from DANC was present to speak on cleanouts for sewer lines using GPS tracking. October 10, 2020 the project came to a close. Project included mapping of infrastructure of the Town of Madrid, Villages of Gouverneur, Rensselaer Falls and Philadelphia. DANC fully digitized the Village of Rensselaer Falls wastewater maps. It's now a living document. This can be public information if the Village wishes to, noting that Canton is going public with theirs. Kari provided the Village with its web based agreement which is a five year agreement with the first year is free as part of the New York State archives, part of the grant. 12 hours a year for help of any kind is provided. Questions and answers were exchanged. Trustee James Blackburn asked about yearly fees and termination information. Kari stated that the Village has the authority to end the agreement whenever and there will be no cost to terminate. Depending on project additions and the size of it, that will weigh in on what the costs would be in the future. Karrie will talk to her boss about future work here in the village. A decision needs to be made by the board to go into contract with DANC. If the village wants to continue hosting. Discussion was held on 3 yr contract as opposed to 5 yr agreement. Mayor Hammond will look to get board approval through email before the December board meeting. Motion contingent on response from Kari regarding the 3 or 5 year agreement.

Motion: James Blackburn    Seconded: Jolene LeSaige    Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle stated that things are going well. 1 new permit issued this month. Tuttle has a request for a variance for a driveway on State Street. Tuttle stated that he is working on a violation on King Street with a storage building issue. Attorney Henry Leader and Tuttle are meeting next Wednesday to go over the laws - Junk issues. Trustee Charles Fifield asked about parking on Village streets during the winter months and curb cuts to allow for a new driveway were discussed. Tuttle will ask the Attorney about curb cut issues. Snow plow discussion took place and who plows what portion of Main Street. Trustee James Blackburn suggested that someone get ahold of the newly appointed Highway Superintendent and the Town Supervisor about the plowing issues. Mayor Hammond stated that he had been in recent

contact with recently appointed Highway Super Mr. Calvin Rose. Mayor Hammond and Mr. Rose will be working on a plan to get West Front Street tied into Ct. Rt. 14. Mayor Hammond will reach out to Mr. Rose about plowing.

Motion: Charles Fifeil    Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: Unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she had three sets of keys made for Village buildings. Tax collection is done for this year at 85.47%. Approval to pay \$35.00 bill to James Blackburn for attendance of webinar.

Motion: Charles Fifield            Seconded: Jolene LaSeige. Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted he attended the LWRP and the Economic Development Consortium and they are looking for stakeholders. Reminder the LWRP is composed of 6 different municipalities including Rensselaer Falls. The E.D.C. is made up of stakeholders from the Colleges, Hospitals, business and others. Hammond is planning on co-hosting Mayors dinner with Canton in Canton.

Motion to approve by: Trustee Connie McAlliser, Seconded by Trustee James Blackburn. All voted in favor. Motion carries

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - None

Playground - None

Falls Festival - None

Mayor Hammond noted that there is a roundabout in the dump.

Hammond also noted that he talked to Chief Dallas Denny about burning off the dump, so hopefully it will be done soon.

5. New Business:

a. Concert in the Park Proposal:

John Danis was present and stated that he has been working with Pickins Hall in the Village of Heuvelton. Danis noted due to COVID-19 there may not be any indoor concert for a long while. Danis requested to be able to hold small concerts in the Pioneer Park in the Village of Rensselaer Falls. Danis wants to see small groups of musicians play in the park during the summer, maybe allowing the non for profits in the Village to sponsor and use as a fundraiser. Electrical work was discussed along with drainage issues in the park area. Danis noted that he could provide the PA system, microphones and set up for these types of shows. Mayor Hammond noted that the expansion of the park was for this very reason. The mayor and board will work through the winter months to make plans for a schedule of events to be hosted in pioneer park. They also thank Mr. Danis for his input and enthusiasm regarding this venture.

b. Rescue Squad Request:

James Blackburn stated that the Village trustees were sent two quotes on a new cardiac monitor for the ambulance, a life pack 15. The unit that they are using now is over 15 years old, which was purchased by fundraising and grants. This unit can no longer be serviced. These packs are what helps the squad keep their ALS status. Diane Wilcox spoke about the quotes, adding that COVID-19 has hurt their revenue. Wilcox stated that fund raising will be done in the future and asked for assistance from the Village to help purchase this monitor. Scott Rivers talked about what the monitor actually does and how important it is to have working equipment. Mayor Michael Hammond thanked the rescue squad members for all they do for the community. Trustee Connie McAllister stated that she would like to see the Village help out in some way. James Blackburn stated that they will do more fundraising and provide the community with this service, noting that monthly supplies have to be purchased and the cost keeps going up. Mayor Hammond asked James Blackburn to provide the board with some preliminary numbers for a down payment on the unit. Mayor Hammond also requested a copy of the Rescue Departments annual budget. A suggestion was made to ask the Town of Dekalb for some money because the Rensselaer Falls Rescue is in contract with a portion of Dekalb. Mayor Hammond stated he would contact someone at Dekalb to see what they could do if needed. Trustee Charles Fified suggested that other rescue squads hold chicken BBQ's, but feels that the Village should still help them out. Fified noted the drive through fundraising BBQ's. Scott Rivers said it would take a lot of BBQ's to raise \$40,000.00 and offered for Fified to come and volunteer to drive the ambulance.

Mayor Hammond stated that more discussion will be held and this matter will be placed on December's agenda under updates.

c. Santa Lighting:

Mayor Hammond stated that he is sure that Santa will be up on schedule Halloween contests are Caltons, Godwins and Wainwrights. \$5.00 Stewart cards will go to each winner. Hammond notes that he helped to raise \$345.00 on facebook to the Fire Department and Reque. Discussion was held on having a house lighting decoration contest.

6. Updates:

- a. LWRP Boundaries: Mayor Hammond reported that he has gone back and forth with the LWRP engineers regarding the boundaries. Some changes due to municipal intersections have been added or will be discussed with the committee.
- b. Economic Development Consortium: Discussed in Mayor's report

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

Discussion was held on the Planning and Zoning boards attending training in December on line. Trustee James Blackburn strongly encouraged Mayor Michael Hammond to encourage members to participate.

7:44 p.m Adjourned meeting by Motion of Trustee Jolene LaSeige, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk