

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 4, 2019**  
**(6:00 P.M.)**

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee's, Connie McAllister, Jolene LaSieve, Stacy Gushea

Also in Attendance: Clerk Treasurer Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, James Blackburn, Mark Bomyea, Kevin Townsend

Absent: Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford and Village Attorney Henry Leader

Addition to Agenda: 5:30 P.M. Kevin Townsend of Eastern Insurance was present and gave the full Board, Clerk and Mayor a presentation and training on Sexual Harassment and Workplace Violence. All board members in attendance signed completion sheet.

1. Appropriations approved:

Motion: Stacy Gushea                      Seconded: Jolene LaSieve                      Vote: animous

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of October 7, 2019 Special Joint Meeting with Canton and October 7, 2019 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Ffield                      Vote: unanimous

3. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Hammond read Basford's report.  
Basfor reported that the yearly inspection of the Plant was recently conducted and everything is good and is waiting for written report.

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle was present and gave a brief report. Tuttle inquired about the

Playground property and where Attorney Leader was in the process. Tuttle wants to plan a planning board meeting on both the Playground property transfer and Esther Gusheas Property.

Approval of accept Sewer and Code reports by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Jolene LaSiege. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond reported that American Pickers will be airing on T.V. November 11, 2019. Everything is going well with the Clerk.

Approval of Clerks report by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- d. Mayor's Report: Mayor M. Hammond reported that he will get a copy of the Comprehensive Plan printed. Discussion was held on the recommendation of a zoning audit. Hammond thinks this is a good idea and will contact Matilda at the St. Lawrence County Planning Department. Mayor Hammond added that he was able to pick up six of the eight flower barrels on Main Street and that he mowed and done odd jobs in August, September, and October after Ernie Swartsfigure stopped working part time due to health issues. Hammond reported that the Solar "Your Speed" sign installation on Heuvelton Street had started and is in hopes of that rapping up soon.

Motion to approve Mayors report by Trustee Stacy Gushea, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor, motion carries.

- e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - Mayor Hammond reported that the recent wind storm did not do a lot of damage because of the volunteer work that was recently done in the cemetery. Red St. Denny and Mayor Hammond will continue to work on tree trimming efforts.

*Fall Festival* - Committee Chair Jolene LaSiege wants to have a wrap up meeting soon. Mayor Hammond to email this to committee members. A brief discussion was held on what worked and what didn't this year.

#### 4. New Business:

- a. Firefighter New Member:

After review of Kathleen Vanette application a motion was made to accept Vanette as a new member of the Rensselaer Falls Fire Department by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Vanette has previously went through the Fire Department committee and was accepted.

b. LWRP Grant Discussion: I'm sorry Michael not sure what to say here

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that something about funds Trustee Jolene LaSiegue stated that Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated she would come up with the funds. Hammond wants to ask David Hartman if he is interested in being on this committee. LaSiegue would like to ask Ron Stiles also. It was decided that Mayor Hammond will reach out to both Hartman and Stiles. LaSiegue added that Hammond should put it out on the Villages website about needing members for this committee.

c. Economic Development Consortium:

Mayor Hammond gave a brief recount of the Economic Development Consortium and how it was formed by the former Town Supervisor and Economic Developer. Members are the Town of Canton, Village of Canton, North Country Savings Bank, St. Lawrence Health System, SUNY's and other local companies. Village of Canton Mayor Mike Dalton and Canton Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley have asked Mayor Hammond to meet with them about the Economic Development Consortium. Hammond will report back to the Village of Rensselaer Falls Board at the December regular meeting.

A brief discussion was held on applying for a grant through Canton Community Fund. Mayor Hammond stated that Shelly Sanderson will apply for funding for the Historical and then the Village can try to apply for the playground.

d. Drainage Issues: Trustee Jolene LaSiegue reported that Nadeau's are having a drainage problem at 205 Elizabeth St in the Village. The Nadeau's are asking the Village for assistance in correcting the problem. Discussion was held at length on whose responsibility it is. Mayor Hammond suggested forming a drainage committee and having that committee apply for possible grants. Hammond added

that homework has to be done and it's a real problem in the Village with many residences. Trustee Connie McAlister suggested pipe extension. Trustee LaSiege was asked by Mayor Hammond to have the homeowner write something up and submit it to the Village Board. It was decided that Connie McAllister and Charles Fifield were previously appointed to the drainage committee.

5. Updates:

a. Santa Raising (Holiday Event) Discussion:

Mayor Hammond reported that he attended the Fire Department meeting and the firemen feel that Santa should not be put up until after Thanksgiving. Trustee LaSiege noted that we are short one week this year due to the way Thanksgiving is falling late and would like to see Santa go up the weekend before. LaSiege encourage the Board to have someone else besides the Firemen put Santa up. LaSiege also stated that Jerry Godwin has offered to help decorate for the Santa raising.

b. Mayor's Association Dinner 12-5-19 Discussion:

Discussion was held on where the Mayor Dinner will be held. There was a previous discussion on the Town Supervisors meeting with the Mayors to discuss County Sales Tax.

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

Discussion was held on snow plowing bids. Mayor Hammond to take care of this.

Mark Bomyea reported that the State Labor Inspector came to the Fire Department last Monday and found no problems. A good report was given. Discussion was held on the purchase of a new generator for both the Fire Department and the Village Office to share with the Historical Building. Mark Bomyea added that the Fire Department may be asking the Village Board for help in purchasing a Generator..

7. Executive Session:

Personnel - Identified as proper by Public Officer Law Section 105(1)(F)

7:15 P.M. Trustee Connie McAllister made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Public Officers Law Section 105 (1) (F), seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

7:55 Came out of Executive Session on motion of Trustee Jolene LaSieve, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Motion to pass Salary Resolution increasing Village Clerk Lisa Hammond's salary in the general fund by \$87.50 a month by Trustee Jolene LaSieve, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Mayor Michael Hammond recused himself from voting on the matter.

8:00 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea                      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond  
Village Clerk