

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Ralph Hammond, Samantha Booth and Bri Backus

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader, Mark Basford Sewer Superintendent, Trustee Connie McAllister

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

Mayor Hammond noted that the current agenda that has been posted online has the appointment of Village Trustee for a one year term. This appointment will be filled to finish the one year left in Stacy Gushea's term. Samantha Booth has been present at meetings and has shown interest in serving this term. Mayor Hammond spoke with Trustee Connie McAllister, who is on vacation and she is good with Booth joining the board. Motion made by Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield and Mayor Michael Hammond in favor. Samatha Booth will be sworn in at the December 5th regular board meeting. Mayor Hammond encouraged Booth to invite her family to the swearing in.

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fified and Jolene LaSiege

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

Trustee Jolene LaSiege noted that there were alot of bills for the Sewer Plant this month. Clerk Lisa Hammond asked Mayor Michael Hammond to take a look at them, so that he can have a mental note of the operaterations. Mayor Hammond noted that he was aware of expenses due to lack of getting materials. Clerk Lisa Hammond stated for the record that the bill from Mark Basford at the Sewer Plant for the repairing of the camera last month that was paid, has now been voided. The check was paid to the company directly, when indeed it was paid by our Village credit card. October check now voided and now in November voucher bill will be paid to Credit Card Company.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the October 3rd regular meeting were approved upon motion.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: A written report was received by the board members and read by Mayor Hammond. Mayor Hammond noted that sand bed work has been a slow process, but is still working on it with Atlantic Testing. Basford worked 33.5 hours in October.

Trustee Jolene LaSiege noted that the costs were up for the sewer this month. Mayor Michael Hammond added that Mark Basford had previously informed the board of the matter of expense.

Motion: Charles Fified Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tuttle was present and a written report was sent by email to the board members. Tuttle stated that he has been working on prices for cleanup at the Reynolds property. Tuttle read the preliminary estimates to the board members and suggested the board consider between 50 and 70 thousand. Material has to be wet when removed. Municipalities are exempt from permit fees. Trustee LaSiege stated that the owner of Reynolds had very vulgar things to say about the Village Board, that the village called the DEC and harassed them to fine Reynolds. Code Enforcement Tim Tuttle stated that he called the DEC Officer. A Village resident also phoned the DEC Officer about the debris being moved around the Village near their well. Tuttle stated that he's bugged that a particular local law is not done and that he is waiting on Attorney Leader. The law is the backbone for Code Enforcement Officers in the municipality stating duties of what they can and can't do. Tuttle stated he is waiting for a draft form Attorney Leader. Tuttle was hoping for it for tonight's meeting. Mayor Michael Hammond noted he will ask the Attorney about the matter. Trustee LaSeige wants to see this done by the January meeting. Mayor Hammond talked with Tuttle about the Library Grant and filled him and board members in on a meeting held with River Street Planning about bigger goals. Mayor Hammond noted that the Library and or the Village can apply for Restore New York grants for blighted

buildings. Tuttle stated that the County will clean the building owned by Couglars if the Village waits for 18 months. Discussion was held on Dobbs property with no return mail received, Tuttle will go back to the matter. Trustee Jolene LaSiege asked about Eatons property and the timeline, adding that she does not see any change. Tuttle stated that the contractor is working inside the house and there is no timeline as long as the owner is making progress. Mayor Hammond asked Tuttle to work with Clerk Hammond on the demolition permit for the basement of the Library/Village Office building. Clerk Hammond noted that the dumpster arrived today before the board meeting and that she heard back from Ernie Swartsfigure and he is not feeling well and agreed with asking someone else to help with the demo. Steve Hammond and Nick Calton will start the demo as soon as possible.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond presented paper work to the board for their signatures to sign off on taxes not collected to be sent to the County for collection on the January Town and County tax bills. Trustee Jolene LaSiege asked about the amount in comparison to last year. Clerk Hammond stated that it was around a \$30.00 difference and provided LaSiege with last year's paper work. LaSiege stated she thought it was around \$11,000.00 that got sent to the County and Clerk Hammond stated that is Sewer tax that goes to County in April to go on Village Tax in June. Lasiege thanked Hammond for the clarification. Hammond added that sales tax for the fourth quarter was received in the amount of \$19,998.76. Clerk Hammond asked the board if she could void a check made out to River House Wares and rewrite it out to Sally Hartman. Hartman recently lost her husband and is having a hard time with the bank cashing River House Ware checks. All board members are in agreement to rewrite the check.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Projects and tree work are still a work in progress Mayor Hammond noted. Tree work will be around \$20,000.00 which has been pre-approved. Clerk Hammond noted November 23rd is the deadline for CHIPS this year. The Town of Canton reached out to Mayor Hammond about what the Village allocated to the Fire Department each year, along with the Rescue Squad from 2018 to present. Mayor Hammond noted that the

Town of Canton is working on the 2023 Budget with the hot topic of Fire Tax money and how the pie is split. Mayor Hammond received a phone call from a Town Councilman who wanted the Village Board and Fire Department to know that the Town of Canton is no longer paying on two trucks for the Canton Fire Department and there may be extra monies for the smaller departments. \$12,500.00 could be given to the small departments if they go to the Town and justify it. Mayor Hammond informed the Village Board that he did go to the Fire Department meeting and provided the information to them. Mayor Hammond stated for the record that the following monies that have been given to the Fire and Rescue - these figures do not include turnout gear.

2018: Fire - \$10,000 Rescue - \$5,000

2019: Fire - \$12,500 Rescue - \$6,250

2020: Fire - \$17,500 Rescue - \$8,750

2021: Fire - \$19,100 REscue - \$11,000

Mayor Hammond stated that a majority of the money that the Fire and Rescue receives from the Village is Village Tax money that is brought in through Real Property Tax dollars. Approximately \$33,400.00 was received this year in this Village Tax. Mayor Hammond has worked with Becky Donnelly and Clerk Hammond on the matter and their opinion is that this amount is not sustainable.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Nelson Tree Service has been in the Village doing a great job on trimming
Trees - Contracting with National Grid about the large maple in front of Laqueers.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee: Meeting to follow this meeting. All are welcome to attend. Christmas event to be held on December 11th - after the ladies auxiliary event at the Fire Department. A New Year's Eve celebration will be held at the Fire Department sponsored by the Festival Committee - Tickets are on sale and can be purchased from Bri Backus.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

1. Maintenance Hours:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the hours were raised to 15 for the

summer and he requested they be lowered to 10 hours a week during the winter. In case of a large snowfall, hours can be adjusted or outside man power can be hired.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

2. Historical Society Furnace Discussion:

Discussion was held on getting estimates for a new furnace - preliminary thought of costs should be around \$3,500.00 to \$4,500.00 propane. Canton Community Fund has a grant that can be applied for - if granted it could provide around \$2,000.00 in funding. The Village board gave Mayor Hammond permission to get estimates and bring them back to the December board meeting. Mayor Hammond noted that Trustee Connie McAllister is in agreement with getting these estimates.

6. Updates:

1. Town of Canton Highway projects: Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he has not given the Clerk permission to pay the last bill submitted by the Town because Heuvelton Street is not done. Mayor Hammond will follow up with the Town Highway about Heuvelton Street. After discussion it was decided to pay the bill and ask the Highway Super to verbally say they will finish it in the spring. Roadway markers are ordered and to be installed.

2. Library Renovations:

Discussion was held on the renovations and the vision for what will come of it. Mayor Hammond noted that River Street Planning is a great company to work with.

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

6:50 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSiege Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond

Village Clerk