

**VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**November 8th, 2021**  
**6:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustee Stacy Gushea, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Esther Gushea, Mellisa Austin, Ernie Swartsfigure and Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor, Fire Chief Dallas Denny, Jeff Hammond and Canton Recreation Director Meg Richardson

Absent: Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustees Connie McAllister, Attorney Henry Leader Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

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

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: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Jolene LaSiege      Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of October 11th, 2021

Motion: Jolene LaSiege      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: No written report was received.

Mayor Michael Hammond stated Mark Basford's is in support of continuing with the DANC contract. Clerk Lisa Hammond asked Mark Basford to create a maintenance log for the New Tractor and Generator and he is in agreement of doing so. Jeff Hammond provided Basford with information about a cab for the new tractor.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Report was received via email.

Mayor Michael Hammond read Tuttle's report aloud. Tuttle reported he is still working with Attorney Henry Leader on violations. Tuttle noted that there are two openings on the ZBA and or Planning Board. A brief discussion was held on a variance request for a driveway at Foot's rental property. Ron Stiles is owner of connecting property and discussion went on to say that Stiles is heard to be in agreement of this variance.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea                      Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that a Sales Tax check was received and that all unpaid Village funds have been turned over to the St. Lawrence County Treasurer's Office.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea                      Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted that a spontaneous meeting was held with the Mayors and Supervisors over the Sales Tax issue. The City of Ogdensburg is negotiating with the County and without the City the Village and Townships will be at the mercy of the County Legislators coming up with the formula. Ogdensburg is the only City in St. Lawrence County. Mayor Hammond thanked the Town of Dekalb for their assistance with the Street projects and noted they received millings from the project. Hammond reminded all about the Mayors dinner to be held in December at the East Branch Restaurant, Heuvelton.

Motion: Stacy Gushea                      Seconded: Jolene LaSieve                      Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Mayor Michael Hammond thanked Bob Poor and Ralph Hammond for all their work.

*Trees* - Bob Poor reported on all the trees that got cut down, some of which National Grid will do for the Village. Great job by all who helped.

A brief discussion was held on the history of the trees that were cut down in the Village. Mayor Hammond noted thanks to the home owners that took initiative to clean up their property from the tree messes. Discussion was held on having

discussion on next year's budget to take care of more trees in the Village, including cleanup.

Playground - See Festival below

Falls Festival Committee: The last of the T-shirts are in Gouverneur and ready to pick up. Discussion was held on possibly having the Color Run committee pick them up, when they pick theirs up for the Fire Truck Color Run. Mayor Hammond will send the Village logo to Trustee LaSeige as people were wanting koozies.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege      Seconded: Stacy Gushea      Vote: unanimous

## 5. New Business:

### a. Canton Recreation:

Meg Richardson was present and stated that the Canton Pavilion is priority number one. Richardson said everything is on the upside. Richardson said she plans on expanding recreation. Three grants are in the process at this time. Trustee Jolene LaSeige stated that she would like to see more Recreation come here to the Village of Rensselaer Falls. Fence line at Taylor Park has been repaired after discussing it for the past ten years by volunteers in Canton. Richardson discussed classes that could be possible held here in the Village. Snowmobiling recreation was discussed. Mayor Michael Hammond and Trustee Jolene LaSiege thanked Richardson for coming over to the Village Board meeting and for any consideration for including Rensselaer Falls in discussion and visions moving forward. Hammond stated that if the relationship builds the board will consider contributions.

### b. Part Time maintenance Position:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Ernie Swartsfigue is back working around the Village at a max of 10 hours a week. The Village looks great. Hammond suggested tabling to the December meeting to have a full board for an official approval. Discussion was held on the Gazebo tilting. Ernie will take a look at it and TLC will be done in the near future. Discussion was held on the panel on the new stage and Mayor Hammond will look into this.

c. Santa Raising & Holiday Event:

The new store More to Love will be holding a holiday event in December. Fire Department to coordinate Raising Santa. The Booth family wants to provide a sleigh ride for families in the Village. Trustee Jolene LaSiege to spearhead a decorating contest within the Village. Flyers will be posted. LaSiege is hoping to get sponsors. A brief discussion was held on placing Christmas decorations on the light poles. The Fire Department will hold a drive through gift giving event on December 12th, 2021, from 1-3 p.m.

6. Updates.

a. Fire Department Request: Discussion

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that the Village Board requested data from the Fire Department on instock and age of turnout equipment. Hammond noted that the information was received this evening at the meeting. Mayor Hammond noted that the board members and himself have not had time to review it. Hammond will email copies to the board members for their review. Hammond suggested tabling it to December's meeting, noting that two board members were not present to make decisions and or motions. Fire Chief Dallas Denny was present and stated that the turnout gear is nine months out. Jeff Hammond noted that they have stopped making the airpacks that the department has now. The current airpacks are hand me downs from Canton. Jeff Hammond stated that the department also needs new bottles. Mayor Hammond noted the importance of inventory to meet the needs going forward. Chief Denny noted the department has 8 interior Fire Fighters at this time.

7. Any other business that may come before the Board: Mayor Hammond to check into street lights for retired Village Clerk Esther Gushe

7:06 p.m Motion: Jolene LaSiege    Seconded: Stacy Gushea    Vote: unanimous

to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk