

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 11th, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustees Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Esther Gushea, Mellisa Austin, Ernie Swartsfigure and Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor, Fire Chief Dallas Denny, James Blackburn

Absent: Trustee Jolene LaSiege, 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: Connie McAllisger Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of September 15th, 2021

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Written report was received.

Mayor Michael Hammond read Mark Basford's report aloud. The shed doors on a storage building need to be replaced. Approval was given for Ralph Hammond to get the materials and build new doors. Issue from last month's report at the new store on Main Street owned by Jackie Lane has been resolved. New Tractor has arrived and the camera has been returned from being repaired. Mayor Michael Hammond asked

Clerk Lisa Hammond to have Mark Basford create a maintenance log for the New Tractor and Generator. Clerk Hammond noted for the record that the tractor and tiller went to Robert (Bob) Chase who was the second highest bidder in the amount of \$12,275.00. First bidder Steve Hammond declined the purchase as high bidder. Hammond noted this approval at last month's board meeting and waited to deposit the Chase check until after reporting tonight.
New tractor has arrived at the plant.

- 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. The property at 516 Congress Street has been in contact with Tuttle. Fire Chief Dallas Denny asked about the garbage issue on the Property of Kevin Reynolds rental, Mayor Hammond stated that Tuttle reported non compliance so therefore is contacting Attorney Leader on the matter. Mayor Hammond noted that we have a vacancy on the ZBA board and will need to fill it. Dallas Denny asked about parking on Birch Street and if it was legal. Mayor Hammond stated that this should be looked into.

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

- c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported tha AIM money in the amount of \$4,676.00 has been received. Village tax collection is complete and will be sent over to the County.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted the Street projects are just about done for this year. Festival went very well. Next Mayor's dinner will be hosted by the Village of Heuvelton to be held in December at the East Branch Restaurant.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Bob Poor and Ralph Hammond were present and reported on trees with

the following findings: 15 trees are dead and should come down

101 Rensselaer Street	\$900.00
102 Cornelia Street	\$1,100.00
104 Cornelia Street	\$1,900.00
Elizabeth Street	\$600.00
651 Front Street	\$900.00
LaSiege Property	\$2,000.00

Bob Poor requested the dump to be burned for usage of the dead tree tops and brush to be placed there.

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that he wants to contact National Grid on the power line issues. Discussion was held on a nesting issue at 104 Cornelia Street, which Hammond has previously discussed with National Grid. Approval was given to have the work done on Elizabeth Street and 102 Cornelia Street. Bob Poor stated that he will wait for the green light to take action. Ralph Hammond added that Compo had given the Village of Rensselaer Falls a good price.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

Playground - See Festival below

Falls Festival Committee: This year's Festival went very well this year. T-Shirt sales are winding up by Jolene LaSiege and Connie McAllister. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the Calton's made a donation of umbrella bases. Also Shane Burnett of Northern Shed Haulers donated Corey Barney hauling laborer of the new stage from County Rt 14 to the Village Park.

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the Fire Department is not having their typical Halloween event at the Fire Station again this year due to COVID. The Village of Rensselaer Falls will have its typical treat or treating. Hopefully next year the Fire Department will be able to get back to normal with their annual Halloween event.

Motion to approve all reports given

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

a. Fire Department Request: Discussion

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that the Fire Department recently purchased a Washer and Dryer unit to wash the Turnout gear properly in the amount of \$9,000.00. The next obstacle is to get the unit hooked up to the Sewer drain. The Department is working on this hookup. Hammond stated that the carcinogens and residue that come from fighting a fire is cancer causing so it's really important that the turnout gear is clean. Turnout gear has a life cycle of 10 years. The Village helped purchase 6 sets, 6 years ago. The Fire Department is asking for 6 more sets this year from the Village. Mayor Hammond asked the Fire Department to take an inventory of how many sets and the year of expiration on each of them, before just ordering 6 new sets. The cost of each set is \$3,246.00. Fire Chief Dallas Denny added that they are in need of new Air bottles as they have a life cycle of 15 years. Denny noted the Fire Department bought the Washer and Dryer and will buy the Air Bottles, in hopes the Village will buy the Turnout gear. Denny wants the Fire Department and the Village to work together. Mayor Hammond noted that this matter is very critical to the health of the Fire Fighters. Trustees Charles Fifield questioned why 6 outfits, why not 2 or 3 this year and agreed with Mayor Hammond that we need an inventory. James Blackburn stated that maybe the Department has 10 sets that are in compliance at best. Blackburn added that BEFO (Basic Exterior Fire) officers never get new gear and that he is still wearing the same set he received 10 years ago. Further discussion was held and it was decided to table this matter to next month's regular board meeting, with Mayor Hammond noting that Trustee Jolene LaSiege is absent and wants to have her thoughts on the matter and bring her to the discussion. Hammond suggested going for the 6 sets after the board sees the inventory results. Mayor Hammond suggested that the Fire Department ask the Town of Canton for money toward the Turnout gear. Dallas Denny didn't think the Town would, but will send it out to them. In the end Mayor Hammond mentioned checking into the stimulus money for the gear. Trustee Connie McAlliser asked if the generator was all hooked up and Chief Denny stated that they are waiting on the transfer switch.

6. Updates.

a. Heuvelton & W. Front Street Projects: Discussion

Mayor Hammond reported that St. Lawrence County was in and paved the Street projects in one day. Shimming was done out through Jeff Dollinger's house on Heuvelton Street. The projects came in under budget, noted Hammond. There are a couple issues still pending, in front of Nettie Palmers where the asphalt is tapered to the drop box and needs to be built up. Calvin Rose is aware of this. On West Front Street a portion of the ditch is eroding, needing the ditch filled in. Hammond stated that Green Machine will come over and take a look at this, as the Town of Canton does not have time for this, but will discuss with the board before taking action.

b. Congress Street Project: Discussion

Mayor Hammond and Highway Superintendent Calvin Rose to discuss Fire Station Driveway to Claude Palmer culvert replacement and cold patch for hole in front of Fire Station

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

James Blackburn was present and proposed that the Village Board consider hiring and or giving Ernie Swartsfigure more hours to have Ernie drive during day hours for the ambulance and fire calls. Blackburn gave some case scenarios for the need of week days/ daytime drivers. Revenue was discussed on going on calls and on the future of the County taking over calls. Mayor Hammond asked Blackburn to get the hourly rate of other municipalities that pay a driver. Ernie Swartfigure stated that he wants to work for the Village and that his health is so much better now. Swartsfigure also noted that he is concerned about grass being blown into the street by home owners and residents not picking not picking up their dog poop in the park. Clerk Hammond to issue these concerns in the next quarterly sewer bills

7:05 p.m Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk