

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Jolene LaSiege and Trustees Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor and Sam Booth

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader, Mark Basford Sewer Superintendent

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

Adding to the agenda under new business is continuation of discussion of 209 Rensselaer Street with a possible decision. Also a resolution was received in support of Biosolids.

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 Fified Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that a bill from Mark Basford at the Sewer Plant came in at the last minute to be approved due to the need for repairing the camera.

Discussion was held on the upgrade incentive on the street lighting. Trustee Jolene LaSiege asked about the savings and the Clerks are trying to set up a spreadsheet on the matter.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the September 12th regular meeting were approved upon motion.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fified Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: A written report was received by the board members and read by Mayor Hammond. Hammond noted that one of the circulating pumps is being

repaired. In Basfords report he stated he is still working on sand prices. DEC is asking that any new sand be tested by the lab before using it as placement sand.

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tuttle was present with a written report and stated that a lot of second notices were sent out. Tuttle provided a list of residents. Pool electrical has been a problem this year. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Tuttle to provide him with links to be placed on the Website. Tuttle stated that Robert Eaton has hired a contractor for his home and they are in there working. Tuttle noted that the front yard has been cleaned up and debris removed, along with window replacement. Tuttle will go into the home while the contractor is there working. Trustee Lasiege asked about a time line and Tuttle stated as long as he is making progress, he will not hold him to a timeline. Discussion was held on Couglars building and the fact that the Hartmans are cleaning it up because they have been renting it for years. Mayor Michael Hammond noted there is potential two buildings in the Village could be going back to the County. Falls Festival Committee member Jolene LaSiege and Tuttle held a brief discussion on the Fire Work application for the festival. Matter was resolved at the Village Board meeting by reprinting the application

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that tax collection has come to an end with a current total collected of \$33,430.82, any unpaid taxes will go to the County to be placed on the January Town and County tax bill. Clerk Hammond reestablished the Triple A Lumber account that has been dormant. Santa lighting will be discussed at the Falls Festival meeting. Clerk Hammond noted that the Library will held a open house this Sunday, piggybacking with the Fire Department open house from - 1-3 pm October 9th, 2022

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister 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.

Town of Canton has done some of the work agreed upon but not all to date. TTS will be in the Village working on the trees. Library Grant is a go, with work slated to start as soon as man power is available.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige

Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Discussion was held on the removal of the marked Ash trees by National Grid. National Grid has contracted with Nelson Tree Service.

Mayor Hammond noted a note on his home door about trees and will give them a call about the Village trees and right of ways. County Route 15 in front of Henry LaQuirs should be addressed. The Maple tree in front of Mike Wainwright still needs to be addressed.

Playground/Falls Festival Committee: Meeting to follow this meeting. All are welcome to attend. .

Motion: Charles Fified

Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

1. 209 Rensselaer Street:

Discussion was held on the property. Mayor Hammond noted that the Code Officer from Canton, Clerk Lisa Hammond and Mayor Hammond are receiving complaints about the property and debri and potential hazard. People are concerned about the debri being burnt and the relocation of the debri and where its being moved to. A picture has been received. Tuttle stated that he has spoken to a complainant about the debri. Tuttle read a section of the law that deals with the failure to comply. Tuttle stated that a hearing was held by the Village board two months ago about cleaning up the debri. Tuttle stated he contacted two DEC Officers on the burning of the debri and neither of them have replied to him. Tuttle suggested contracting the Department of Labor, noting that the fine schedule starts at \$10,000.00 for doing what the owner of 209 Rensselaer St is doing with burning the debri. Tuttle stated that he knows residents have contacted the Department of Labor with no results as of yet. Tuttle stated he has contacted the Department of Labor and was on the phone with them for over an

hour. Mayor Michael Hammond wants to use the Department of Labor as a tool to get this situation under control. Tuttle wants to ask the Department of Labor who contracts in this area for removal of asbestos and ask for a ballpark number of what it would cost for removal. The Board is in agreement that the owner can not afford to pay for clean up due to the fact that no insurance money has been received, but also acknowledge that the owner has not made efforts to contact agencies for help in the matter. Mayor Hammond noted that board members have sent information and websites for the owner to use as resources.

Tuttle noted for the record that he warned the owner about moving debris during the hearing held at a public board meeting on September 2, 2022. Tuttle added that he asked the owner if he had contacted anyone about the asbestos removal and the owner answered "I'm just waiting for some money" Tuttle told the owner that he could get a quote without money. It will cost \$4,000.00 for the owner of this property to get a asbestos removal done. If a municipality has to pay for removal the fee is waived by the Department of Labor.

The Board is in agreement that this is an unfair situation.

Trustee Laseige stated we need to follow the law and added that the owner was sent information on who to contact for assistants and that Tuttle has been a resource and the owner is not using these resources.

Trustee Charles Fifield wants Tuttle to contact the Department of Labor.

Mayor Hammond asked Tuttle to reach back out to the Department of Labor about contractors and report back to the board members with local contractors in hopes to keep the cost down. Tuttle stated he will send progress emails out to board members as soon as tomorrow.

Motion was made for Code Enforcement Officer to Contact Department of Labor and report back to board and if need be progress to the bid process. A special meeting will be called if necessary.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond stated for the record. The Village has tried to help and assist the owner along with this process. It is in agreement that the Board of Rensselaer Falls has gone above and beyond to help the property owner due to this circumstance. Code Enforcement Officer Tuttle stated he has spent a lot of time on the matter and the owner has blown his help off.

6. Updates:

Town of Canton Highway projects: Mayor Michael Hammond stated that the Town of Canton Highway still has to come over to the Village and do the agreed upon projects. Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he thanked Highway Superintendent and the Supervisor for the work that has been completed.

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

Mayor Michael Hammond asked for permission to sign the Biosolid resolution if it is only in support.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

6:42 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond
Village Clerk