

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Regular Meeting Minutes

### October 7, 2019

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, Ralph Hammond, Robert Poor, Steve Hammond, Mark Bomyea, Jeff Hammond and Sue Huntley

Absent: Village Attorney Henry Leader and and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of September 16, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve                      Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: unanimous

2. Appropriations approved:

Motion: Charles Fifield                      Seconded: Connie McAllister    Vote: animous

3. Department Head Reports:

a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Hammond read Basford's report.

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

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle was present and stated that everything is going smooth. Three permits issued to date.

Approval of Code report by Trustee Charles Fified, seconded by Trustee Jolene

LaSiege. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond reported that things are going smoothly with the Clerk's office.

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

- d. Mayor's Report: Mayor Michael Hammond reported that he and Trustee McAllister attended the Mayors dinner. Sales tax was the discussion at dinner and the hope is that Rensselaer Falls wont see a big change. Hammond added that a presenter from USDA was present and spoke on million dollar projects and found the topics interesting. Mayor Hammond asked if there were smaller projects that the USDA could fund ex. Solar on Small businesses and the response was yes. Hammond noted that the Local Government Conference will be held on October 15,2019 at SUNY Potsdam and encourage all to attend. In ending Mayor Hammond added that the next Mayors dinner will be a joint meeting with Town Supervisors. Hammond to host in the Village of Rensselaer Falls at the Fire Station on December 5, 2019

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

- e. Committee Reports:

*Trees* - Bob Poor was present and reported that three new red maple trees have been planted. Robert Burnett will be going the tree committee, as chair.

*Fall Festival* - Committee Chair Jolene LaSiege wants to have a recap Festival meeting.

*Playground* - Bottle drive made \$123.45. Doug's tavern donated \$100.00 to the playground.

Motion to approve reports by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

#### 4. New Business:

##### a. Snow Removal:

Motion was made to put ad out for snow removal to include shoveling by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

b. Santa Raising discussion: Discussion was held on last years success and ideas for this coming season. November 24th for possible Santa Raising. Event to be created on Facebook, with separate event for decorating. Jolene LaSiege to ask Jazz Band to play. Mark Bomyea to ask firemen about the date.

c. Rensselaer Street Resolution: Discussion was held on taking Rensselaer Street from the Town of Canton.

Trustee Jolene LaSiege thinks it's a good idea. Trustee Charles Fifeld stated he has concerns about the cost of maintenance in the future and wants to have a stipulation on not paying for sand and salt. Mayor Hammond stated he will talk with Attorney Leader about the matter. Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle stated his personal opinion is not to take the road because of long term maintenance.

#### 5. Updates:

a. National Grid: Discussion was held on the contract for plugins on the poles in the Village. Trustee Jolene LaSiege to do paper work and get it sent in.

b. Sand Investment Transfer: Tabled

c. Canton Community Fund: Mayor Hammond to contact Shelly Sanderson to work on this matter.

d. Historical Society: Discussion was held on painting the Historical Building that the Village recently acquitted. The Village board is in full support of moving forward on painting the building in the Spring. The Building is on the State registry, therefore it has to be painted and not sided. Mayor Hammond wants someone to check into grants, possibly Laura Bomyea and or Shelly Sanderson.

- e. Mayors Association Dinner: Mayor Hammond stated that there may be a joint Mayor and Town Supervisor dinner meeting on December 5, 2019 if the Village Fire Department approves holding it here in Rensselaer Falls.
  
- f. Fire Task Force Discussion: Mark Bomyea was present and reported on the recommendations. Bomyea served on this committee as a Village resident, not a fire department member and feels strongly that not all departments were equally involved. Bomyea wants the Village Board to do something about the fact that Canton gets \$175,000.00 with all other Fire Departments getting \$35,000.00. It's a concern that when Canton replaces their good equipment with new, they are not offering to sell or share with the other departments that don't have a lot of money to spend on those items. The Town of Canton has been making payments on the new Canton Fire Station and on a truck. Many of the Departments are asking why is the Town giving more to Canton than the others. The pie is cut unevenly per Bomyea. Bomyea noted that there was a slight increase in the budget from the Town to the department. However, this increase does not make up the difference for the loss of in kind services with the Town Highway department. The Highway department has historically serviced all fire trucks. Bomyea reminded the Village Board members that its costing the taxpayers a lot more than it should be. It is just not fair. Mayor Hammond thanked Bomyea for serving as a Village rep. Hammond wants to discuss this with Fire Chief Dallas Denny and include Mark Bomyea. Both Jeff Hammond and James Blackburn were present and agreed with everything Bomyea stated.

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

8:10 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Connie McAllister    Seconded: Stacy Gushea

Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond

Village Clerk