

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 9th, 2023
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee Samatha Booth and Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Shirley and Nicholas Calton

Absence: Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustee Connie McAllister, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Attorney Henry Leader

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

Addition to the Agenda:

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Samatha Booth

Trustee Charles Fifield asked Clerk Lisa Hammond about the National Grid bill voucher. Clerk Hammond stated she will change the voucher to reflect the correct amount. Also Trustee Fifield noted the First Bank check was written for the wrong amount. Clerk Hammond will void the check and issue the correct amount to First Bank.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of September 11th, 2023 were approved

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford gave a written report that Mayor Michael Hammond read. Permission was given to Basford to purchase a four foot fence from Tractor Supply by motion of Trustee Charles Fifield and Seconded by Trustee Samatha Booth.

39 Hours reported by Basford for and 30 Hours reported for Jared Murray.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Covered during Mayor and Clerk Report
- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that no applications were received for Code Enforcement Officer with the second ad in the newspaper. Grant Backus was appointed to the job with help of Russell Lawrence from the Town of Oswegatchie as needed. Hammond stated that Tax collecting is coming to an end and will have paperwork at November's meeting for board members to sign off on. Hammond and Becky Donnelly still continue to work together on AUD reporting to the Comptroller. Clerk Hammond and Russell Lawrence are still fielding calls on the fence issue on King Street/CR 15. In the end Clerk Hammond reminded the board that Corning is still behind on paying sewer. Mayor Michael Hammond added that he and Attorney Leader are working on reaching out to Corning Management about expiring contracts and payments.

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report: Mayor Hammond went over events that are happening in the surrounding areas. Siting Applewood Orchards, Fire Department Halloween party, Fire prevention, raffle tickets. Honey Holes are still going strong in the Village with cornhole. Mayor Hammond covered the festival and committee items during his report. Mayor Hammond noted that the Town of Canton Highway Department has been in the Village working behind and along the cemetery to clear trees and do ditch work to help with drainage. Temparty markers have been placed coming into the Village from Heuvelton to keep cars up on the road - these markers will be removed before plow season. TTS are going to come over to cut trees soon.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote:unanimous

Mayor Michael Hammond added that it is important to have an interested, local Code Enforcement Officer and stressed that he would like to see Grant Backus go get the classes and training he needs to do the job. All board members were in agreement.

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - none

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Mayor Hammond covered during his report.

Small Business - none

5. New Business:

a. Code Enforcement Officer:

Mayor Michael Hammond talked about the matter during his report.

b. Planning Board Alternate:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Sara Wright expressed interest in joining the board. Matter tabled to appoint Wright until more board members are in attendance.

6. Updates.

a. Executive Session: Fire and Rescue discussion

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that the Village board requested a budget from the Fire Department to start discussions on matters of budgeting. Hammond informed the Village Board that he read a statement at the Firemen's meeting about how the Village Board came to the decision of reducing their budget. Fire Chief Roger Newcombe suggested to Mayor Hammond that the two boards meet in executive session to discuss issues. Hammond stated he will postpone the meeting date with them due to the fact that they have not presented their budget to the Village.

6a. was held in Public session - no entry into executive session

b. Local Government Conference:

Mayor Hammond noted that Clerk Lisa Hammond will attend the conference.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

7:22 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Charles Fifield

Seconded: Samatha Booth

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk