

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11th, 2023
6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond,, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Trustees Samatha Booth and Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Attorney Henry Leader, Ralph Hammond, Nicholas Calton, James Blackburn, Bri Backus, Jeff Hammond and Fire Chief Roger Newcombe

Absence: Deputy Mayor Charles Ffield

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. Executive Session: Personnel Code Enforcement - Moved to end of meeting
3. Appropriations: Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifeild and Samatha Booth

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of August 14th, 2023 were approved

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees
 - a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was present and reminded the board members that around the 1st of the new year he will be having shoulder surgery. Alot problems with lift stations this past month, but things are good now. Basford is still working on getting soil samples. Basford wants to dispute a bill from Koaster if they indeed bill us. Clerk to watch for and reach out to Basford if need be.

Corning flushing their line is causing an odor. Basford to get more deodorizer and try to help with the issue.

21.5 Hours reported by Basford for and 44 Hours reported for Jared Murray.

Motion: Jolene LaSieve Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Moved to executive session with Attorney Leader. A second ad has gone to the newspaper. Grant Backus is interested.
- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collecting is slowing down and to date the Village has received 78 percent collected. Hammond reported that she reached out to National Grid with the concerns that the Village has on trees, lighting, etc. Hammond will continue to communicate with them. Hammond and Becky Donnelly still continue to work together on matters. Russell Lawrence continues to assist the Clerk on Code matters.

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayor's Report: Mayor Hammond read correspondence from the Historical, thanking the Village for their yearly contribution. Hammond spoke about the Festival and what a great turnout of people and events. Hammond thanked all who helped in any way. Next Mayor's meeting will be in December. Hammond noted that he is working on replacement batteries for the Speed limit signs.

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - Clerk Hammond to move forward with National Grid

Playground/Falls Festival Committee - Mayor Hammond covered during his report. A brief meeting to follow after the Village regular meeting tonight.

Small Business - none

- 5. New Business:

a. Library Solar Grant:

Mayor Michael Hammond reported that the Library has an opportunity to apply for a Solar Grant. Hammond gave approval with a 10 percent match from the Village. All board members are in favor of this decision.

b. Historical Society Utilities:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that the Historical made mention that the Festival may donate to their heating bills due to the fact that the Festival is storing items in the basement of the building. Hamond reminded the Village Board members that the Village is now the owner of the Historical building and currently insures the building. Hammond opened up the idea of Village taking over the utility costs at the Historical Building. Discussion was held. Trustee Jolene LaSeige stated that the Village owns the building and the items stored there are historic and LaSeige wants to preserve all articles. LaSeige wants to make a motion to pay the utility bills (heating, power). Both Hammond and LeSiege acknowledged that Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield is not in attendance for the vote.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

6. Updates.

a. Summer Street Work:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted that little to no street work has been done. Work is being held up by an MOU that will be signed at the Canton Town Board meeting on the 13th of September. The Highway Superintendent is ready to go when the document is signed. Mayor Hammond noted that Steven Smith Highway Superintendent is great to work with. Hammond noted that this slows up or CHIPS reimbursements for the State. Spending on the streets has been cut back this budget year. Nick Calton noted that the Town of Canton Highway came out and fixed potholes on the Main Street before the Festival.

b. Local Government Conference:

Mayor Hammond reminded everyone of the Local Government Conference coming up on October 10th in Potsdam - Notices were mailed out to all Planning and Zoning Board members. No classes will be held this year for Code Officers.

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

Mayor Hammond read a statement pertaining to the Villages current spending plan.

Fire Department Members were present. Fire Chief Roger Newcombe spoke first stating that it was a shock to see such a decrease in their annual check and suggested that the Village Board and the E-Board sit down and talk. Discussion was held. Newcombe wants the Village to consider helping out with new packs and gear, costing upward of \$8,000.00. Mayor Hammond noted that at the last Fire Department meeting \$7,800.00 and air pack was discussed. Turnout gear needs to be ordered because they are about a year out. Hammond noted that a short term fix may be possible with another department based on discussion at the last Fire Department meeting. An Executive Session will be scheduled between the two boards. James Blackburn requests that if there is a change to the Budget, they would like written notification at each of their prospective addresses. Mayor Michael Hammond reminded Blackburn that the budget meetings are held about the same time every year and agendas are posted. Hammond added that there needs to be a contract negotiated. Blackburn reminded that the annual checks get mailed to the P.O. Box 164 Rescue and 186 for Fire Department, not to treasure homes. Mayor Hammond asked Blackburn for a copy of their budgets. October 12th 2023 was the date picked at 5:30p.m. at the Fire Department.

6:44 p.m Executive Session:

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Jolene LaSeige Vote: Unanimous

7:22 p.m. Out of Executive Session:

Motion: Samatha Booth Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: Unanimous

7:23 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting:

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Samatha Booth Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk