

# VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

## Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fified, Trustee Jolene LaSiege and Trustees Connie McAllister, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Trustee Stacy Gushea, Ernie Swartsfigure, Scott Gray and Sam Booth

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basfor and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

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

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

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fified and Connie McAllister  
Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that Trustee Jolene LaSiege audited a couple last minute bills that arrived for the monthly meeting.

Motion: Charles Fified      Seconded: Jolene LaSeige    Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the August 4th and 25, 2022 regular and Special meetings were approved upon motion.

Motion: Stacy Gushea      Seconded: Connie McAllister    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 the annual inspection at the plant was very positive. Mayor Hammond also noted that Mark Basford had a couple problems over the past weekend at Corning breaking one of the support arms on the tractor. A valve of one of the pumps at the Sewer Plant also went up and Basford is currently working on fixing it. The tractor part will cost about \$1,100.00 to replace and has

been ordered.

b. Code Enforcement Report: Tuttle is absent at meeting,

Mayor Michael Hammond stated for the record that Kevin Reynolds of 209 Rensselaer Street was invited at last month's meeting to attend this monthly meeting to report on the status of clean up, maybe have some sort of concrete plan and intentions. Hammond noted that Reynolds is not present at this meeting. DEC sites were provided to Reynolds from Trustee Jolene LaSeige at last month's meeting. LaSiege also reached out to Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle about the status of Reynolds property clean up and the fact that Reynolds is indeed burning things in his Village resident yard. Tuttle suggested to LaSiege that the board call the DEC.

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that Sally Hartman is ready for someone to pick up the memorial stones for the park. \$33,419.00 in Village taxes have been collected to date.

d. Mayor's Report: Discussion was held about upcoming projects and tree work. Hammond expressed his disappointment of the Town of Canton Highway dumping the Fire Department culvert debris/cement in the Village dump. Hammond noted that TTS had just cleaned it up for the Village and now it's blocked up again.

e. Committee Reports:

*Trees - none*

Playground/Falls Festival Committee: Jolene LaSeige went over positive feedback on the Festival.

All reports were approved upon motion of Trustee Jolene LaSeige and Seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor

5. New Business:

1. Second notice fee:

Discussion was held on the second notice fee for tax payers who have not paid their Village Taxes. After discussion it was decided to charge a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of postage and mailings.

6. Updates:

1. 209 Rensselaer Falls Street: Discussion was held on the recent burnt apartment building - see discussion under Code Enforcement Officer
2. Town of Canton Highway projects:

Culvert work in front of Fire Department has been completed

Eight more projects are slated to be done this season

Mayor Michael Hammond will contact Steve Smith about the dump issue before October's meeting to report back

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

Two additions to the Agenda:

1. Resignation:

Trustee Stacy Gushea turned in her written letter of resignation. The full board thanked Gushea for her years of service and wished her well on her upcoming wedding. Mayor Michael Hammond recommended holding interviews for the empty seat. Brief discussion was held on the matter.

Motion to accept Guhea's resignation with regret.

Motion: Connie McAllister

Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

2. Assembly 116th District speaker:

Scott Gray was present and talked with the board members about his vision and what areas he will be covering in St. Lawrence County if elected. The Village board and Gray held discussion on the recently burnt apartment building on Main Street and Gray will do some homework and reach out to the right people to try to get some help with the cleanup process. Gray feels it's in the County's best interest to help clean it up so they don't end up with the bullying going back to them on taxes - maybe some kind of shared service could be worked out. In the

end Gray promises to work with the Village and Town governments in his areas if elected. Gray has served 21 years in Jefferson County as a Legislator.

6:40 p.m. motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Public Officers Law Section 105.

Motion: Jolene LaSeige                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea              Vote: unanimous

7:00 p.m. motion to come out of executive session

Motion: Connie McAllister                      Seconded: Charles Fified              Vote: unanimous

7:01 p.m closed regular monthly board meeting

Motion: Charles Fified                      Seconded: Stacy Gushea                      Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond  
Village Clerk