

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2020
(6:00 P.M.)

Present In Person: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Connie McAllister, and James Blackburn

Also in attendance: Ralph Hammond

Attendance by Zoom: Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Clerk Treasurer Lisa Hammond, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle, Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Bob Poor and Caitlyn Wright.

Absent: Trustee Jolene LaSiege

By Phone: Village Attorney Henry Leader and Dona Brown

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance
2. Appropriations approved:

General and Sewer

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Trustee Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of August 3, 2020 Regular board meeting were approved.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report:

Discussion was held on sand beds. Trustee Blackburn asked if one bed could possibly be changed this year. Basford is working with DEC on paper for relocation of old sand. Mark Badfords reported all at the Sewer Plant is good.

Discussion was held on the generator situation. Basford stated that he is somewhat still researching and serving for one that will accommodate the plant.

Brief discussion was held on using the recently purchased camera to look at a current sinkhole problem on Congress Street between United Helpers and the Fire Station. Basford will help out with the camera if there comes a need. Mayor Hammond noted that the Town Highway crew was in the Village and did some work in that area.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Tim Tuttle reported 1 new permit this month. Tuttle noted that decetionicy on junk laws. Cars in particular Tuttle wants to sit down with the Attorney for the Village, Henry Leader, to establish sunset laws on the Local Laws. The Attorney Leader advised Tuttle to use his discretion until the matter is taking care of and they can sit down together. 2015 is the most current law at this time. Leader and Tuttle to work on this. Tuttle to call the Leader's Office.

Mayor Hammond wants to update the Website with Local Laws and Building Permit applications, etc with Code information.

Motion: Trustee James Blackburn Seconded Trustee Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Hammond reported that things are going well. Approval to pay Mark Basford for a gas bill was approved by Trustee Connie McAllister and Trustee James Blackburn. Hammond noted that she forwarded SLIC paperwork to the Attorney Leader in regards to them contesting their assessment. Hammond stated that one bank did not pay a hand full of residence Village taxes, but the matter has been since taken care of. Wells Fargo was the bank and stated it was sent to Esther's home back in June. After discussion it was decided by motion not to place a penalty.

Motion: James Blackburn Seconded: Vote: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Motion to approve clerks report by Trustees James Blackburn and Charles Ffiled.
Vote: unanimous

d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Michael Hammond noted he, Trustee James Blackburn, Trustee Connie McAllister along with Clerk Hammond attended the Mayors Dinner in Waddington and it was informational about sales tax distribution being proposed by the City of Ogdensburg. This new proposal would potentially give the Village of RF an increase of approximately \$20,000 in Sales Tax revenue.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: James Blackburn Vote: unanimous

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - None

Playground - None

Falls Festival - None

5. New Business:

a. 55 Years Active Service Proclamation:

Mayor Hammond read aloud Proclamation for Dona Brown's 55 Years of Service award.

Mayor Hammond noted that a tree will be planted in Pioneer Park in memory of Donald Brown.

All board members voted in favor of Proclamation

b. Rescue Squad Appointees: Discussion and Possible Approval
Caitlyn Wright and Ricky Bush (absent)

Conversation was held with Caitlyn Wright. Trustee Connie McAllister thanked Wright for joining.

Trustee James Blackburn made a motion to approve Wright contingent on her passing her physical, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor.

Trustee Connie McAllister made a motion to approve Ricky Bush, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Vote: unanimous

c. Second Notice Fees:

Discussion was held on charging a second notice fee to taxpayers that received a second notice of their tax bill. Second notices are sent every year to a small number of residents. Trustees decided that next year the Village will charge a \$2.00 fee to their residents.

Motion to charge the fee starting 2021 by Trustee Connie McAllister, seconded by Trustee Charles Fified. Vote: unanimous

d. Canton Community Grant: Discussion and Possible Approval

Mayor Michael Hammond gave an update on the painting of the Historical Building, which includes roof, steeple and renting a lift. They are in need of \$7,000.00. Mayor Hammond and Shelly Sanderson, secretary for the Historical Association applied for a grant through the Canton Community Fund. Hammond stated that he received word that they were granted \$2,000.00 to put toward the painting of the building. Hammond noted a \$100.00 donation was received from Darlene Hammond Fisk.

Discussion was held on the Village helping the Historical reach their goal of the additional \$4,900.00. Hammond noted that a previous motion was made to set aside \$5,000.00 for this purpose.

Trustee James Blackburn stated that we need to see this project through and keep the building up to date. Trustees McAllister and Fified are in full agreement to assist the Historical.

Motion by Trustee James Blackburn to approve \$5,000.00 to the Historical Association to finish painting the building, seconded by Trustee Connie McAllister. Vote: unanimous.

Historical member Bob Poor thanked the Village Board members for their contribution to the Historical to finish the painting.

6. Updates:

a. Summer Street Projects: Discussion and Possible Approval

Mayor Hammond noted what work has been done by the Town of Canton Highway crew over the past several days. Discussion was held on the material used and projects that were taken care of. Trustee James

Blackburn requested that the manhole tool owned by the Village be available when the firemen are cleaning out the manholes.

b. Tree Requests:

Mayor Hammond stated that TTS are going to remove two Blue Spruce trees on Kings Street. Hammond noted that TTS is going to give him a number to clean up behind the dump area and along the cemetery road line.

C. Congress Street Projects: Discussion and Possible Approval

Mayor Hammond met with Mark Rood from the Town of Canton and discussed problems along Congress Street. \$33,000.00 quote was received from Matt Murdock to fix the problem. Hammond is waiting on another quote to come in. Discussion continued on drainage problems and sinkholes in the Village.

D. Rescue Squad Contract: Discussion and Possible Approval

Discussion was held. Attorney Henry Leader to revise the draft with a correction pointed out by Trustee James Blackburn. Matter tabled for Attorney Leader to make changes to the wording of the contract regarding collections of outstanding amounts.

E. Fire Department Contract: Discussion and Possible Approval

Discussion was held. Contract remains the same as last year. All voted in favor.

Motion to approve Fire Department Contract by Trustee Connie McAlliser, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Vote: unanimous

7. Executive Session: Personnel - As Identified as proper by Public Officer Law Section 105(1) (F)

Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:18 pm by Trustee Connie McAlliser, seconded by Trustee Chareles Fified. Vote: unanimous

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:40 pm by Trustee Connie McAlliser, seconded by Trustee James Blackburn. Vote: unanimous

8. Any other business that may come before the Board: none

7:41 p.m. adjourned meeting by Motion of Trustee James Blackburn, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk