

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Connie McAllister and Stacy Gushea, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond, Esther Gushea, Mellisa Austin, Ernie Swartsfigure and Ralph Hammond, Bob Poor, John Taillon, Dallas Denny, Paul Baxter, Jeff Hammond, State Troopers Benson and Tropper Moran and many members of the public.

Absent: Attorney Henry Leader and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all in attendance

2. Appropriations:

Sewer and General

Bills were audited by Trustees Charles Fifield and Stacy Gushea

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of July 12th, 2021 and August 2nd, 2021

Motion: Jolene LaSiege Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

a. Sewer Report: Written report was received.

Mark Basford was present and stated things are going well at the Sewer Plant. The State Inspection that was conducted last month showed all is well at the Plant. Basford reported that there is a bee problem at the Plant. Trustee Jolene LaSeige suggested contacting the Pest Control. Basford to take care of that matter.

Discussion was held on the Main Street Store property and a possible blockage at the cleanout. Basford is still working on the matter and will report back to the board. Basford noted that he thinks it may be the owner's problem. In closing Basford stated that he is still waiting on the sandbed report. Mayor Michael Hammond added that he hopes to use some of the stimulus monies at the Plant.

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Report was received via email.

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Tuttle is working with Attorney Henry Leader on violations and noted that there will be an upcoming ZBA meeting needed for Footes property.

- c. Clerk's Report:

Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that homes are selling in the Village. Hammond noted it has been a busy month. Trustee Connie McAllister asked how the sewer billing works when people sell during the quarterly billing cycle. Hammond explained that the Attorney for the seller usually calls and Hammond gives the months each quarter covers and the Attorney calculates the costs to each party. Clerk Hammond reported that the Village of Rensselaer Falls has acquired the Post Office Box #1 and asked the Department Heads to note when purchasing items for submission of approval.

- d. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Hammond noted he attended the Mayor's dinner. The InDirector of Public Health for St. Lawrence County was the speaker. Good discussion was held at the dinner. Next Mayor's dinner will be hosted by the Village of Heuvelton to be held in December at the East Branch Restaurant.

- e. Committee Reports:

Trees - tabled to next meeting for a report

Playground - See Festival below

Falls Festival Committee: This year's Festival went very well this year. Next year we need more garbage cans and cigarette pails.

Motion to approve all reports given

Motion: Jolene LaSieve Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

- a. Resolution recognizing Trooper Benson & Rensselaer Falls Fire and Rescue:

Mayor Michael Hammond announced that in attendance are Troopers Benson and Moran along with Fire Chief Dallas Denny to be recognized for an incident that happened on the River in the Village on July 19th, 2021. Hammond thanked them for being present and noted that the Community comes first. Mayor Hammond read the resolution aloud.

See attached Resolution

Trustees Jolene LaSieve presented Trooper Benson and Fire Chief Denny with a framed resolution. Photos were taken including Mayor Hammond.

Trooper Benson added that the State Police and the Village Fire Department have a great working relationship and that he hopes it continues to kindle and build upon.

Chief Denny added that he appreciates the State Troopers being around and is grateful for the department.

- b. (2) New Fire Department Members (R.A.M. / Junior Fire Member)
Discussion and possible approval

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Natalie Denny and Kylie Mullaney are students of Hermon Dekalb and Canton Central and are wanting to join the Village of Rensselaer Falls Fire Department. They have both been going through training.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

c. Congress Street Project Discussion and possible approval:

Discussion was held on the sink holes forming on the sides of Congress Street in front of the Fire Department. Mayor Michael Hammond wants to discuss with the Town of Canton to correct the problem before the snow comes if possible. Hammond stated that if the Town of Canton does not want to do it, Hammond will contact private contractors. Hammond asked for approval and it was granted by all Board Members.

6. Updates.

a. Opening Ford Tractor BIDS - Discussion and possible approval

Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that Trustee Connie McAlliser and she opened the bids on August 24th, 2021. Trustees Stacy Gushea and Charles Fifield reviewed the bids while auditing the bills for this monthly meeting. Mayor Michael Hammond reviewed bids prior to the meeting.

Clerk Hammond read the bids aloud as follows:

Steve Hammond bid \$12,850.00 on the tractor and \$825.00 on the tiller

Chris Chase bid \$3,000.00 on the tractor and \$500.00 on the tiller

Edward Short bid \$1,013.00 on the tiller

Jeff Crobar bid \$6,382.00 on the tractor and \$300.00 on the tiller

Jerrold Murray bid \$5,251.00 on the tractor and \$250.00 on the tiller

Travis Wood bid \$7,252.00 on the tractor and \$300.00 on the tiller

Robert Chase bid \$10,700.00 on the tractor and \$1,575.00 on the tiller

Michael Livingston bid \$8,110.00 on the tractor and \$851.00 on the tiller

Mayor Hammond stated that Mark Basford did some research and found out that the trade in was a little over \$8,000.00 and change.

Discussion was held and it was decided that Clerk Lisa Hammond will reach out to the top bidder at \$12,850.00 on the tractor.

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Charles Fifield Vote: unanimous

Discussion was held and it was decided that Clerk Lisa Hammond will reach out to the top bidder at \$1,575.00 on the tiller.

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

Discussion was held and it was unanimous that if the top bidders did not want the items, Clerk Hammond would contact the next highest bidders on each item to see if they wanted to purchase at the bid price.

Board members granted Mark Basford full permission to move forward in ordering a new tractor for the Village.

b. Heuvelton & W. Front Street Projects - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Hammond stated that St. Lawrence County will come in and do the projects at \$5,000.00 a day. Highway Superintendent Calvin Rose helped facilitate this transaction. This is a cost savings to the Village. Discussion was held and there was full board agreement. The Town of DeKalb and Town of Lisbon will assist in hauling.

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

Esther Gushea was present and stated that there is a tree limb on her property from the neighbors, along with a vine from another neighbor that is going into the road. Gushea also reported a pot hole in the park area. Mayor Hammond will check into these matters.

Stacy Gushea asked about mowing at LeBlanc's residents

John Taillon and Paul Baxter were present and spoke on behalf of themselves about the upcoming elections. Both gentlemen want to see a change in the future of the Town of Canton Board seats.

6:41 p.m Motion: Jolene LaSieve Seconded: Trustee Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

to close the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk