

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2019
(6:00 P.M.)

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Charles Fifield, Trustee's, Connie McAllister, Jolene LaSieve, Stacy Gushea, Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashely, Councilman Timothy Danehy, Councilman Jim Smith, Deputy Supervisor Bob Washo

Also in Attendance: Clerk Treasurer Lisa Hammond, Village Attorney Henry Leader

Absent: Trustee Connie McAllister, Code Enforcement Officer Tim Tuttle and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

1. Executive Session for the purpose of Public Officers Law Section 105(1)(F)

Motion by Trustee Charles Fified, Seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea to go into executive session, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of August 5, 2019 board meeting were approved.

Motion: Stacy Gushea Seconded: Charles Ffield Vote: unanimous

3. Appropriations approved:

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Jolene LaSieve Vote: animous

4. Department Head Reports:

- a. Sewer Report:

Mayor Hammond read Basford's report.

Hammond stated that Basford is asking for approval to spend \$1,753.00 with TechCheck on spare parts. Corning had problems this past month. Preventative maintenance was approved.

Motion made by Trustee Charles Fifield to have the lift stations serviced, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Approval of Sewer Report by Trustee Jolene LaSiege, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

b. Code Enforcement Report:

Mayor Hammond read Tuttle's report.

Approval of Code report by Trustee Stacy Gushea, seconded by Trustee Jolene LaSiege. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Hammond reported that things are going smoothly with tax collection and on sales tax check received. Hammond also reported on CHIPS reimbursement. Hammond is working on CD investments with Community Bank.

Approval of Clerks report by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

d. Mayor's Report: Mayor Michael Hammond reported that he and Trustee McAllister attended the Mayors dinner. Sales tax was the discussion at dinner and the hope is that Rensselaer Falls wont see a big change. Hammond added that a presenter from USDA was present and spoke on million dollar projects and found the topics interesting. Mayor Hammond asked if there were smaller projects that the USDA could fund ex. Solar on Small businesses and the response was yes. Hammond noted that the Local Government Conference will be held on October 15,2019 at SUNY Potsdam and encourage all to attend. In ending Mayor Hammond added that the next Mayors dinner will be a joint meeting with Town Supervisors. Hammond to host in the Village of Rensselaer Falls at the Fire Station on December 5, 2019

Motion to approve Mayors report by Trustee Stacy Gushea, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor, motion carries.

e. Committee Reports:

Trees - none

Fall Festival - Committee Chair Jolene LaSiege reported on the Festival.

All events went well this year. A new stage was erected and well used.

5. New Business:

a. Second Notice fees:

Motion was made to waive any fee for seconded notice fees by Trustee Jolene LaSieve, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

b. Sewer Quote: see Sewer Report above

c. Comprehensive Plan Contribution:

Mayor Hammond gave a brief update on last month's meeting, where he was absent, he reminded the board that he had recommended a \$5,000.00 contribution and re-stated that the board had made a motion in August to contribute \$3,000.00 toward the cost of the Comprehensive Plan fees.

Since this motion last month the Town of Canton has come to the Village and asked for an additional \$700.00. This based on Town and Village of Canton contributing 45% each and the Village of Rensselaer Falls contribute 10%.

Trustee Jolene LaSieve made a motion to contribute the \$700.00, seconded by Trustee Charles Fifield. All voted in favor.

Trustee Stacy Gushea expressed her concerns about how the matter was handed by the Town and Village of Canton, but will agree with the other board members to pay the additional \$700.00

d. Comprehensive Plan Adoption:

Discussion was held on the adoption of the Plan. Trustee Jolene LaSieve and Charles Fifield stated they would like to move forward. LaSieve stated that this about moving forward and people need to understand that the Comprehensive Plan adoption is not about one individual parcel. LaSieve said the Village Board has heard what was said at the Public Hearing before and understands the concerns presented. Trustee Stacy Gushea agreed and wants to move forward.

Trustee Jolene LaSieve made a motion to Adopt the Plan.

Mayor Hammond asked the Town of Canton board members if they wanted to have any input before the motion moves forward.

Council member Jim Smith stated that he has concerns, as the Town of Canton still has to have their Public Hearing. Smith stated that he hates to see the Comprehensive Plan to be partially approved. He pointed out that there is a 90 timetable set on the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and the Village of Rensselaer Falls should keep that in mind. Smith suggested October board meeting would be appropriate to meet with all three municipal boards for adoption. Councilman Washo pointed out that Hartman's are already commercial and a Waterfront Overlay district wouldn't do much. Mr. Washo also added that the Comprehensive Plan map is deceiving. Mr. Washo asked the Village of Rensselaer Falls if they read the County's recommendations and added how important it is that the Municipalities put their heads together and figure it out. Mr. Washo and Mr. Smith reiterated that once the plan is adopted than each municipal board can do what they want with it. Council member Bob Washo, Jim Smith and Tim Danehy all stated that they do not intend on voting after their Public Hearing is held on September 17, 2019. They agreed they would like to wait until October meeting. Smith added the three municipalities started this together and he would like to see it end together. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated she attended the County Planning Board meeting and she was very impressed about the process. Ashley added that she does not plan on voting at their September 17, 2019 meeting. Trustee Stacy Gushea expressed concerns about a committee member stating that Rensselaer Falls got a lot out of it. Gushea stated that only a small portion of the plan pertains to Renss Falls. Mayor Hammond noted that the biggest thing that came out of the Plan was the overlay district. The Overlay district was a suggestion from the engineers, not from the committee. Bob Washo Town Council member stated that the Plan is a roadway for future grant writing. Washo noted he has problems with some of the Comp Plan, but will vote in favor of it. A Brief discussion was held on the options A&B suggested from the MJ's. After discussion LaSiege rescinded her vote. It was decided that the three Municipalities will try and meet jointly on October 7, 2019 by Motion of Trustee Charles Fifield and seconded by Trustee Stacy Gushea. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

e. Mayor's Assoc Dinner: See Mayors report

f. Canton Community Fund:

Discussion was held on funding available through the Canton Community Fund. CCF offers small grant funding. Shelly Sanderson will work on this for the Historical first and then move on to the Playground for funding.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she is a board member of the CCF and listed many of the board members. This board has been in existence for over twenty years. Ashley added that the applications are online and very simple.

6. Updates:

- a. Local Government Conference: See Mayors report
- b. Fire Task Force: A brief discussion on how the piece of the pie should be divided between the four departments within the Township of Canton. Recommendations have been received from the task force to the Town.

- c. National Grid:

Mayor Hammond noted that he has been in contact with a National Grid employee about placing plugins on the poles on Main Street for future decorations. Clerk Hammond moving forward on LED replacement lights.

- d. Street Project:

Mayor Hammond noted that the street projects came out very well. The Village looks very nice. Hammond added it made the Festival activities look very nice. Hammond thanked everyone involved. Montroy Contracting to come back and fix any imperfections. The Village came in under budget and is proud of the progress.

- e. Sand Investment Transfer:

Mayor Hammond gave a brief update on the previously approved transfer of funds to invest in CD's.

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

James Blackburn from Rensselaer Falls Fire and Rescue was present asking for a possible approval for Alaina Wainwright to join the RF Rescue Squad. Wainwright finished her Fire Fighter course and is also a Basic EMT training.

Approval to join by Trustee Charles Fifield, seconded by Trustee Stacy Gusheal. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Ron Stiles asked the Village Board to help out with his parking situation with his building on Main Street. A brief discussion was held with no solution at this time.

7:34 p.m. meeting adjourned

Motion: Charles Fifield Seconded: Stacy Gushea Vote: unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond
Village Clerk