

VILLAGE OF RENSSELAER FALLS

October 13, 2025

6:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting

Present: Mayor Michael Hammond, Deputy Mayor Connie McAllister, Trustees Samantha Booth and Nicholas Calton, Village Clerk Lisa Hammond

Absence: Attorney Henry Leader, Trustee Jolene LaSiege, Code Enforcement Officer Ron Dulmage, and Sewer Superintendent Mark Basford

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

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

Bills were audited by Trustees Nicholas Calton and Connie McAllister

Motion to approve bills.

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Samantha Booth Vote: unanimous

3. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of September 8th, 2025 were approved

Motion: Connie McAllister Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

4. Reports: Departments and Committees

- a. Sewer Report: Mark Basford was not present.

26 Hours reported by Basford for and 36 Hours reported for Jared Murray for the Month of August, 2025. Mark Basford did not send a written report this month. Mayor Hammond spoke with him and excused him from this meeting. Basford reported to the Mayor that sand is ready to be tested and he would like to rent a machine from a contractor this time to have more flexibility. Mayor Hammond noted the sewer plant looks great.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

- b. Code Enforcement Report: Code Officer Ron Dulmage was not present.

Motion: Seconded: Vote:

- c. Clerk's Report: Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that tax collection is going smoothly, \$39,537.36 has been collected to date. Hammond reported a sales tax check was received in the amount of \$18,800.74 from the County. The St. Lawrence County Auction opens the weekend of September 13th for non-payment of Real Property taxes and ends September 27th, 2025. Clerk Hammond relayed to the Village Board members that there are a couple residents in the Village asking for a break on their Sewer bills, due to either no power or non living environment. A brief discussion was held and it was agreed that Clerk Hammond would relay to the residents that the toilet would have to be removed and showed proof of such to the Code Officer Ron Dulmage. Clerk Hammond is still working on tree removal. Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment training was held for Board members prior to this meeting tonight. Training was conducted by Kevin Townsend from Eastern Shores Insurance Company. Hammond noted she worked with the Town of Canton Highway to erect "no parking here to corner" signs at the four way intersection at CR 15 and Rensselaer Street.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

- d. Mayors Report: Mayor Michael Hammond read aloud a letter to the Fire Department from the Village Board. Addressing funding and budgeting matters. Fire Chief Dallas Denny signed the Fire Contract on this date and received and acknowledged receipt of both the contract and this attached letter. Mayor Michael Hammond asked Chief Denny to share with the department members. In the end Mayor Hammond stated that he hopes that the Village Board and the Fire Department can agree to disagree but move forward for the betterment of the community. Hammond stated there are too many positives to focus on negative matters. There has not been a signed Fire Contract since 2021.
- e. Committees - Falls Festival/Trees/ Playground. Mayor Michael Hammond noted that at Community Bank there is a playground fund, entitled Playground fund, Hammond suggesting changing its name to Fall Festival Fund/ or Falls Fest Committee, as a major project in winding down at the playground. Mayor Hammond held discussions with

Attorney Henry Leader on the Library expansion completion of phase 1. re: bonding vs. short term notes.

Motion: Samantha Booth Seconded: Nicholas Calton Vote: unanimous

5. New Business:

a. Community Center Financing Options - Discussion & Possible Approval:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that he and Emily Hastings of Canton Library have met with two banks to discuss financial options. Community Bank was very forthcoming with information to help in the process. 4.97 interest rate was offered by Community Bank for \$411,000.00 for a one year short term note. Hammond noted that all Village accounts are at Community Bank and it would be nice to have it locally for communication purposes. Community Bank can also set the Village up with a line of credit if the board would like to move forward. This is similar to work the Fire Department has done in the past to purchase a firetruck using a short term loan, Hammond noted. Bank of Green County offered an interest rate of 3.99 and that Attorney Henry Leader was present during these discussions with Green Bank. Emily Hastings, Canton Library has been told by the State that the funding will be less than a one year turn around to be refunded this grant. Discussion was held about loans and bonding and it was decided to go with Community Bank for a loan by motion.

Motion: Nicholas Calton Seconded: Connie McAllister Vote: unanimous

6. Updates:

a. Library Project:

Mayor Michael Hammond stated that Emily Hastings, President of the Canton Free Library recently visited the Children's museum in Potsdam and expressed to Mayor Hammond what a great facility is with its recent expansion. Hammond is in hopes for a field trip there soon. Hastings submitted the DASNY grant through the Library in the amount of \$250,000 to 275,000 hoping to hear something by the end of October. Phase 2 Hammond reminded the people present will be knocking out the wall, implementing the Children's section and some of the

bathrooms and kitchen area start ups. Phase 3 is the Community room and the facade outside.

b. Playground/Fall Fest Committee Discussion:

The Committee for Falls Fest is going to hold a fund raiser for pavers at the playground to finish up the entrance area. Family names will be placed on the pavers.

Discussion on closing the ceiling in the pavilion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE VILLAGE BOARD

Falls Festival meeting to be held after the Village Board meeting this evening.

Next Village Board meeting will be held on October 13, 2025 at 6 p.m

6:38 p.m. Closed Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Motion: Nicholas Calton

Seconded: Samantha Booth

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted:

Lisa Hammond, Village Clerk