

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York, held on February 11, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Village Office located at 139 Lake Street, Rouses Point, NY

Present: George A. Rivers, Mayor
Brad M. Martin, Trustee
Arvil J. Moore, Trustee
Joseph R. Treadwell, Trustee
Andrew P. Vincelette, Trustee

Also Present: Jean M. LaBombard, Administrator
Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer

Recording Secretary: Carol A. Hanfield, Village Clerk

Mayor Rivers opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and explained the purpose of the meeting was to hire a person for the Accounting Dept.; discuss the Police Dept.; authorize Tim Graves to go to training for his Operators License; and authorize the payment to Flying Cow for the D & H sign.

Trustee Martin stated that there were four (4) candidates interviewed for the Account Clerk Typist position. He along with Trustee Treadwell, the Administrator and Treasurer held the interviews. A decision has been made to recommend Patricia Garrand for this position. Trustee Martin made a motion to hire Patricia Garrand to fill the Account Clerk Typist Position. This position is full time with full benefits commencing on February 17, 2015 at a salary of \$13.46 per hour; Seconded by Trustee Treadwell; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers stated that the next item to be discussed is to promote Scott Bechard to Police Chief/ hire a part-time officer/ submitting a grant for a full time Police Officer. The Clerk explained that last year there was a grant that was available to train an officer and pay their salary for three (3) years. Trustee Vincelette said that he still has the paperwork but doesn't have the time to do it this year. Trustee Treadwell asked him if he knew anyone who could do the grant and Trustee Vincelette said other than going to Melissa - he didn't know of anyone. The Treasurer said that the Police Dept. has always handled their grants in the past. Trustee Vincelette said he will talk to Scott about this. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Shirley Hall, 332 Lake Street, asked why the grant wasn't done before. Trustee Treadwell explained that we tried last year but the paperwork was not up to date in the Police Department so we were not eligible, that is why we hired Mike Bingel back, was to do the paperwork so we are now eligible for this grant. Mr. Gordon Hall 332 Lake Street, asked the Board if they have thought about hiring part-time and was told that they are now looking for people to work part time. Mrs. Hall said she has spoken to people who said they have offered to work part time. Trustee Treadwell said that to date they have not received any applications. Discussion followed.

Ben Arno, 104 State Street, asked if the Board was making Scott Bechard the Police Chief without a raise in pay. Trustee Martin said that he will not get a raise in pay. Mayor Rivers explained that Scott is presently working out of class and Civil Service said that if we do not do this then he cannot do anymore reports. Ben then asked why we have to have a Police Dept. Mayor Rivers said that there are a lot of people that want it. Mrs. Hall said that she does not want a Police Dept. she would rather have the State Police come in because she sees nothing being done in her area. Trustee Moore told Mrs. Hall that there is more to the Village than her area. She said that they pay good taxes and don't see any sign of local police. She said they drive down Stony Point Road where they have no authority for and then come back – once a day if once a day. We are not getting any police coverage. The State Police will do something for us. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hall addressed the part time police coverage they have at the airport and how they saved the money from health care and other things. They were already pre-trained so there was no training. The Administrator said that we have an individual who has an application who has asked many questions about the hours and such but he has not submitted his application yet. Trustee Treadwell explained that the Board is looking into part time but the Board has minimal authority to do anything. They would like to do what they would like to do, but they have to go through Civil Service and the Union. Mr. Hall asked if a part time officer could do the reports. He was told that a person has to be certified to do the reports. Discussion followed.

Trustee Treadwell asked Tom Laundrie about the 911 System and if a call from 911 is dispatched to every department because he had been told that. Mayor Rivers explained the process of 911 and what takes place. Tom Laundrie explained that a situation took place where he was called out to help on a call a Kings Bay once. Trustee Treadwell did a recap on what is happening as 1st thing we are working to get a grant to perhaps hire a full time officer; 2nd we are looking for part time help and are looking for applications. People can talk to you on the street but that is all it is talk. The Administrator explained that we are trying to look for people who are already trained. We had a person interested but he did not qualify because he worked in Burlington, Vermont where he has to have a Vermont license and he was not allowed to work between the two entities because he would have to have a NY license to work in New York State as a police officer.

Mr. Hall addressed the truck issues and asked how many tickets have been issued to trucks. Mayor Rivers said that he has sat with Scott and the speed is normally within a couple miles of the speed limit. Trustee Treadwell said that we are also working on the issue about the jake brakes. Discussion followed.

Administrator LaBombard said that it was her understanding that with the past Board the volume of tickets being written plummeted. She came on board in August and remembered that in conversation the volume of tickets went down. Discussion followed.

The Administrator read the letter from Civil Service regarding the promotion of Scott Bechard to Police Chief. This position will be provisional until he passes the test. The Administrator said that the plan is

when we bulk up our police department the schedule will be changed and it won't be a straight five (5) day schedule. Mr. Hall asked the Board if they felt that Scott has the respect of all the law enforcement around. Mayor Rivers said that he has not heard one word from any of the law enforcement. The Administrator said that she knows that he works very well with the Sheriff's Dept. She discussed the preparation of the Stone Garden grant. Discussion followed.

Trustee Treadwell made a motion to promote Scott Bechard to a Provisional Police Chief – pending Civil Service test; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Treadwell made a motion to allow Tim Graves to attend the classes for his Operator's License; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk explained that we had to pay 50% prior to Flying Cow Signs prior to the D & H sign being made. The balance is due at time of delivery. Trustee Vincelette is going to White River Junction on the 17th and will be met by Mr. Edson to pick up the sign. This sign is paid for by the grant. Trustee Martin made a motion to pay the balance of the bill to The Flying Cow in the amount of \$1010; Seconded by Trustee Treadwell; AYE CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Hall thanked the Board for the information he was given. He stated that he would rather come to the Official Board than to listen to the Community. The Administrator said he can call her anytime. Discussion followed.

Shirley Hall asked if we get a part time police officer to get someone who lives in the Village and she said she is really concerned about the Village. Trustee Treadwell said that we would love to have them from the Village because they pay taxes; and have interest, but in the Police Dept. it is not everyone who is qualified for that position.

Ben Arno asked about the Water Plant and if it was in violation for anything. He asked about the two (2) in the water plant that do not have their licenses yet. He asked if they are in violation for not having their licenses. Trustee Moore said that he thought they are ready for their licenses. He said they have been in training for a while. They have to have so many contact hours. Ben thought they had to have their license within a year. This will be looked into. Ben said that someone asked him about it and he said he would ask the Board. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Martin made a motion to adjourn at 5:33 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol A. Hanfield,
Village Clerk