

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jean M. LaBombard, Administrator
Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer
Brian S. Pelkey, PWS

RECORDING SECRETARY: Carol A. Hanfield, Village Clerk

ABSENT: Clifford Sterling, Code Enforcement Officer

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENTATION: Legislator Harry McManus – Update on the Northern Tier Trail Project

Legislator McManus stated that he was present to give a where we are and where we are going within the next few months and to answer any questions regarding the Northern Tier Trail Project. The overall grant came in at \$1.31 million, however we are not in a position to say at this time how much this project is going to cost. We are going to go into the 1st Phase which is the design phase, starting after resolutions are passed within the next six (6) weeks and at that time we will begin the process that will end around June of 2016. At that point we will be aware of the tentative cost and commitment on the part of each municipality, the mechanism for which we hope to fund this, and in addition he is hopeful to reduce a significant portion of the 20% share, which is a matched share, based upon cash not in-kind services or equipment.

We have four (4) potential sources for this. The 1st is the Waterfront Grant, the trail will connect at the corner of Chapman and Lake and is for anything along the waterfront; the 2nd is Parks & Rec which looks better than before because now we are asking for monies for a completed project opposed to the last two times when we were building something from the railroad tracks to the Hayford Road and not a completed project so we lost significant points but now we have a project that will be complete; the 3rd source is to contact Betty Little and we are hopeful we can get something – any other funding we receive will knock down the 20% share the three (3) municipalities have to come up with 6.6% each and; we are going back to the County for more tobacco money and hope to leverage another \$15,000 as this is what this money is for. We leveraged the 1st 15,000 to get what has been done on the Prospect Hill road already. The fact is we initially committed to \$75,000 and the only thing

that is undone is the portion to be blacktopped. This gave us a leg up on the other four (4) municipalities who applied for this grant. This is where we are.

The completion of the project hopefully will be in the fall of 2017. Construction should begin in the fall of 2016 and at that point we will have all of the funding sources and know exactly what the amount is.

He stated that at the recent Town Board meeting it was initially talked about the three (3) communities setting up their own individual funding. The money you pay is based on the total amount of the assessment. The Villages of Rouses Point and Champlain are not equal and the Town of Champlain is not equal. He said he recommended to the Town Board that they consider submitting as a whole instead of each municipality raising the money individually. Everybody will pay and for Rouses Point it will be about the same amount of money. We are looking at \$.04 or .05 cents per thousand. Those figures can change dramatically depending on what the project comes in at. There are some alternatives. He then reviewed two layouts of the trail that he had submitted to the Board. We have to wait to see how the bids come in with the two options listed.

We now have the funding along with the commitment letter in place and need a resolution that still commits the Village with putting the rate on the Town General and the other resolution would commit the Village to set up a specific tax rate for the Village of Rouses Point. We need to see what the Town Board decides at their February meeting.

Trustee Treadwell stated that we have no idea at this point what part the Village is responsible for. Legislator McManus said that the figure used was initially \$80,000 and if you amortize that over a 20 year serial bond it works out to about \$4500/year but he thinks it can be significantly less than that. There will be no figures until they actually bid the project which will be sometime during the summer of 2016 and he thinks it will be significantly less than that. It is hard to say when you don't have a design and bids done. Trustee Treadwell said then you are looking for a commitment not knowing what the figure really is. Legislator McManus said that they are looking for a commitment to reaffirm the initial resolution which was 6.6% of the 20% match for the project.

Trustee Vincelette asked if we go with the Town instead of Rouses Point doing their own funding will that wipe out the waterfront grant. Legislator McManus said that he didn't think that it had anything to do with it. Trustee Treadwell explained that it also goes to the waterfront down the Village of Champlain by the bridge.

Legislator McManus explained that all three communities will pay. Putting it on Town General does not change that. Everybody in the township will pay. The problem is the assessment for the Village of Champlain is so low that their tax rate will go up significantly more than the other two. Since the commitment was that all three communities would pay this is just a different way of doing it putting it on Town General and looking at \$.04 – .05 per thousand, but again that is based on the \$80,000 figure. We have control over this project and some control over the money we spend. We have been given \$1.31 million and it is a bargain and a half to end up with the Recreation Trail but he cannot give an iron clad guarantee on the number.

Trustee Martin asked about the upkeep of the path. Legislator McManus said that it will be a year round trail with a winter trail for skiers. It was discussed about sharing the cost but each community will be committed to having some upkeep in their municipal boundary.

Ben Arno, 104 State Street, asked if there was going to be guard rails along the Golf Course Road. Legislator McManus said that depends, if there is a three foot strip between the road and the 10' bike path his preference would be yes, but he would want to see what the cost is and would need input from all three communities as guard rails can be pricey. Mr. Arno thought that it would be dangerous for someone walking with children. Legislator McManus said that if we can't put it in the original plan maybe it is something the three (3) municipalities could look into down the road. Mr. Arno asked if the Village pays for what lies within the Village limits. Legislator McManus then explained that each community committed to 6.66% of whatever the grant came in at but it can be done by adding it to the local Village tax rate and the Village of Champlain and Town outside or by putting it on Town General. Legislator McManus explained the trail location crosses 276.

Trustee Treadwell asked about the amount of our assessment being higher than the Village of Champlain. In looking at the map the Village of Rouses Point gains the least amount of trail compared to the Village of Champlain and the Town. When you look at square footage our amount is less than the Town. Legislator McManus said if you count footage you have one method but when you count usage, the amount of people to use it the Village of Rouses Point has more people who will use it than the rest of the Township as the Village has more population. The grant was submitted with the idea of equal shares and that is how they submitted the grant.

Trustee Treadwell then asked when an answer is required. Legislator McManus said that he needs to have an answer by the end of February. It will be on the agenda at the next Town Board Meeting in February.

Mr. Cooper said that this will have to go to a Public Referendum and the voters will have to decide on it, as this is going to benefit the Village of Rouses Point and the Village of Champlain and not the rest of the Town. Mr. McManus said that as far as he knows there is no requirement for a Public Referendum and asked Mr. Cooper how this is going to be done before their next meeting. Discussion followed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Christopher Barie, 24 Lake Street, handed out to the Board a letter requesting that a sign be installed not allowing 'Jake Brakes' in Rouses Point. Trustee Vincelette said that this was previously discussed and mentioned that he knows of windows that have broken from the vibration made by the 'Jake Brakes'. Mr. Barie said that he was told that this was discussed in the past but from his point of view it seems like it would be a simple decision. Trustee Treadwell explained that the previous board checked into this and 'Jake Brakes' are a way for the trucks to slow down and if we don't allow them to be used and there was an accident, the Village would be liable and being on a State Highway we have no authority to do that. We have to go through DOT to do anything on the State Highway. Mr. Maskell was on board at the time and he was the one who looked into this. Mr. Barie was told that this will be looked into. Mr. Barie explained that the Canadians have a sign on their side not allowing the jake brakes and he doesn't know if they have any liability, and if it comes down to a liability issue then he will block his ears. Trustee Treadwell said that he even

called a chip company and asked if they would not use their 'Jake Brakes' in the Village limits. They stopped for a while but then began again. Discussion followed.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

Trustee Martin made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 5, 2015 as presented; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED

BILLS: VOUCHER NOS: 20236 - 20293 \$277,259.12

The Treasurer stated there was one addition to the list of bills. New York Power Authority in the amount of \$94,415.87 – our monthly bill. Trustee Moore made a motion to pay the bills as amended; Seconded by Trustee Vincelette; AYE CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk read a letter from Kieran Gilroy, Chairperson of the July 4th Celebration being sponsored by Montgomery Post 912. The Committee has begun making plans for this years' celebration. They asked for permission to have a 'beer garden' which will be run by the North Country Golf Club as done in the past few years. Other events will include a car show; 5K run; barbeque; kid's day; vendors, rides for the kids and the parade. Mr. Gilroy said that the celebration is the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of July. Trustee Martin made a motion to approve the 'Beer Garden' and all other events for the July 4th Celebration Weekend; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:

MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:

Mayor Rivers stated that he was misinformed at the last meeting when he surplused the S-10 and asked for a motion to approve it. Trustee Moore made a motion approving that the Mayor surplus the S10; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers stated that he wishes to surplus an itemized list of items from the Police Department along with additional items from other departments. The Clerk read some of the available items. Mayor Rivers said these items are available for viewing at the Village Office. Trustee Vincelette made a motion to surplus these misc. items; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED.

Mayor Rivers asked the Administrator to give an update on NAPHL (the Hockey League). The Administrator stated that at the last meeting Mr. Cooper expressed liability concerns for the Village. She said she confirmed with Phil Defranco, President of the NAPHL, that the liability is the responsibility of the owners of the new team. The team would have to form a LLC as they will be privately owned and operated by the investors and as a business entity they are responsible for property and liability coverage. The NAPHL ran in the Press Republican in Sports Shorts an announcement of their meeting this Saturday, 1/24 at 1:00 p.m. here. They have set up a face book page "Bring Pro-Hockey To Rouses Point" and Mr. Franco continues to personally contact prospective team owners which she said if anyone wishes to contact him she has his number. The media has also been invited to participate in this meeting on Saturday.

TRUSTEE MARTIN:

Trustee Martin made a motion to rescind the original motion to hire Richard Letourneau on a part time basis at the Civic Center; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Martin made a motion to hire Richard Letourneau as a Consultant at a rate of \$18.00 per hour not to exceed 20 hours per week for up to three months; Seconded by Trustee Treadwell; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Trustee Martin said that the Board is trying to ascertain the possibility of bringing Clifford Sterling on full time. He would like to table it until we find out what the cost will be at his hourly rate and the possibility of getting insurance. Trustee Treadwell stated that there are a lot of things that need to be discussed about this, for example do we really need a full time Code Enforcement Officer or is he going to be a part time Code Enforcement Officer and part time in another title; and will the cost be offset by the amount of permits and other things he does.

TRUSTEE TREADWELL:

Trustee Treadwell asked the Administrator to explain the Apprentice Training for the electric dept. employees. The Administrator stated that the Substation Training is through Northwest Lineman College. She spoke to the rep. today and it is a certification program and is an open enrollment so the individual can start at any time of the year. The rates for 2015 are \$520 per module and there are four (4) modules. They claim it is a four (4) year program but the program can be completed in an accelerated format if the individual is so inclined. There are exams that are included as the individual completes each of the topics of training within each module. In module No. 1 there are ten (10) study courses with an exam for each one. This will be the same for the other modules. There is text book learning and the on line part would be for the testing. It is \$5.00 if you choose the on line exams vs. a paper copy. There are technical instructors on staff available at any time for the students and you purchase one module at a time. This training is in lieu of the training that is held in Fairport which is what Jason Juneau participated in. Trustee Treadwell asked Brian Pelkey if he was comfortable with this. Brian thought that it would be nice to have hands on but unfortunately this program doesn't offer it. Brian said he would like Andy to have hands on training. There are so many different applications that take place. Discussion followed.

Trustee Treadwell asked if there were any other training courses available that would be hands on. Brian said that there are workshops sponsored by the MEUA usually in March and again in November and they are usually hands on training. Jason completed the apprentice lineman school in Fairport which was for beginners who work in the field that we work in. The upcoming Syracuse training is on March 19th & 20th. There should be an agenda coming soon from MEUA. Trustee Treadwell asked to table this until the next meeting to see if we have an agenda by then and if it is beneficial to send both guys. Discussion followed.

TRUSTEE MOORE:

Trustee Moore made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel; Seconded by Trustee Treadwell; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

TRUSTEE VINCELETTE:

Trustee Vincelette stated that the State is requiring the Library to do more things. Whatever we offer at the Library, the Library is being required to have training on. The Library wanted the Board to know that these mandates are using up almost half of their budget this year and the Friends of the Library can only do so much. Discussion followed.

OTHER REPORTS:

TREASURER LETOURNEAU:

Trustee Letourneau asked for someone to make a motion for an Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Trustee Treadwell made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel Issue; Seconded by Trustee Vincelette; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

PWS PELKEY:

PWS Brian Pelkey stated that one of the new street lights on Pratt Street was hit. It was a hit and run between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. by the Dollar General. If anyone has any information or a description of what happened to please come forward with it. He said that he has been around the Village looking for any vehicles that were totaled, dented or demolished and couldn't find anything. If anyone heard or saw anything by Dollar General let us know. The neighbors heard some noise around that time.

We are digging on Lake Street because we had broken sewer lines and water lines. This weather is hard on the utilities. The snow plow has been broken so that is why the sidewalks are in the condition they are in. They were sent back out today to work on them. We need the people to work with us on this.

Trustee Treadwell asked about the Telephone Company lines being down on Pratt Street. Brian said that they have removed the cable down as far as the tracks. They are working on route 276 doing a cut over on Wednesday; then Church Street can come down and they can work on lower State Street then they will have all of their cable out of the air. They will have to remove the poles after the frost is out of the ground. All of the wires still in the air are Time Warner Cable.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Ben Arno, 104 State Street, asked what it cost the Village to have an Arborist check out the tree on Edgewater Drive and why did we pay for it. The Mayor explained that the code said we had to. Trustee Treadwell read a section of the law under Chapter 90 of the Village Code stating that because the tree could have caused danger to the neighbor the Village had to proceed with what was done. Discussion followed.

Ben also asked if Melissa McManus was still on the payroll. Mayor Rivers said that she was not on the payroll. Everything that is paid to her is reimbursed to the Village by the grants. Discussion followed.

RECESS:

Trustee Moore made a motion to go into recess @ 7:52 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Moore made a motion to go into Executive Session @ 7:59 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No Action was taken during Executive Session regarding Police Personnel

No Action was taken during Executive Session regarding Personnel

REGULAR SESSION:

Trustee Martin made a motion to go back into Regular Session at 8:35 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Vincelette; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Martin made a motion that the full time Non-Union Personnel be given a 2% salary increase retro-active to June 1, 2014 and part time Non-Union Personnel a 1% salary increase retro-active to June 1, 2014; Seconded by Trustee Treadwell; AYE CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Vincelette; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol A. Hanfield".

Carol A. Hanfield
Village Clerk