

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York, held on June 6, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m. at Halstead Hall, 39 Lake Street, Rouses Point, NY.

Present: Daniel H. Letourneau, Mayor
John A. Mott, Trustee
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee

Absent: Arvil J. Moore, Trustee

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

Recording Secretary: Jean M. LaBombard, Deputy Clerk

Mayor Letourneau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS:

Trustee Mott made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2016; Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED.

BILLS:

There were no additions or deletions to the bills.

Trustee Dart questioned the employees driving to Ace Hardware versus using Chazy Hardware. Trustee Mott advised he's checked that issue before and was told Chazy Hardware has limited supplies, as it is more building/construction related.

A Motion was made by Trustee Arno to pay the bills; Seconded by Trustee Mott; AYE CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:

MAYOR DANIEL LETOURNEAU:

1) **Athletic Policy**

The Mayor began the discussion by summarizing the details discussed in the Board meeting of 06/06/16. He advised that additional research had been done by the Administrator with NYMIR, the

Village's insurance carrier, confirming that the Village is sufficiently covered via its current General Liability policy, without the need for additional coverage. Therefore, it's possible that we can move forward under that premise. For example, in the event of a lawsuit, the claim would be addressed via the General Liability policy, which also has a Med-Pay component.

Therefore, no motion is required to continue with the current insurance arrangement. AYE CARRIED.

2) **Brush Pick-Up**

Mayor Letourneau researched via NY DEC, who started the burn ban, and discussed same with Jim Coutant, DEC/Regional Air Pollution Control Engineer. Mayor Letourneau then read segments of the DEC Regulations.

The bottom line is that we can't even request a permit to burn, as burning is not allowed. Mr. Coutant suggested the Village consider establishing a landfill, however, we don't have the resources or the room to do so.

The discussion continued that to conduct additional brush pickup and chipping, in addition to the current Spring and Fall pickup, is manpower intensive and costly.

Further discussed was establishing a "bunker" trial for 2 weeks, to see how it goes. That was defined as being similar to the current mulch bunker. That has been tried before with minimal success, the time involved in establishing the site and the process, etc.

The consensus of the Board is to leave the pickup schedule as it currently stands. Simply due to the cost and required manpower, the current pickup schedule, being one-week's duration in both Spring and Fall, would continue. It takes the crews from both DPW and the Electric Department to work the two seasonal projects, as it's a very labor intensive exercise. In an effort to provide additional awareness of the scheduled pickup periods, the events would be better publicized, i.e., via the Village website, the LED sign, local newspapers, etc.

3) **MEUA Update**

Tony Modafferi, of MEUA, visited the Village Office on June 2nd. Mr. Modafferi met with the Mayor Letourneau, Jean LaBombard, Brian Pelkey, and Benny Arno, to discuss MEUAs representation of the Village, and its 50 other member municipalities, as it pertains to the hydropower allotment. Our current rates are confirmed to 2025, and negotiations continue to extend that for another 20 years.

Tony is Chief Lobbyist for MEUA. Mr. Pelkey was pleased with the information shared at the meeting, as was Mr. Arno. The final analysis was that the Village will not lose its hydropower allocation.

4) **Fishing On Montgomery Street Pier**

Mayor Letourneau provided an update regarding a request to allow fishing at the Montgomery Street Pier. The Mayor read specific data and planning details from the grant application backup material utilized in securing grant funding for the Pier. Those details include a description of intended

use – to include fishing. In addition to fishing, the Pier would provide a lake access venue for strolling, relaxation, gatherings, etc.

The Mayor confirmed that Trustee Arno would research as to how to amend the current sign, which is very ornately engraved, to remove the *no fishing* segment without defacing the sign. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Mott expressed that people should be allowed to fish, especially handicapped individuals who may not otherwise have lake access to do so. All were in agreement.

5) **Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) Transmission Line**

On June 2nd, the Mayor and Administrator met with the representatives of this project, Josh Bagnato and Bob Harrison, of Transmission Developers (TDI). TDI advised that they have two separate projects occurring; one on the Vermont side of Lake Champlain, and the other running down the channel of Lake Champlain on the New York side. The New York project will carry electricity from Canada to Long Island; the Vermont project will carry electricity from Canada to the New England States. Mayor Letourneau provided a summary of the projects, equipment to be used, timing, etc.

The NY project in particular is described as being the installation of 2- approximately 6" diameter cables that are expected to be installed within Lake Champlain near the Village of Rouses Point. The cables are proposed to be installed approximately 3-4' beneath the lake bed using an installation device called a jet plow, which uses pressurized water to dig a trench in which to lay the cables. The project is slated to begin Spring of 2017.

The purpose of the meeting was to address the Village's concerns regarding the location of the two transmission lines as it pertains to the Village's water intake and sewer outflow lines. Initial indication is that the line will not interfere with Village infrastructure, however, TDI will provide a memo outlining all the specifics regarding the use of a silt curtain if silt dispersion is significant. They will also provide information regarding silt dispersion, based on a set of compliance standards provided by NYS.

There were no further questions regarding the project, however, Trustee Dart did suggest increasing the water level in the water tank in advance, to err on the side of caution for use as a contingency plan. Mayor Letourneau reiterated TDI's claim to minimize any adverse impact, but did agree that the idea to fill the tank was a good one.

7) **Lights at the Civic Center Tennis / Basketball Courts**

Mayor Letourneau discussed the fact that the lights at the Civic Center courts were currently not illuminated in the evenings during the summer months. He continued that summer's evening hours is a great time for such sports, as it's potentially much cooler. Discussion ensued.

The full Board is in agreement to utilize the timer, currently set for 9-11pm, to illuminate the courts during summer evenings. Civic Center staff will be notified accordingly.

TRUSTEE MOTT:

Trustee Mott read a letter from the Stage Committee requesting permission to construct a dressing room addition on the back of the existing Stage. Discussion ensued.

A Motion was made by Trustee Dart to grant permission to the Stage Committee to construct a dressing room on the back of the existing Stage; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYES CARRIED.

TRUSTEE MOORE:

Absent.

TRUSTEE ARNO:

Trustee Arno advised he's been approached by several residents requesting additional trash cans be placed on Lake and Maple Sts. He further suggested the need for a receptacle at the Train Station. Benny will evaluate the cost of additional receptacles for suggested locations and report his findings at the next Board meeting.

The Water Plant is running well. Staff continued the unidirectional hydrant flushing, and both the Adams System and the Industrial System maintenance is underway.

The Library has also been provided with various maintenance tasks and is looking very good.

Cody O'Brian and Aaron Babbie have repaired the dug outs and they look very good.

Trustee Arno attended the MEUA dinner held June 1st in Plattsburgh, accepting the service award for Arsene Letourneau, who's been the Village Treasurer for 30 years. Congratulations, Arsene!

TRUSTEE DART:

Trustee Dart asked the Administrator how successful the recent wrestling match was. The Administrator reminded the Board that the Village's revenue was based upon the facility rental fee of \$500. Other than that, the promoter, Xtreme Combat Promotions, benefited from ticket and t-shirt sales they promoted. She was not privy to the revenue generated by the concession stand, which operated for the benefit of Youth Hockey.

Trustee Dart advised he'd expressed concern to Cody O'Brian over the locks on the bathrooms at the boat launch.

ADMINISTRATOR:

The Administrator confirmed that concerns expressed in the last meeting regarding the boat launch building and the park benches have been addressed.

TREASURER:

The Treasurer reported as follows:

- The tax bills are out;

- The new server has been installed;
- The auditing firm SaxBST Ltd. will arrive June 15th to conduct their audit;
- Three remote training sessions have been held to date on the new electric billing software; additional training is scheduled for 6/21-23/16. A go-live date is scheduled for July 1st. Residents will recognize a new billing format with the first bills, to be run on July 1st.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Steve Merchant advised the Board that there was a second break-in attempt at the Stage. The first break-in resulted in \$150 in damages and the violator was arrested. He asked if a security camera could be installed, or possibly a motion light might help.

Mr. Merchant also advised that he'd had many inquiries by Seniors attending the Stage's events regarding the possibility of port-a-potty rental, if not the construction of a bathroom connected to the Stage. Brian Pelkey will evaluate the possibility of adding a restroom.

Mr. Merchant also advised that he's anticipating a big draw for the upcoming Elvis event, to be held on July 28th, a Thursday night, and thus increased traffic.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 pm, to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Dart. AYE CARRIED.

Mayor Letourneau made a Motion at 7:57 to enter into Executive Session; Seconded by Trustee Mott. ROLL CALL VOTE, AYE CARRIED.

Trustee Mott made a motion to enter into Regular Session; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED. No action was taken during Executive Session.

A Motion was made to Appoint Scott Bechard to the position of Chief of Police, effective June 7, 2016, at his current hourly rate, without additional probation.

Trustee Mott made a Motion; Seconded by Trustee Arno. ROLL CALL VOTE, AYE CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:11pm; Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:


Jean M. LaBombard
Deputy Clerk