

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: George Rivers, Mayor
Arvil J. Moore, Trustee
Brad M. Martin, Trustee
John A. Mott, Trustee

ABSENT: Joseph R. Treadwell, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer
Clifford Sterling, CEO
Brian Pelkey, PWS
Jean LaBombard, Administrator

RECORDING SECRETARY: Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Joshua Gero addressed the Village Board. Joshua stated that he is a boy scout with Troop 42 in Champlain, NY and is working on an Eagle Scout Project which is to install a bicycle rack at the Dodge Memorial Library. He stated that he wanted to do this because a bike rack would help keep the property free of clutter, make it safe for both cyclists and drivers, and help keep bike theft down. Joshua continued by saying that he presented this Project to the Library Board, which they approved. Additionally, the Library Board agreed that Joshua could place a donation jar at the front desk at the Library.

No other comments from the public.

Trustee Mott made a motion to approve the bike rack at the Dodge Memorial Library;
Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

Trustee Martin made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 16, 2016; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED

BILLS VOUCHER NOS: 14459 - 14529 \$ 88,754.08

No additions or deletions.

Motion made by Trustee Moore to pay the bills; Seconded by Trustee Martin; Discussion: Trustee Mott asked about the bill for Melissa McManus. Mayor Rivers explained that this is for old grants and we get reimbursed for that money. Trustee Mott asked about the bill for Taylor Rental in the amount of \$267.28 for the Water Plant. The Administrator stated that it was probably for the new hire. Trustee Mott asked if there was a policy about purchasing

for new hires, i.e., Scott Anthony was hired and we purchased uniforms and boots, then he resigned. Should they be here for 6 months or so before purchasing. The Administrator stated that it was worth discussing. AYE CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk read the following correspondence:

- 1) Letter of Resignation from Gregory MacCallum from his position as Laborer at the Civic Center. Motion by Trustee Martin; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED
- 2) Letter from Rouses Point Dodge Memorial Library recommending hiring Stephanie Ajmo as an “as needed substitute” Library Page. Trustee Martin made a motion to hire Stephanie Ajmo; Seconded by Trustee Mott; AYE CARRIED
- 3) Letter from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 912 requesting permission to distribute poppies for donations during the month of May. Trustee Mott made a motion to allow the distribution of poppies; Seconded by Trustee Moore; Discussion: Trustee Mott asked why we had to motion granting permission to the Auxiliary. Mayor Rivers explained that several years ago the Auxiliary from Champlain came to Rouses Point to distribute poppies and the Rouses Point Auxiliary got very upset. So now a letter is submitted. AYE CARRIED

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:

MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:

- 1) The Mayor presented a conference request for 2 individuals to attend the NYCOM Annual Meeting & Training School to be held from May 1-3, 2016 at the Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs. He stated that the new Board may want to send 2 people and it is important to get approval early in order to register early. Mayor Rivers made a motion to send 2 employees to this Meeting/School; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED
- 2) Resolution 2016-08 Fire Truck Capital Equipment Purchase Resolution was read by Treasurer Arsene Letourneau. (attached) Trustee Moore made a motion to pass Resolution 2016-08; Seconded by Trustee Martin; ROLL CALL VOTE AYE CARRIED

TRUSTEE MARTIN:

Trustee Martin made a motion to surplus the old pumper truck; Seconded by Trustee Mott; Discussion: The truck probably won't leave here until June. Trustee Mott asked if there was a minimum bid that will be put on the truck. Mayor Rivers stated that it was up to the Fire Chief. The Treasurer stated that if the item is surplus then the advertisement will have to state exactly what will be sold (i.e., what equipment will be sold with the truck). Trustee Mott suggested that there be a discussion with the Fire Chief. Trustee Martin rescinded his motion.

TRUSTEE MOORE:

- 1) For informational purposes: The water certification training that 8 employees were scheduled to attend on 03/17/16 in Plattsburgh is full; therefore, they will attend training on 03/16/16 in Potsdam.
- 2) A letter was submitted by Bryon Gelineault, Chief Water Plant Operator, indicating price quotes received for Diatomaceous Earth (DE): Aftek - \$18.50/bag, Gleason - \$18.82/bag, ManCal - \$14.90/bag, Slack - \$19.99/bag. Bryon stated that his intention was to order 858 bags of DE from ManCal Associates for a total of \$12,784.20. Treasurer Letourneau stated that this is a budgeted item. A motion is not necessary.
- 3) Trustee Moore made a motion to authorize Bryon Gelineault and Jerry Pivetta to attend Water Re-certification training in Peru. The cost is approximately \$30. Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

TRUSTEE MOTT:

No Report

TRUSTEE TREADWELL:

Absent

OTHER REPORTS:**CLERK:**

A reminder that March 15, 2016 is Election Day. Please vote. Also, a reminder to the Board that there is a Special Meeting on March 16, 2016 at 4:00PM at the Village Officer to Canvass the Election.

ADMINISTRATOR:

- 1) It was brought to our attention during a recent snow fall that required plowing, that private individuals providing plowing services may occasionally either leave a furrow of snow on the sidewalk or, if they clean up the furrow, they apparently deposit the snow along the street in the Village ROW. Doing so causes more work for DPW, as it pertains to keeping the streets and sidewalks clear for pedestrians.

Please note that Chapter 100/Streets & Sidewalks of the village Code, such activities are not allowed, and such activities will be monitored by the Commissioner and the Police Chief.

Your help as homeowners and private individuals to discourage this activity is greatly appreciated.

- 2) NAPHL – We have been formally notified that the efforts to attract a home team with the NAPHL has ended, as the NAPHL Association itself is unable to crack the Junior League market. We thank the NAPHL owners for all the work they've done over the last couple years, attempting to turn this dream into a reality.

The Civic Center, however continues to search out activities that will promote the Civic Center. We currently have two wrestling matches scheduled in 2016 with Xtreme Combat Promotions – Saturday, May 21st and Saturday, September 10th. They have also requested dates for 2017 – May 6th & September 16th.

Other events are currently being worked on as well. If individuals or businesses are interested in sponsoring an event at the Rouses Point Civic Center, please contact myself or Cody O'Brian via the Main Office.

- 3) Tax Freeze/Government Efficiency Plan – Mid – 2015, Clinton County sponsored a Local Government Plan initiative for area municipalities which was designed to identify and quantify the past, present and future initiatives that save local tax dollars. Arsene and I worked with Mike Zurlo, Clinton County Administrator, to provide those cost saving details for Rouses Point. The County submitted the joint findings to the NYS Division of the Budget and the Department of Taxation & Finance, for evaluation.

We have been notified that as the Efficiency plan submitted by the County met all qualifying criteria in confirming the benefits of our joint cost saving initiatives, taxpayers in Rouses Point (and other participating municipalities) will receive a rebate check in the Fall of 2016. The amount of those rebates is unknown. However, please note that, while counties and local governments do not control the major costs drivers in local budgets (**cost drivers being policies and programs that are mandated through NYS laws that are unfunded), the Village Administration and employees diligently and continually evaluate cost saving initiatives that we can control, for the benefit the Village as a whole.

**Visit www.stopthetaxshift.org, a NYCOM sponsored site designed “to help state and local officials, the media and the public better understand the direct connection between state actions – e.g., state aid and state mandates – and New York’s real property tax burden. Local officials and private citizens should use this site as a resource to help educate state leaders, legislators and opinion makers on those state mandates that are the key culprits in obstructing local officials’ efforts to control spending and property taxes. “

- 4) I would like to commend the Waste Water Treatment Plant employees – Tim Graves, Ernie Barcomb, Dan Guay and Grant Dean – for a very successful DEC audit in February '16. The highest rating used in this audit is “satisfactory,” and the plant scored as fully satisfactory in all applicable areas. Congratulations to all! Keep up the great work!

TREASURER:

Arsene Letourneau requested that a Budget Meeting be scheduled for next Monday. Upon discussion with the Board, the meeting will be March 14, 2016 at 5:15pm at the Village Officer in the upstairs conference room.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

CEO Clifford Sterling stated that last week he was at a Codes Enforcement conference in Lake Placid. He indicated that the new code books for 2016 will be issued in June 2016. There will be a lot of changes. While he was at the conference he purchased 3 business shirts that have

Code Enforcement Officer embroidered on them. He is asking if the Board will reimburse him for the shirts which totaled \$55. CEO Sterling stated that he does not have any identifier that he is a CEO when visiting and communicating with the public. Trustee Moore made a motion to reimburse CEO Sterling for the shirts; Seconded by Trustee Mott; AYE CARRIED.

PUBLIC WORKS:

No report

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ben Arno, 104 State Street, stated that we received another Water Violation Notice this month. He asked if there is anything being done to solve this problem. The Mayor stated that there will be more flushing, which is difficult this time of year. The Village Administrator, Jean LaBombard, mentioned that she has Rural Water involved to provide assistance to evaluate a different methodology for unilateral flushing. Also, the water level in the water tank has been dropped. There are some other initiatives going on to help alleviate the Tthm problem. The Department of Health has moved the testing site. The tests are coming more into compliance. Testing is occurring at different places. The DOH requires that there are selected sites. The Department of Health sites are monitored by John Kanoza.

Mr. Arno asked if there was a Boot Policy. He stated that the Village used to pay \$100 for a pair of boots and the employee would pay the difference if it was more. Treasurer Letourneau stated that according to the new CSEA Contract, employees are entitled to a \$300 boot allowance per year.

Tom Dart, 14 Lily Ave asked, in connection with the Water Plant, is there an update from Barton & Loguidice regarding the water plant. Administrator LaBombard responded that there will be a meeting with Jason Ballard on March 9, 2016. This will be a follow up with Bryon Gelineault on the evaluation of the water plant. She stated that they would like to visit the Alburgh and St. Albans sand filtration systems in our locale. This is part of the Feasibility Study. Mr. Dart asked the Administrator who from the Village will be visiting the sand filtration systems. She responded that possibly herself, Bryon Gelineault and a commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Moore to adjourn at 7:25pm; Seconded by Trustee Martin; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna J. Boumil
Village Clerk