

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Thomas D. Batha, Mayor
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee
Ron R. LeBlanc, Trustee
Dale M. Menard, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer
Steve Peters, Village Administrator
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer
Brian Pelkey, Public Works Supervisor
Jessica Shields, Rec Facility Manager
Susan Sullivan, Library Director

RECORDING SECRETARY: Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Thomas Batha called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. PRESENTATION

Mayor Batha and Recreation Facility Manager Jessica Shields presented Mike Lemieux with a Letter and Plaque of Appreciation for his volunteer work. Mr. Lemieux volunteered many hours to assist with ice making during the Fall of 2018 at the Rec Center.

II. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2018; Seconded by Trustee Menard. AYE CARRIED

IV. BILLS: **VOUCHERS** 25036 – 25064 \$42,301.25

No additions or deletions

Discussion:

Trustee Arno inquired about the bills for USA Blue Book – supplies for water department

Trustee LeBlanc inquired about the \$3,300 bill for CITEC – cost for an investigation based on a claim by an employee. Attorney Tom Murnane explained that this would be discussed during the executive session.

Motion by Trustee Menard to approve and pay the bills; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Read by Village Clerk Donna Boumil

- 1) Letter from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation:
Grant awarded in the amount of \$213,000 for improvements to Parks & Rec
- 2) Letter from Fourth of July Committee
Request to approve use of the Civic Center grounds for the Fourth of July activities, which will be held June 28-30th. Motion by Trustee Menard to approve the use of the Civic Center grounds; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
- 3) Letter from Montgomery Hose, Hook and Ladder
Request to approve probationary member Thomas Dart – Motion by Trustee Menard; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
- 4) Letter of Resignation: The Village Clerk read a letter of resignation from Eric Miller. Eric's last day with the Village will be January 18, 2019.
- 5) Letter from ERS Investments: Letter is in response to the article that was in the Press-Republican on January 7, 2019.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:

- 1) Request for municipalities to possibly provide a facility during power outages, that have backup power sources, for community members who may need power for medical equipment, such as oxygen. Mayor Batha suggested that this request be referred to Fire Chief Mike LeBlanc to enable him to provide suggestions and recommendations. Administrator Peters will forward this request to Fire Chief LeBlanc
- 2) Resolution 2019-01: Voter Registration Day:
Decision to NOT hold a Voter Registration Day due to lack of activity. Motion by Mayor Batha to approve the Resolution to NOT hold a Voter Registration Day; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 3) Resolution 2019-02: Polling Place
Motion by Mayor Batha to approve the 2019 Election Polling Place as the Rouses Point Civic Center, 39 Lake Street, Rouses Point; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
- 4) Discussion and Resolution for Clean Energy Community (Resolutions 2019-03 & 2019-04)
Administrator Steve Peters provided a summary of this Program:
Discussion included benchmarks already attained and benchmarks attainable.
Resolution 2019-03: Unified solar photovoltaic permitting process
Motion by Trustee Menard to approve; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

Resolution 2019-04: Establishing Energy Benchmarking Requirements for Certain Municipal Buildings

Motion by Trustee Arno to approve; Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc; AYE CARRIED

- 5) Update on discussion regarding longevity:
Mayor Batha met with the Village and CSEA attorneys. CSEA withdrew their offer to resolve the longevity pay issue. Recommendations are pending from the Village Attorney.
- 6) Mayor Batha made a motion to request an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Welcome Center: Volunteers are needed to staff the Welcome Center for summer hours. Anyone interested may contact the Village Office.
- 2) Stage Committee: Volunteers are needed or the village crew to do cleaning of the stage
- 3) Beautification Committee: Volunteers are needed to assist the Beautification Committee in planting and care of flower gardens throughout the village. Please contact the Village Office or Nancy Baker if interested.
- 4) Discussion of installing snow guards on the roof of the civic center. (spring time)
- 5) Discussion about the clock in front of the Village Office – will have to be taken down. PWS Pelkey stated that the clock is not fixable.
- 6) Dog waste stations are full – need to check at least 1 time a week
- 7) Recreation Center skate rentals – racks to be installed
- 8) Eric Miller would like to donate the remainder of his sick time to the leave donation program. Mayor Batha stated this is being looked into.

c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:

- 1) Skate sharpener at the Civic Center:
Rec Facility Manager Jessica Shields reported that the sharpener is installed and working. They have completed training. There is a great collaboration with the company it was purchased from.

Skate rentals are up.

- 2) ERS Investments:
Trustee Dart discussed the heating system in buildings #1 & #2. He believes it is doable for the village to attain.
- 3) Handout prepared by NYCOM regarding the criteria for executive sessions: Trustee Dart asked the Clerk if there was a specific reason or prompting for the distribution of this handout. Village Clerk Donna Boumil responded that this is a tool that can be used to determine if a topic meets the criteria of executive session. There has been some question in the past.

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

Motion by Trustee Menard to request an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

e. TRUSTEE RON R. LEBLANC:

1) Economic Development Update:

Trustee LeBlanc presented an Economic Development Plan – Executive Summary highlighting 6 points:

- Pfizer Property
- Route 11
- Podd Property
- Downtown Development
- Parks and Recreation
- Expand the population of Rouses Point

Trustee LeBlanc requested that \$250,000 be appropriated in the new budget for economic development. Discuss ensued as to where the money would come from, i.e., raising taxes?

2) Trustee LeBlanc asked Mayor Batha to summary the meeting he and Administrator Peters recently had with ERS Investments.

Mayor Batha's summary:

- ERS's Business Model
- What they are interested in
- Mayor Batha conveyed Trustee LeBlanc's interest in acquiring property
- Mayor Batha conveyed his own interest in conveying right-a-ways to 2 streets which could potentially provide future growth in residential property
- Mayor Batha conveyed his interest in acquiring property near the water tower for potential site of new water plant
- ERS expressed potential in rail extension and truck bypass route
- ERS repurposes land, manages sites and constructs buildings for specific clients
- ERS explained that they make their money back by remediating sites, then repurpose land, get businesses to come in and develop on them.

Trustee LeBlanc inquired if ERS has resources to do this work

Mayor Batha explained they do and they are working of 4 sites now all over the country.

Trustee LeBlanc stated that he did an investigation on ERS Investments Company

He found they have less employees than the Village of Rouses Point

No engineering resources

They are only interested in brownfield type of properties

He questions Pfizer's decision to sell to ERS when they had a local company

Interested in purchasing for cash money this past summer

It is Trustee LeBlanc's opinion that Pfizer will be a hole in the ground,

no jobs, and a mountain of debt. They will tear down the buildings and let it fowl

Trustee LeBlanc would like the Village, DEC &/or EPA to look at what's on the property to protect the residents of the village and surrounding area

f. OTHER REPORTS:

TREASURER:

No report

ADMINISTRATOR:

At the Board's request, a report was generated from Jessica (Rec Fac. Mgr) of budget numbers and operational numbers from this year versus last year.

Last year at this time – lost @ \$26,000, this year lost @ \$13,000

Expectation that revenue numbers will equalize or exceed last years

A copy will be provided to the Board

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

Response to Trustee Arno's inquiry about the clock in front of the Village Office.

The line crew looked at it, it is rotted out. They will be taking it down. Budget for a new one.

Major pump overhaul at the pump station on Montgomery Street.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Maintaining.

CIVIC CENTER:

Report from Jessica Shields, Rec Facility Manager

Skate rentals blooming

New form created for attendance of public skating, stick and puck, etc.

Anticipate opening up more ice time

VI. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments from the public

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess for Executive Session at 7:57PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into Executive Session at 8:00PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

No action taken in executive session

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into regular session at 8:44PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Menard to authorize the Clerk to advertise for an Electric Superintendent and advertise for a Line Worker; Seconded by Trustee Arno;

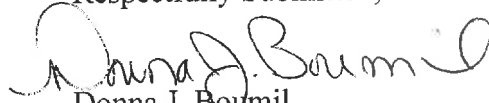
AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Menard to have Village Attorney Tom Murnane arrange for appropriate workplace conduct training/seminars and to provide pricing; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:50PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna J. Boumil". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna J. Boumil
Village Clerk