

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on May 20, 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  
Dale M. Menard, Trustee  
Jamie L. Gadway, Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer  
Brian Pelkey, Public Works Supervisor  
Susan Sullivan, Library Director

**ABSENT:** John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk/Administrator

**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. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Ron LeBlanc – resident

Mr. LeBlanc inquired about health concerns resulting in the demolition of the Pfizer property and a class action suit. He inquired if the Village's insurance will cover this.

Mayor Batha stated he was not aware of any class action suit.

**II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2019 and May 13, 2019 meetings; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

**III. BILLS:           VOUCHERS   25413 - 25445       \$ 269,474.38**

Addition: \$7.20 for Chazy Hardware from the Fire Department

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

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

No correspondence

**V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:**

**a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:**

- 1) Update on RFP (Water Plant Study) –  
The Village received 2 responses to the RFP. Mayor Batha asked that Trustee Dart work with the Mayor and Administrator to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting.
  
- 2) Procurement Policy –  
Amendments to the Procurement Policy due to changes in employees and the Board.  
Motion by Trustee Gadway to amend the Policy as written; Seconded by Trustee Menard;  
AYE CARRIED
  
- 3) Clean Energy Community Grant  
Discussion among the Board as to how the \$5,000 will be spent. Guidelines indicate that one area that the money may be spent is on LED lights. PWS Brian Pelkey suggested that the grant funds be used on fixtures and/or bulbs. The Board determined that PWS Pelkey use the funds where he deems necessary.
  
- 4) Bid award for Substation Transformer Maintenance Project  
  
Resa Power Service – No deviations – Total \$61,800  
SD Myers – No deviations - \$71,560  
TSI – Deviations – Total \$27,375  
  
Discussion with input from PWS Brian Pelkey and an email from Electrical Engineer Curt Wilson. PWS Pelkey explained that money is allocated in the budget for this maintenance.  
  
Motion by Trustee Arno to award the bid to TSI in the amount of \$27,375 for the Substation Transformer Maintenance and to authorize PWS Pelkey to complete a PO up to \$50,000 (budgeted amount); Seconded by Trustee Menard; Discussion: PWS Pelkey stated that he will keep the board apprised of any changes. AYE CARRIED
  
- 5) New hire salary adjustment –  
Motion by Trustee Menard to raise the entry level of the laborer at the Rec Center to \$11.10 in accordance with NYS Minimum Wage; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
  
- 7) Resolution 2019-23: Budget Modification  
Budget modification for fire department and library  
Motion by Trustee Gadway to approve the budget modification; Seconded by Trustee Arno;  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Trustee Arno – AYE; Trustee Menard – AYE; Trustee Dart – AYE; Trustee Gadway – AYE; Mayor Batha – AYE; AYE CARRIED
  
- 8) Assessments in the Village:  
Mayor Batha explained that he spoke with Mrs. Martine Gonyo, Director of Real Property Service for Clinton County regarding the increase in some properties village-wide. Mrs. Gonyo explained that there are 962 parcels with changes to 460 (mostly increasing). Mayor Batha continued to explain how the state changed the guidelines of assessment and because of this, assessments increased. Mayor Batha continued to explain that the Village is no longer a tax assessing unit.  
  
Residents have the right to grieve their assessment on designated Grievance Days at the Town of Champlain.

**b. TRUSTEE ARNO:**

- 1) Trustee Arno inquired into the expenses of the new dugout. Mayor Batha explained that the insurance will cover up to \$4811 minus the \$2500 deductible. There is also money in the budget for repairs.

Discussion as to materials and design of the dugout

- volunteer labor
- v-groove siding
- salt box roof

- 2) Trustee Arno made a request for an executive session to discuss the employee history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

**c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:**

- 1) Trustee Dart inquired as to the status of a meeting with Mark McCullough which was rescheduled.
- 2) Trustee Dart inquired into the replacement of the clock, which was outside the Village Office. Discussion continued about the type of clock the Board wanted. Trustee Arno will research vendors for clocks.

**d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:**

Nothing to report

**e. TRUSTEE JAMIE L. GADWAY:**

- 1) Trustee Gadway requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER:**

Nothing at this time.

**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:**

**South End Pump Station** – PWS Pelkey explained the situation with the south end pump station where the large pump is failing. He is requesting that the Board approve the purchase of a new large pump (\$19,000), which is not a budgeted item, to use as a spare and eventually change out the 2 smaller pumps for this large pump. He continued to explain that all of the other pump stations have spare pumps. Motion by Trustee Arno to purchase a pump for the south end pump station; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

**Electric Department** – PWS Pelkey discussed the workload of the electric department

- lowering street lights
- transformer work to do at the substation
- scheduled power outage on June 1 from 6am – noon. Requesting a press release
- anticipated scheduled power outage at the south end on a Friday (not determined yet)

**Summer Projects** –

- curbing: PWS Pelkey inquired as to how the Board wants the scheduled curbing done (patching or completely redone. After discussion: the Board determine to completely redo the curbing that is scheduled for replacement.

- drains: discussion on the type of drains that were ordered and the designated use.  
Trustee Arno will look into this.

PWS Pelkey requested that the Board review the workload and staffing of public works/electric department and determine priorities.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR:**

Report from Library Director Susan Sullivan

- getting ready for the summer program.
- Farmer's Market – tents are up
- working on 3 grants (stairs, summer program and a grant to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon landing)
- the library sponsored a PJ Party at Rouses Point Elementary featuring the Lego 2 Movie.
- there will be a book sale on June 22

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:**

Absent

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Ron LeBlanc inquired about the Pfizer assessment cut and where was the money coming from for the shortfall.

Trustee Menard asked Mr. LeBlanc if he would put the June 1<sup>st</sup> power outage on his newsfeed.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess at 8:13PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into executive session at 8:17PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

No action taken in executive session

Motion by Trustee Menard to exit executive session at 9:12PM; Seconded by Trustee Arno

Motion by Trustee Menard to enter into regular session at 9:12PM; Seconded by Trustee Arno

**IX. REGULAR SESSION**

Motion by Trustee Menard to hire Kevin Butler as a full-time, permanent Rec Maintenance Worker with a 6 month probationary period; Seconded by Trustee Gadway; Trustee Arno votes NAY; Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Menard for the Clerk to research and advertise a Buildings Maintenance Worker; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 9:13PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE

CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna J. Boumil  
Village Clerk/Administrator