

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on August 2, 2021, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Jed F. Thone, Mayor
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Dale M. Menard, Trustee
Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee
Joseph Rodriguez, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Office
Thomas Murnane, Village Attorney

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Sullivan, Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

REGULAR SESSION:

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

John LaBonte, Phillips Ave, informed the board that there is someone living in a trailer on a property adjacent to his which he believes is a violation of village code. Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper did visit the property and ask about the trailer. The homeowner stated that no one is living in there. Mr. Cooper then received a letter from the homeowner's lawyer stating that the homeowner is in compliance. Mr. Cooper will provide that letter to the village attorney, Tom Murnane, to follow up. Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper and Attorney Tom Murnane will continue to investigate the trailer and village law as it would pertain to the trailer.

Clavin Columbe, Chapman Street, asked for an update on the burned property at 43 Chapman. Mayor Thone stated that the village received an email that the insurance to pay for the demolition is still pending. Attorney Tom Murnane will send a letter to the insurance company requesting more information on timeline to get the building demolished.

Mr. Columbe asked again about taxes paid to the Town of Champlain by village residents. The board explained that the village is in the town so all homeowners must pay assessed taxes.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 19, meeting, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

III. BILLS: \$51,765.43 **CHECK #** 27682 – 27729 - 27762

Treasurer Letourneau reported one addition to the bills. MEUA membership payment \$4,850.00. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to pay the bills as amended. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

The fire department wrote that they have a new member, Shawn Snide, and asked for the board to approve. Trustee Menard made a motion to approve the new member, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THONE

1) Mayor Thone presented Resolution 2021-20, Authorize local match for the Comprehensive Plan Grant and to authorize the mayor to sign and submit all documentation and contract for the plan. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

2) Mayor Thone informed the board that an employee was in an accident with the 2009 Ford F150 pick-up. No one was hurt but the vehicle is totaled.

3) The tree on Maple and Chapman Street that was blocking the stop sign was trimmed. Trees on Pearl Street were also trimmed.

4) Mayor Thone reported that the village received reports from both the Sheriff and State Police regarding calls to the village from January 1st to present. Only 2% of the calls involved the Anchorage Motel.

5) Mayor Thone reported that Champlain Technology will be upgrading the WiFi at the Civic Center free of charge.

6) In the near future the Department of Transportation (DOT) will be using some overnight parking in the village for their equipment while they work in the area.

7) A DOT staff will look at the driveway at the Civic Center and advise us if we need a permit to restripe it as a two-way entrance/exit.

8) Mayor Thone requests two executive sessions to discuss the employment histories of particular employees, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

9) Mayor Thone appointed Brandon Racine as Village Historian, seconded by Trustee Arno. This is a one year appointment. All voted AYE.

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

1) Trustee Arno reported that the Tree Program is open but is not permitting residents to participate this year. Treasurer Letourneau reported that the village has not budgeted for trees this year.

2) Trustee Arno stated that he received a complaint from a resident on State Street regarding the sidewalk not being passable due to bushes overgrowing and asked Code Enforcement Officer Cooper to go take a look.

3) Trustee Arno requested an executive session to discuss an ongoing investigation, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

Trustee Menard requested an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Pelkey. All voted AYE.

d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1) Trustee Pelkey reported that he contacted Derek Rosenbaum regarding obtaining a commercial appraisal on the Rabideau Way property and was informed that it would cost between \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00. Trustee Pelkey made a motion authorizing the mayor to sign a contract for this appraisal not to exceed \$1,500.00, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

2) Trustee Pelkey reported that the DEC inspection at the wastewater plant went well. The Wastewater Superintendent was asked about excess capacity at the plant as there are several companies looking to have septic tank pump outs processed. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to enter into one or more contracts to provide this service at seven cents per gallon, approximately 6,000 gallons per week to start. Seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

3) Trustee Pelkey requested an executive session to discuss a contract. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:

1) Trustee Rodriguez reported that the new dugout at the ball field is complete, thanks to the civic center and public works department. Jan Letourneau, Youth Commissioner, has painted games on the exercise trail for children.

2) Trustee Rodriguez asked Administrator Sullivan if she had contacted Social Services to determine if regular inspections can be performed at the Anchorage. Administrator Sullivan reported that she spoke with Rich Holcomb, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, and was informed that unannounced inspections would be performed on a monthly basis.

3) Trustee Rodriguez requested an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Pelkey. All voted AYE.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

Treasurer Letourneau reported that the village received its first ARPA payment of \$108,000.00. He, Mayor Thone and Administrator Sullivan will be on a webinar tomorrow reviewing how funds can be spent.

Treasurer Letourneau reported that the village received a \$110,000.00 payment from the NBRC grant 5 days after Administrator Sullivan applied. This is the fastest grant turn around he can remember seeing.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Scott Richner, Pratt Street, asked if the village would also be able to provide pump out services for RV's that are driving through the village. Trustee Pelkey explained that RV tanks contain chemicals that are not found in septic tanks and we do not know what effect that might have on our treatment plant so for the time being the village will not offer this service.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter executive session at 8:33 pm, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. All voted AYE.

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 9:51 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

No action was taken in executive session.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to return to executive session at 9:55 pm, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to exit executive session at 10:13 pm, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

No action was taken in executive session.

IX. REGULAR SESSION:

Trustee Rodriguez made a motion that the hybrid car only be used for administrative use, for travel to meetings, and to read meters. Seconded by Trustee Menard. Trustees Arno, Menard, Pelkey, and Rodriguez voted AYE. Mayor Thone voted NAY. Motion carried.

Trustee Menard made a motion that the mayor investigate a violation of the harassment policy and counseling an employee on safety matters. Seconded by Trustee Arno. Trustees Arno, Menard, Pelkey, and Rodriguez voted AYE. Mayor Thone voted NAY. Motion carried.

Trustee Menard made a motion that the village attorney investigate a contract issue that has come up. Seconded by Trustee Arno. Trustees Arno, Menard, Pelkey, and Rodriguez voted AYE. Mayor Thone voted NAY. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Menard made a motion to adjourn at 10:17 pm, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Sullivan
Village Clerk/Administrator