

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on December 19, 2022, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: John J. LaBonte, Mayor
Joseph Rodriguez, Trustee
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee
Dale Menard, Trustee

ABSENT: Arsene Letourneau, Village Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Pelkey, Deputy Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Office

RECORDING SECRETARY: Christopher Latremore, Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

REGULAR SESSION:

I. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2022, meeting, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$233,733.98

CHECK # 29158-29209

Deputy Treasurer Becky Pelkey indicated that there were no additions and no deletions to the bills. Trustee Menard made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

IV. CORRESPONDENCE: None

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR LABONTE

- 1) Mayor LaBonte indicated that he accepted a letter of resignation from Recreation Leader Jan Letourneau. Jan Letourneau indicated that she decided to move on to other things in her life. Mayor LaBonte thanked her for the 16 years of dedication that she provided for the Village of Rouses Point.

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the resignation from this position, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

- 2) Mayor LaBonte stated that the 4th of July Committee needs permission to use the fairgrounds for the 4th of July Celebration.

Motion by Trustee Menard to allow them usage, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

- 3) Mayor LaBonte indicated that there needs to be a motion to donate \$5,000 to the American Legion Post 512 for the 4th of July Fund. The fund would pay for the band, fireworks, and other associated 4th of July expenses. Trustee Pelkey questioned if Arsene Letourneau should be present before making funding decisions for the 4th of July. Mayor LaBonte indicated that since the event is held every year, it would not matter if Arsene Letourneau was included in the decision.

Trustee Menard made a motion to permit the Village of Rouses Point to donate \$5,000 for the 4th of July fundraising, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

- 4) Mayor LaBonte explained that both him and Administrator Latremore went to visit the warehouse that Fermos is currently using in Montreal. Mayor LaBonte reminded that the company creates shelving for Walmart and hope to expand into a 25-50 people work force. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the trip to see the warehouse went very well. They treated both Administrator Latremore and Mayor LaBonte nicely and answered all questions that were asked. Mayor LaBonte stated that he looks forward to working with this company in the future and hope it works out for both them and the Village of Rouses Point.
- 5) Mayor LaBonte stated that there was a meeting held with a representative from Champlain Telephone Technology Group. Apparently, the Village Board of the past have not discussed the upgrading of the phone system that is currently being

used in approximately 30 years. Administrator Latremore indicated that the conversation that was had with Vicky Marking from Champlain Technology consisted of upgrading all the internet systems that are currently being used by the Village. Every location that the Village has would be bumped up to their latest DSL line. If that is not possible, they would be upgrading the Village to a VVSL line to give the Village the maximum internet capacity available. After review from Administrator Latremore and Mayor LaBonte, the telephone bills included a charge for making long distance telephone calls. Administrator Latremore stated that paying for that is now in the past. After talking to Vicky from Champlain Telephone, the Village of Rouses Point will now have caller ID, free long distance phone calls, and the upgraded line. The savings from this upgrade is approximately \$300 per month. Administrator Latremore expressed that this is a great decision considering the Village will be upgraded and will be able to save \$300 per month in the process. Trustee Menard asked if there was an initial fee that must be paid for installation of these new services. Administrator Latremore stated that there is no initial charge for upgrading to these services. The Village would have to enter a new contract with Champlain Telephone to upgrade. Mayor LaBonte reiterated that this is a long overdue upgrade and will save the Village between \$3,500 and \$4,000 a year.

Trustee Menard made a motion to agree to the new contract from Champlain Telephone, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ROLL CALL VOTED AYE.**

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Trustee Arno asked Mayor LaBonte if he has been contacted by the Fire Chief about their budget regarding the ambulance service. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he has not been contacted by the Fire Chief. Trustee Arno indicated that the Fire Chief would like to know how much the ambulance service will cost the Village of Rouses Point. Mayor LaBonte stated that the pricing is still being negotiated and there is an upcoming meeting with our area legislator Kelvin Castine to find out if Clinton County can help with funding in any way. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he should have an answer after the meeting with the County.

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

- 1) Trustee Menard thanked Jan Letourneau for all her hard work over the last 16 years. She is personally responsible for the exercise trail behind the Rouses Point Civic Center. She has done numerous things for this Village in the time that she has worked.

- 2) Trustee Menard thanked the Rouses Point Fire Department for the Parade of Lights. It was a great show and had a lot of great comments from the community.
- 3) Trustee Menard thanked the Village crew for the great job with snow removal.

e. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY

- 1) Trustee Pelkey wanted to thank Mike LeBlanc for organizing the Parade of Lights the past 3 years. Trustee Pelkey indicated that there were 25 participants this year and he hopes it continues to grow exponentially.
- 2) Trustee Pelkey indicated that during the Fire Department's Children's Christmas Party included rides, gift bags, and Santa's appearance. Trustee Pelkey thanked the chairperson for this event, Jen Blair-Butler. Trustee Pelkey indicated that Jen put a ton of time into this and thanked her for her efforts.
- 3) Trustee Pelkey made a motion to conduct an executive session to discuss personnel issues, seconded by Trustee Menard. **AYE CARRIED.**
- 4) Trustee Pelkey wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

d. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ

- 1). Trustee Rodriguez indicated that the Stars and Stripes Committee is holding their holiday decorating contest until December 25th. Trustee Rodriguez indicated to turn on your Christmas lights by 5:00 PM, and they will drive around to judge the houses. The winners will be announced after Christmas.
- 2) Trustee Rodriguez wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

- 1) Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Cooper indicated that his year-end report will be submitted by next meeting.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- 1) No one addressed the board.

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Arno made a motion to recess at 7:16 PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **AYE CARRIED.**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to enter executive session at 7:19 PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 8:00 PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

X. REGULAR SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter regular session at 8:00 PM, seconded by Mayor LaBonte. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Trustee Menard made a motion to offer Arsene Letourneau the option of borrowing 12 sick days from 2023, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Mayor LaBonte made a motion for any salary who works 40 hours a week and the said employee needs to work over the 40 hours the Village will provide comp time hour for hour over the 40 hours and the comp time must be used by May 31st. In an emergency circumstance, these can be extended by board approval for the comp time exceeding the May 31st cutoff date, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator