

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on December 5th, 2022, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00PM.

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

**ABSENT:** Joseph Rodriguez, Trustee

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**OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Pelkey, Deputy Village Treasurer  
Christopher Latremore, Clerk/Administrator  
Tom Murnane, Village Attorney

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Christopher Latremore, Clerk/Administrator

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**  
Mayor LaBonte called the meeting to order at 7:01PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. PUBLIC HEARING:**

Tom Batha; 75 Montgomery St:

Tom Batha addressed concerns over the board passing the amendments regarding Introductory Local Law #3 of 2022 permitting trustees of the Village of Rouses Point to be part-time employees. Tom Batha is concerned regarding whether this amendment would strictly benefit the board members. Tom Batha indicated that he would like clarification on how the passing of these laws benefits the residents of the Village of Rouses Point. Mayor LaBonte stated that the board members would be used at the electrical plant on an as needed basis without any benefits and they would not be a part of the management team. The need for this law to be amended was brought up when the Village was unable to find a suitable candidate to work and operate the plant. This decision is solely for the purpose of having a back-up worker at the electrical department when the single plant operator there is unavailable. Mayor LaBonte indicated that without this law being amended, the Village would have to spend a significant cost in order to employ Tupper Lake to help with the electrical plant in the situation that no one is available to operate the plant upon emergency or absence of the single plant operator currently employed.

Jed Thone; 29 Priscilla Lane:

Jed Thone addressed the board to point out that the Village runs the potential of running a foul on Section 3-300 pt. 3. Jed Thone read the following verbatim: No person shall simultaneously hold an elected and appointed Village office position exceptions being commissioners and volunteer firefighters. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the Village did not run into this decision and has been advised by legal advisory, Village Attorney Tom Murnane, NYCOM, and municipalities. Mayor LaBonte that there is no hidden agenda for this action and this decision is made to keep the Village safe in emergency, or when Electrical Chief Line Worker Jason Juneau is unavailable.

## **REGULAR SESSION:**

### **II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 21, 2022, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

### **III. BILLS: \$152,558.37**

**CHECK # 29126-29157**

Deputy Treasurer Pelkey indicated that there were no additions or deletions to the bills

Trustee Arno made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.  
**ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Christopher Latremore indicated the Village of Rouses Point had a huge success with the Parade of Toys this year. Administrator Latremore thanked the Fire Department for escorting Santa, Trustee Arno for transporting Santa, the Sheriff's Department for directing traffic, Penny for rounding up community singers for the Christmas carols. Administrator Latremore also thanked Santa Claus for making availability to be a part of the Parade of Toys, Laura, and Jeff Sisson for providing books for the children, the water plant and the electric crew for decorating. Latremore continued with thanking Trustee Arno for his dedication, Mayor LaBonte, Becky, Patty, Lauren, and Gia for their contributions. Administrator Latremore indicated that this event was made possible due to the generous donations from the following organizations: American Legion Post 912, Sons of The American Legion, Cornerstone Drug and Gift, Powertex, Chazy Orchards, Texas Roadhouse, Sam's Club, and Lakeside Coffee Shop. Administrator Latremore proceeded to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

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

#### **a. MAYOR LABONTE**

1. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the Rouses Point Fire Department on December 17, 2022, from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM will be giving Santa rides and resident rides on the fire trucks. Due to insurance purposes, Mayor LaBonte indicated that board approval is

necessary to allow these rides to happen. Motion to allow the Rouses Point Fire Department to give fire truck rides by Trustee Menard, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

2. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote amending Introductory Local Law #3 of 2022 permitting trustees of the Village of Rouses Point to be part-time employees.

**MAYOR LABONTE- AYE  
TRUSTEE ARNO- AYE  
TRUSTEE MENARD- AYE  
TRUSTEE PELKEY- ABSTAIN  
TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ- ABSENT  
MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

3. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote amending Introductory Local Law #4 of 2022 amending Chapter 19 of the Village Code of the Village of Rouses Point “Personnel Policies” and specifically “Insurance Coverage”, Subsection 19-3 “Insurance Coverage”.

**MAYOR LABONTE- AYE  
TRUSTEE ARNO- AYE  
TRUSTEE MENARD- AYE  
TRUSTEE PELKEY- AYE  
TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ- ABSENT  
MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

4. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote amending Introductory Local Law #5 of 2022 amending Chapter 19 of Village Code of The Village of Rouses Point “Personnel Policies” and specifically “Holidays”, Subsection 19-4 “Holidays”.

**MAYOR LABONTE- AYE  
TRUSTEE ARNO- AYE  
TRUSTEE MENARD- AYE  
TRUSTEE PELKEY- AYE  
TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ- ABSENT  
MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

5. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote amending Introductory Local Law #6 of 2022 amending Chapter 12 of Village Code of The Village of Rouses Point “Vehicles and Traffic” and specifically Article VII “Schedules”, Subsection 112-37 Schedule IV: “Stop Intersection”.

**MAYOR LABONTE- AYE  
TRUSTEE ARNO- AYE  
TRUSTEE MENARD- AYE  
TRUSTEE PELKEY- AYE  
TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ- ABSENT  
MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED**

b. **TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:**

1. Nothing to report

**c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:**

1. Trustee Menard thanked the Village Crew for the efforts on the holiday decorations and indicated it looks great.

**d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:**

1. Trustee Pelkey stated that he met with the wastewater department and indicated that they recently had an inspection. Trustee Pelkey stated that the inspection went well, and the plant had a high level of praise for the cleanliness.

2. Trustee Pelkey indicated that the water plant has been working overtime due to the strong winds recently which causes the filters needing to be changed more frequently

3. Trustee Pelkey mentioned that the street department installed the drainage tile that leads to the stage and started working on the road to the stage for commercial and emergency vehicle use during events.

4. Trustee Pelkey indicated that the Parade of Lights will be held on December 10, 2022, at 7:00PM. The route will be going through the Village of Rouses Point starting at the boat launch.

**e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ**

Absent

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

1. Trustee Arno indicated that there was a great turn out for the Holiday Train. 175 cups of hot chocolate were served and around 300 people attended. The church ended up receiving \$3500 from the CP Rail for the food shelter.

2. Mayor LaBonte thanked Trustee Arno, Trustee Pelkey, and Trustee Menard for serving hot chocolate during the Holiday Train.

3. Administrator Latremore stated that a letter was sent by the Clinton County Planning Board regarding a use variance for 64 Maple for warehousing and distribution. Administrator Latremore indicated that the response from the Clinton County Planning Board is as follows: The County Planning Board suggests that the Village review its zoning, the location has an overly restrictive zone and could interfere with potential businesses seeing the Village as a viable location. Due to the overly restrictive I2 zone, it is difficult for the realtors to find suitable tenants considering they must go through due process regarding use variances in order to use the space. Administrator Latremore

advised that the board consider permitting some uses in the I2 zone. Tom Murnane stated that the I2 zone was created when Wyeth was still using the space and most of the permitted uses pertain to the production and warehousing of pharmaceuticals. Tom Murnane advised looking into the I2 zone and making changes where necessary. Tom Murnane indicated that in order to change the permitted uses, a referral should be sent from the Board of Trustees to the Zoning Board of Appeals asking for the Zoning Board of Appeals to recommend changes. Mayor LaBonte agreed with Tom Murnane and stated that the Village should open to more businesses in that area and warehousing fits that description. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he and Administrator Latremore are taking a visit to a Fermos warehouse in Canada on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to view their facility. Mayor LaBonte stated that this should open new possibilities for employment in that warehouse for the Village of Rouses Point residents.

#### **VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

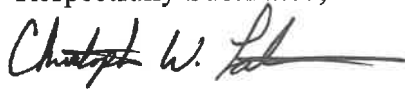
1. Scott Richner asked if the Village has reached an agreement with Champlain EMS on their contract. Mayor LaBonte stated that an agreement has not been decided but there are meetings scheduled with area legislators to determine if the Village can receive help from the county level on this topic. Mayor LaBonte indicated that ideas are present in this matter, but it is still being worked on.

2. Nicholas Southwick commented that he is very happy to see so many positive news stories in Rouses Point about new businesses and the rec center. Nicholas Southwick mentioned that Administrator Christopher Latremore is highlighted in many of the news stories. Nicholas Southwick stated that the Village is lucky to have him.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:35PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore  
Village Clerk/Administrator