

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on February 22, 2022, 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

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Christopher Latremore, 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:**

Raymand Wayman thanked Trustee Pelkey for taking the time to address rumors, and explain how certain functions of the village work. Mr. Wayman then asked Trustee Pelkey if he could explain and address the rumors of the years of harassing village employees, and the violation of section 1922 of the village code titled discrimination and harassment policy. He also asked Mr. Pelkey to and explain to the residents who exactly must abide by this code, and if board members are except from abiding by this code or exempt from punishment stated in this section. Trustee Pelkey indicated this is in the attorney hands of the village attorney, and he has completed all the training required with the fire department. Trustee Pelkey indicated that the training was not provided by the village.

**II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 7, 2022, meeting, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**III. BILLS:** \$510,570.40 **CHECK # 28319-28360**

Treasurer Letourneau indicated that there were no changes to the bills.

Trustee Arno made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE**

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Received letter from Junior Moore indicating that he will be resigning from the Zoning Board of Appeals due to a work schedule change. Mayor Thone accepted Junior Moore's resignation and appointed Mike Duffy.

Mayor Thone read a letter from the NYMPA meeting indicating that the 2022 REC prices are increasing dramatically. In 2021 the REC obligation was at 2.04% of the system total load

charge at a price of \$23.79 MWh. The 2022 REC obligation is set at 5.61% of the system total load charged at \$35.00 MWh. NYSERDA has recommended that the 2022 obligations be reduced as the available REC's has fallen short of the State's overall goals. The REC increase of approximately 300% from calendar year 2021 to 2022 is included on the NYMPA bill for January 2022, purchase.

Mayor Thone read a letter form NYMPA indicating that January was one of the coldest months in recent years with demand, and market price for electricity, well above normal. While customer usage was up, the NYMPA rate remained steady at 3.75 cents per kWh. Fellow public power systems that buy their supplemental power from the NYMPA paid 10.7 cents per kWh and higher depending on their location. NYMPA's charges were one third market prices.

Mayor Thone made a correction from a statement he made at the February 2, 2022 board meeting. Hari Achuthan is not a tenant at the ERS building. Mr. Achuthan is a consultant on the property.

Chris Latremore advised the board that on February 26, 2022, from 10AM to 12PM the village will be conducting a drive thru service to hand out COVID-19 self-test kits and masks at the fire department. Residents are asked to bring nonperishable food items for the food self. Mr. Latremore thanked Fire Chief Mike Leblanc, Trustee Pelkey and Trustee Arno for their assistance.

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

### **a. MAYOR THONE**

1) Resolution 2022-06 Polling place, hours, and names of those nominated.

Trustee Arno made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE**

2) Resolution 2022-07 Budget modification

Trustee Menard made a motion, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE**

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

1) Trustee Arno inquired about the poles on Chapman Street.

Trustee Arno wants to know if the telephone company is going to remove the poles anytime soon, or if the village needs to reach out to them. Mayor Thone advised the board he reached out to the telephone company, for he spoke to them a couple of months ago and saw it on the agenda. The telephone company advised the mayor that a the chip shortage and shipping backlog has put everything behind schedule. The telephone company does not want to bury copper lines, and then have to rip them up later to replace with fiber.

2) Update on 43 Chapman Street. The property homeowner has provided a copy of the signed demolition contract to code enforcement officer Mr. Cooper. The start date is March 21, 2022. Code enforcement officer Mr. Cooper advised the board that the property owner still needs to apply for a permit.

### **c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:**

1) Nothing to report

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

1) Trustee Pelkey thanked Adam Racine for his presentation at the last meeting on Convalt Energy. Trustee Pelkey spoke about all the things going on such as greenhouses, solar panels and how the heat from the servers are going to be used to heat the building. Trustee Pelkey feels that there needs to be clarification as far as what board this needs to be presented to. Trustee Pelkey advised that since these operations are not permitted by the village zoning code, a permit needs to be applied for and it needs to go in front of the zoning board. According to a zoning board member, Convalt Energy, has not submitted any paperwork on the greenhouses or solar farm. The heat for the greenhouses is still being discussed by the attorneys. Trustee Pelkey indicated that every time some speaks of Mr. Achuthan at a board meeting, they indicate that he is a nice guy. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that every time he has had conversation with Mr. Achuthan, he in fact seems to be a nice guy. Trustee Pelkey feels that Mr. Achuthan has some good ideas. Trustee Pelkey just wants everyone to know that the village board is not holding up the greenhouses or solar farm. Once again, Trustee Pelkey stressed that it needs to go in front of the zoning board of appeals. Trustee Pelkey advised Mr. Achuthan that if the zoning board of appeals approves his application, he has is blessings. Mr. Achuthan advised the board that he in fact handed in an application and received a letter from the village attorney rather than from the code enforcement officer. Mr. Archuthan indicated that since the last meeting, he has received a letter from the code enforcement officer. Mr. Achuthan indicated that he was surprised to hear since he did not feel he had a lot of support, to meet on middle ground, based on previous discussions. Mr. Archuthan indicated that his team is reviewing Mr. Coopers letter and making adjustments to then approach the zoning board of appeals. Trustee Pelkey expressed that board is not stopping him form submitting the paperwork. Trustee Pelkey advised Mr. Achuthan that the biggest problem is that the servers in the building are against the village local law. Trustee Pelkey reviewed documents on the electric load for the servers, and it would be pushing the substation and feeder to the limit. Mr. Achuthan told the board that he does not own the servers, and they need to have conversation with ERS. Trustee Pelkey advised Mr. Archuthan to move forward with the permit application. Mr. Achuthan indicated that he was told that there was no more power to be provided and that he was willing to meet middle ground. Trustee Menard asked where Mr. Archuthan was planning to get the heat since the servers are against village law. Mr. Archuthan said he would look at other resource to see if it would be economically beneficial. Mr. Archuthan told the board that he was going to have 15-20 robots as well as 30 plus servers' part of his operation, which violates the village law. Mr. Achuthan told the board more than 3 computers violates the village law. Mr. Achuthan advised that if anyone went to a lender right now, and they listened to the board, they would not lend any money for they would be afraid the board would shut them down. Trustee Pelkey explained what other municipalities are doing on moratoriums on servers. Trustee Pelkey explained that this law was put in force from a prior board to protect the residents. Mr. Achuthan said he would be willing to pay for any upgrades, as well as supplemental power costs. Mr. Achuthan said he is willing to work with the community. Trustee Pelkey indicated that right now the village has only one permit, and there are three companies in the building. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that it was brought to his attention that 2CRSI has only 5 employees. Mr. Achuthan feels that nobody is going to invest in the village with everything that has happened in the last two months. Mr. Archuthan said residents have called him a terrorist and accused his partner of committing federal crimes. Mr. Archuthan has retained counsel, and it is the boards obligation not to allow this. Mr. Archuthan indicated that these are hard working individual that want to bring business to the village. Trustee Rodriguez asked Mr. Archuthan if they would be willing to meet with the board, to discuss meeting halfway, so the residents will not have to pay more. Mr. Archuthan replied Yes. Trustee Rodriguez wishes to schedule a special meeting and have the attorney draft up legal documents. This will protect the residents. Treasurer Letourneau advised the board that Mr. Archuthan is not even a utility customer for all bills go to ERS. Treasurer Letourneau told the board that the conversations need to be with the zoning board of appeals. Treasurer Letourneau feels that the problems stem from one village official giving incorrect information. Mr. Archuthan told the board in other communities he deals with the board. Mr. Archuthan will bring ERS and allow the board to discuss the matter. Mr. Archuthan just needs to if board will agree or not so they can move on. Mr. Archuthan

told the board he had 40 employees and had to lay them off. Mr. Archuthan told the board that he would like to buy the building from ERS and invest in the village.

**e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:**

1) Nothing to report

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

1) Nothing to report

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Adam Racine suggests that since the election was coming up on March 15 that the candidates have a public debate and have someone moderate.

Mayor Thone indicated that training was provided by NYCOM for everyone.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Thone made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore  
Village Clerk/Administrator