

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on June 20, 2022, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: John J. LaBonte, 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

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:

Mr. Phelps addressed the board in reference to the truck traffic at 64 Maple Street, and that the trucks are moving material out of the old Pfizer plant.

Mr. Phelps advised the board that he purchased a house on Champlain Street in February 2021. Mr. Phelps said neither him nor his neighbors on either side do not drink the water, and now he has silt in the bottom of his toilets. Mr. Phelps said he is a retired plumber and indicated that this normally happens when work is being done on main water line, or a house entrance. When he was talking to his neighbors, they told him that the New York State test report was provided in the mailing with the bills. Mr. Phelps said he is set up with auto pay, so he does not receive a bill. Treasure Letourneau told Mr. Phelps that the report should be attached to the electronic bill, and that it is also available on the village website.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2022, meeting, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$357,622.85 CHECK # 28649 – 28695

Treasurer Letourneau indicated that there were no other bills to be added.

Trustee Arno made a motion to pay the bills as amended. Seconded by Trustee Menard.

All voted AYE

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk/Administrator Latremore advised the board that he has received email regarding Community Project Funding through Congresswoman Stefanik's office in reference to the new water plant. Congresswoman Stefanik indicated that her office was unable to submit the project for funding at this time, but Congresswoman Stefanik's office will continue to look for other federal funding opportunities that might be able to assist with the village project.

Amy Brown thanked Adam Menard and the public work crew for doing an excellent job cutting down a tree on Smith Street.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR LABONTE

1) Mayor LaBonte provided the residents with an update on the events May 25, 2022. The mayor indicated that several people entered the Pfizer building at 64 Maple Street and discovered some unsafe conditions. The gate was placarded, and the power was turned off based on the unsafe conditions of the building. Since this date, the village has had multiple discussions meaning the mayor, administrator, Mr. Murnane and Treasurer Letourneau. Mr. Letourneau has 37 years' experience in the village and has been able to find the mayor and administrator valuable information that we need to go forward and discuss some of these things with the representative from ERS Mr. Staulcup. Mr. Staulcup has been very gracious and forth coming with us in the last 10 days. The mayor feels the meetings have been very productive. The feels that not all the problems have been solved, but we continue to have productive discussions. The mayor said this is going to mutually benefit the Village of Rouses Point and ERS. Today, Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Cooper and electrical inspector from Common Wealth Scott Decker, were allowed in the building to discuss with Mr. Stalcup and a representative from S&L Electric some of the problems within the building. According to Mr. Decker, everything went well. The mayor received an email from Mr. Staulcup indicating that he also believes the meeting was very productive. Now the mayor feels Mr. Stalcup realizes what we did on May 25, 2022, did not only benefit the Village of Rouses Point and its residents, but it also benefited ERS. The mayor expects, based on the conversations the administrator and the mayor have had with Mr. Staulcup, that he will either address the board indicating this or provide some type of correspondence. The mayor is looking forward to working with Mr. Staulcup to help achieve his goals as well as the village achieving their goals of having businesses come to Rouses Point, within the scope of zoning laws, codes, and ordinances of the village. The mayor feels good that Mr. Staulcup now realizes that is the way to go, and we have had very productive meetings, and the mayor anticipates that to continue. The mayor advised Mr. Staulcup that if it continues like this in his capacity as mayor, he and the board will do everything that they can do to help him, in his business and his property flourish within the village, as long as it complies within the zoning laws, applies for all the proper permits, and allows the village access the building when it is necessary. Mr. Stalcup has assured the mayor he will, and the mayor has no reason to doubt that Mr. Staulcup will follow through with everything that was just stated. The mayor looks forward to working with ERS today, and in the future to make the village a better place to live.

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Trustee Arno requested an executive session to discuss personnel issues. Trustee Menard seconded All voted Aye.
- 2) Trustee Arno asked if the safety issue with the water plant had been addressed. Administrator Latremore indicated that he had not addressed the issue but will investigate it.

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

- 1) Trustee Menard said the Civic Center crew is doing an excellent job and everything looks good.

d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

- 1) Trustee Pelkey reminded the residents of the Village of the Stars and Stripes celebration on the lake this week. It starts on Thursday night at 6:30, down at the stage. Flyers are in the village office, which gives the whole events for the week, and goes through Sunday with the parade and fireworks. There is a lot of vendors. It is going to be bigger and better with food trucks, beer garden and activities for the kids on Saturday. This is the village's big weekend, and we need get out there to support the village.
- 2) Trustee Pelkey indicated that the water plant is flushing hydrants and that could be causing silt problems. They are flushing to make sure that they get their chlorine contact time, and they are doing all testing that is certified so they are doing things the right way. Trustee Pelkey said this could be causing the silt problem.

e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ

- 1) Nothing to report

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

- 1) Code Enforcement Officer Mr. Cooper indicated that he did go to the ERS building today with Mr. Decker from Commonwealth Electric and had a meeting for about 10 minutes and agreed with the mayor that we are going to work with ERS, and they are going to work with us. Hoping to get things back online as quickly as possible.
- 2) The mayor advised Mr. Phelps that the operations discovered at 64 Maple were against village code and that he knows for sure that one business exited the building and believes a second business will be exiting the building soon. The mayor told Mr. Phelps that is what he is seeing leave. They are carrying out equipment that are against village code and they realize that, and they are leaving.
- 3) Mayor LaBonte thanked Mr. Decker for the service he has provided the village. The mayor wants Mr. Decker to continue to work with the village to make sure that everything is brought up to code, and that we can turn the power on to one of the sections in the building to allow ERS to go forward and get a tenant or tenants into building 25. The mayor said there is some work that needs to be done, and it's not going to happen overnight, but we're working extremely hard in that direction.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- 1) Mr. Phelps said he saw a report on channel news about a week ago and that the State of New York is considering banning large scale bitcoin mining and data processing in the entire state. Mr. Phelps has no follow up, but it could be a significant reason they pulled out. The mayor indicated these types of businesses have a place, but they do not have a place in Rouses Point.

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Menard made motion to recess at 7:17 Seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **AYE CARRIED**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Menard made a motion to enter executive session at 7:22 pm, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 7:53 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

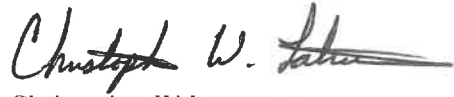
No action was taken in executive session.

X. REGULAR SESSION:

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. ALL VOTED AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Latremore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator