

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on June 6, 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
Thomas Murnane, Village Attorney

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:

No public comment.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 16, 2022, meeting, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$73,009.86 CHECK # 28607 – 28647

Treasurer Letourneau indicated that there were not other bills to be added.

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

All voted AYE

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk/Administrator Latremore advised the board that he has received multiple calls requesting a crossing guard at Champlain and Maple Street. Mr. Latremore asked the board if he could advertise this as a seasonal position, and also if this crossing guard could fill in for the crossing guard on Maple Street if they need to be out.

Trustee Menard made a motion seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. **ALL VOTE AYE**

Lori Langlois sent a thank you letter to the board for making her project of building a dog park for our furry babies a reality. The work crew did an amazing job on the construction and said a special thank you to Heath Cardin for adding his special touch. Rouses Point is a beautiful village, and we are fortunate to have a mayor and trustees who have the same vision to make it even more beautiful and better.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. **MAYOR LaBonte**

- 1) Mayor LaBonte informed the residence that the village attorney, mayor, and administrator have been working, for a couple months, to obtain information to obtain a search warrant to go into the building on 64 Maple Street. The village attorney took the information to the judge, and the judge reviewed the application for the warrant, and the judge approved the warrant. On May 25, 2022, with a coordinated effort between the Sheriff's Department, and the State Police on standby, a number of us entered the building at 64 Maple Street with the warrant in hand. When we entered the building, we discovered very unsafe conditions. We did not make this decision lightly. We entered the building with a Code Enforcement Officer who works for the Town Of Champlain, who was working for the village, on this particular day. We brought in an electrical inspector who works for Common Wealth, as well as a computer expert from Twin State, a company that specializes in computers, and can identify computers and what their function would be. Mayor LaBonte felt that we covered our ground. Once we entered the building, we took over 300 photos, as well as video. Based upon our personal observations, and discussions with these individuals, we deemed the building to be unsafe not condemned the condition of the building. We placarded the gates and shut down the business. The mayor said that after discussion with the electric engineer, the mayor took it upon himself, to shut the power off. The mayor gave the people one hour notice that the electricity was going to be shut off. Besides the unsafe conditions, there were high energy use companies that violated the village local law. The expert will give the village a written report. The mayor stated that the village is not anti-business, and that the board is not doing anything but protecting the village residence from illegal activities within the boundaries of the village, and that was the only reason for the warrant. The mayor and the board will work with any business that wants to come in the village, providing they have a proper business plan and are open and honest with the village. The village will be happy to work with these companies to supply the village with jobs, but not for companies to take advantage of the villages cheap electric power, and that is what was going on. Mayor LaBonte said that it was shocking to see the unsafe conditions. The mayor could not provide any additional information for the possibility of legal action, but he just wanted the village residents to know that the board is working on the behalf of the residents.
- 2) Mayor LaBonte asked each trustee, prior to him becoming mayor, if they ever participated in a meeting, or agreed with any board member, to allow bitcoin operations or server farms within the boundaries of the village. Trustee Rodriguez No, Trustee Pelkey No, Trustee Menard No, Trustee Arno No. Mayor LaBonte wanted the people on social media, which started all these rumors and misinformation, to know that these individuals never have agreed to allow any of these illegal operations in this village. Nobody has misled these people to invest in this business for the village to then turn their backs on them. The board is working for the best interest of the village. This board is not anti-business.

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

- 1) Trustee Arno thanked the ladies for doing a wonderful job on the flowers and the flower gardens throughout the village. They are doing an excellent job, and very seldom do they get a lot of credit, so Trustee Arno asked if you see them on the streets or someplace, thank them for they do a lot of hard work.
- 2) Trustee Arno indicated that the library steps are almost done. They are waiting for the handrails to be installed, and the village crew put some dirt and stone around the building with grass seed.

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

- 1) Trustee Menard said the library steps look really good. Thanked the village crew for putting down the pavers and the dirt. Looks really nice.
- 2) Trustee Menard thanked Lori Langlois and wanted the village residence to know that the dog park is now open. Trustee Menard thanked the village employees that worked on it, and that they did an excellent job, and it looks great. Anyone that wants to take a look its down by veteran park right off the rec center. Now that it is done, let us get good use out of it.

d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

- 1) Trustee Pelkey reminded the residence the Village wide yard sale will be held on June 18.
- 2) Trustee Pelkey received a letter from Bryant Trim the chief water plant operator. Mr. Jones wanted to announce that the village has completed the first of the two rounds of lead copper testing that the are doing this year. After receiving the results from the lab, he is happy to report that the village is in compliance with lead and copper in the water. He would like to acknowledge the cooperation of the residents in the process and thanked them with their continued help with this process.
- 3) Trustee Pelkey spoke with Danny Guay about the project that we are doing with the dumping site. All plans are in, and we are waiting for the approval from DEC. Once we get the approval, we have everything pretty much in stock to do the project. The material that we have is in the yard we are going to reuse.

e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:

- 1) Trustee Rodriguez wanted to know if we could reach out to the Altona Correction Facility and have them have their work crew come out and do some beautification projects in the village. This would save our employees from doing it and allow the village employees to work on other projects.
Mayor Labonte felt that this was a good idea, for this has been done in the past, and this is something we should look into.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

- 1) Clerk Latremore advised the board that village is in need of two pickup trucks. Both trucks are budgeted. He went out to the marketplace to receive bids, and he was unsuccessful at receiving any bids. Clerk Latremore asked the board to allow the trucks to be advertised locally, to see if the village will receive any bids.

Trustee Menard made the motion seconded by Trustee Pelkey.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- 1) Jean Birtz said that he appreciated being advised of the situation at 64 Maple Street. He would like to thank the board, on behalf of the village, for the excellent job each and everyone did during the

turmoil. The village had blasted the board on Facebook, asking for an attorney resignation and each board member. Mr. Birtz wanted to thank the board for standing up for the village residence and coming up with this great resolution.

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Arno made motion to recess at 7:21 Seconded by Trustee Menard. AYE CARRIED

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Menard made a motion to enter executive session at 7:32 pm, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 8:20 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. ALL VOTED AYE.

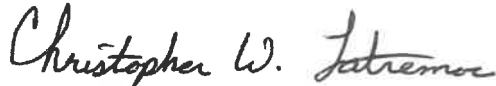
No action was taken in executive session.

X. REGULAR SESSION:

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. ALL VOTED AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator