

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on August 7, 2023, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00PM.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer  
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

**I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No one addressed the board.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Southwick made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 17, 2023, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**III. BILLS: \$139,115.62 CHECK # 29769-29809**

Treasurer Arsene Letourneau indicated that there were two additions to the bills:

Dragoons Farm Equipment- \$698.02

Kanica Finance- \$400.20

Trustee Arno made a motion to pay the bills as amended, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

1. Administrator Latremore read a letter from Steve Merchant. Mr. Merchant stated that he was a lifetime resident of the village and a co-founder of the Samuel de Champlain Center Stage. Mr. Merchant indicated that in the past he was co-chairman of the Friends of the Stage for 10 years. Mr. Merchant's letter stated that he received a phone call from a current committee member of the Friends of the Stage advising him that they removed the chandelier that he

donated to the village in memory of his mother without his knowledge. Mr. Merchant is asking that the chandelier be put back up. Administrator Latremore told the board that the committee did approach him, at the village office, and they did ask about replacing the chandelier with a ceiling fan with a light. Administrator Latremore told the committee members that he would have no problem replacing the chandelier, if they reached out to Mr. Merchant to advise him that the chandelier was going to be replaced, which they said they would do. The committee members came back to the village office later with the ceiling fan, and Administrator Latremore had the Electric Department install the ceiling fan. Once the fan was installed Administrator Latremore called the committee member to approve the installation, and it was at this time he learned that they never reached out to Mr. Merchant. The Friends of the Stage advised the village board that their board voted on replacing the chandelier with the ceiling fan, and that it was going to be replaced with or without Mr. Merchant's approval. Mayor LaBonte thanked Mr. Merchant for his years of service to the village. Mayor LaBonte feels that the issue Mr. Merchant has is with the Friends of the Stage, rather than the village board. The village helped the committee with the installation of the ceiling fan, just like the village helps other committees in the village. Mayor LaBonte stated that the committee voted on replacing the chandelier and wanted it to be replaced. Mayor LaBonte advised Mr. Merchant that if he disagrees with the committee, he should get back on the committee to inquire on having the chandelier put back up.

2. Administrator Latremore advised the board that Resource Environmental Solutions, an ecological restoration company, reached out to him. RES would like to design and implement a wetlands restoration site owned by the Village of Rouses Point. The site is 10 acres and is located next to the sewer plant. RES would pay the village on a per acre of land that they restore. The board felt that this could affect the impact of future expansions and they do not wish to move forward at this time.
3. Administrator Latremore advised the board that WHO Wrestling contacted him and would like to rent the Civic Center for one day in September. Administrator Latremore told the board that he advised them that the cost for one day would be \$2,000. The board indicated that they have rented the Civic Center for wrestling in the past. Trustee Menard made a motion to rent the Civic Center to WHO Wrestling for one day September 2023 for \$2,000, seconded by Trustee Southwick. **All voted AYE.**

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

### **A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE**

1. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that replacement for the Fire Department roof was advertised, and the village only received one bid from Nolette's Metal Roofing Supply and Installation. The bid included replacing 58 roofing squares, remove all stone on the roof, keep existing insulation and add one layer of 2-inch insulation to the existing roof, reflash all penetrations, install new tpo/epdm rubber roof 25-year warranty and remove all trash debris for \$56,000.

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the bid from Nolette's Metal Roofing in the amount of \$56,000, seconded Trustee Menard. **All voted AYE.**

2. Mayor LaBonte asked the board for their approval allowing the Village of Rouses Point to enter into a joint youth program agreement with the Town of Champlain and the Village of Champlain. The new agreement indicated that all Recreation Assistants and other paid personnel of the program will be employees of the Town of Champlain and will be paid through the Town's payroll. It also indicates that the Town of Champlain, Village of Champlain, and Rouses Point will divide the net amount of the total budget by the following percentages Town of Champlain 40 percent and the Village of Rouses Point and Champlain 30 percent each.  
Trustee Menard made a motion to let the mayor sign the joint youth program agreement with the Town and Village of Champlain, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE.**
  
3. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that Trustee Arno and himself interviewed Dylan Chaffee for the position of electrician. Mayor LaBonte and Trustee Arno indicated that Mr. Chaffe's interview went well, and recommended Mr. Chaffe to the board to fill the position as electrician.  
Trustee Arno made a motion to hire Dylan Chafee as the village electrician with the pay and benefits as per the CSEA contract, seconded by Trustee Southwick. **All voted AYE.**

**B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:**

1. Nothing to report at this time.

**C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO**

1. Trustee Arno asked Code Officer Cooper if he has followed up with the property on Pratt Street, in violation of the Village code, regarding the length of the lawn because it looks horrible. Mr. Cooper advised the board that the property is currently still in the name of the deceased and the county has not taken possession, so he is unable to send a letter out of the violation. Trustee Arno asked if the Village could mow a 4-foot path along the sidewalk. Mayor LaBonte indicated that for liability reasons the village should not be mowing lawns for violators.
  
2. Trustee Arno asked if the urinal at the Fire Department could be fixed. Administrator Latremore advised Trustee Arno the part just came in and will be repaired this week. Trustee Arno also asked if the letters were going to get painted at the Fire Department. Administrator Latremore indicated that he has it on the calendar, but just needs the rain to stop.
  
3. Trustee Arno advised the board that the bathroom at the boat launch is filthy. Trustee Arno stated that spider webs both inside and out are terrible. Administrator Latremore told the board that he would speak to Dan and Greg and make sure they clean the bathrooms.

4. Trustee Arno stated that the truck John drives is a disgrace to the village. The truck is rusted out and needs a new transmission, which is going to cost more than the truck is worth. Trustee Arno advised the board that the village did budget to replace the electric department pickup truck. Trustee Arno would like to have John put specs together to see about purchasing a new pickup truck for the Electric Department. Trustee Arno stated that once the village purchases a new truck, he would like John to have the old Electric Department pickup truck. The board agreed to move forward on putting specs together on a new pickup truck for the Electric Department.

#### **D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:**

1. Trustee Pelkey indicated that last year the Public Works Department included a purchase of a new skid steer, and it was cut from the budget for budgetary reasons. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that through the New York State Department of Transportation the village receives money from the CHIPS program that provides funding for paving the streets. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that this money can also be used for equipment to maintain the streets. Trustee Pelkey feels that if we do not use the funding provided, the State may reduce the village allotment. Trustee Pelkey told the board that the paving has been completed this year, and he would like the board to consider using the remaining funds to purchase a skid steer and a cold planer attachment. Trustee Pelkey told the board that by using this money to purchase the equipment, it would not affect the village budget or put any burden on the village residents. Trustee Pelkey also stated that he would like to see the village use this CHIPS money to help towards the purchase of a new plow truck in the future. Trustee Pelkey said that the village has received a quote from Beauregard Equipment to purchase a new skid steer and cold planer for \$73,200.00 which included Sourcewell/NYS OGS discount, and a trade in allowance of \$10,500.00. Trustee Pelkey stated that amount exceeds our CHIPS balance by \$1,021.11. Trustee Pelkey stated that the village will have to advertise the old cold planer as surplus, and once sold, should exceed the shortage.

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to purchase a new skid steer and attachment from Beauregard Equipment not to exceed \$73,200, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE.**

2. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to advertise the old cold Planer as surplus equipment, seconded by Trustee Menard. **All voted AYE.**
3. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that Public Works has been working on the curbing on Trahan Drive and they will be paving around the Civic Center.

#### **E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:**

1. Trustee Southwick advised the board that the village has submitted the grant to New York State for the new water plant.

2. Trustee Southwick advised the board that he has been approached on broadcasting the board meeting live. Trustee Southwick told the board that he had investigated, and the cost would be approximately \$2,000. Trustee Southwick feels that Hometown Cable is doing a respectable job broadcasting the meeting currently, and Trustee Southwick feels that the village should not spend the money on live broadcasting. Trustee Menard stated the meetings are always open to the public.

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

Code Officer Cooper advised the board that he had nothing to report at this time.

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:07PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.  
**ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore  
Village Clerk/Administrator