

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on February 21, 2023, 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
Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Pelkey, Deputy Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

RECORDING SECRETARY: Christopher Latremore, Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

PUBLIC MEETING:

Brittany Turner; 102 Maple St

Brittany Turner indicated that she is petitioning the Board to change the Village ordinances to allow for chickens to be kept in Rouses Point. Ms. Turner stated that she has collected about 150 signatures so far. She declared that the Village citizens are interested in changing this law and the time to act upon it is now. Mayor LaBonte stated that the Board has received the petition and will review it with permission from Ms. Turner. Mayor LaBonte explained that the laws that are in place now must be amended and if the Village Board decided to adapt this law, the Board would have to research into things such as yard size and more in order to make that determination. Mayor LaBonte showed appreciation to Ms. Turner for taking the initiative to petition about this matter as it shows that many Village citizens are interested.

Adam Gokey; 7 Pineview Dr.

Adam Gokey stated that recently a new stop sign has been placed at the intersection of Maple Street and Pine Street. Adam Gokey mentioned that he has discussed with a few individuals about the fact that many people miss the stop sign because its new and go right through it. Adam Gokey asked the Board if there's any way to take measures to incite people to stop such as a temporary flashing sign. Adam Gokey expressed concern over citizens walking in the summer and the potential for incidents relating to this issue. Mayor LaBonte stated that he has discussed

with Administrator Latremore about adding flashing lights to the sign. Mayor LaBonte explains that individuals who have lived in the Village for a long time and are used to not having a stop on Maple Street may accidentally run the stop sign without knowing. Mayor LaBonte stated that he doesn't want anyone to get hurt and will take this matter into consideration especially considering the stop sign was meant to prevent incidents. Trustee Pelkey suggested adding another stop sign in order to have two stops for the driver to view. Trustee Arno suggested adding a battery operated flashing caution light changing the lens to red and attach to the stop sign.

Becky Pineo

Becky Peneo explained that she is there in order to support the petition created by Brittany Turner. She thanked the board for taking the petition to allow for chickens in Rouses Point into consideration. Miss Peneo explained thinks that this would be a great change for the individuals in the community. She also explained that this can offer educational value to the children of Rouses Point.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 6th, 2023, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

II. BILLS: \$179,365.99 CHECK # 29326-29363

Deputy Treasurer Becky Pelkey indicated that there were no additions and no deletions to the bills.

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE:

Administrator Latremore received an email from Brittney Turner in reference to local law.

Administrator Latremore received an email from the Department of Environmental Conservation on February 14, 2023 in reference to the new dumping station being put in at the sewer plant. Administrator Latremore indicated that the prints for the new dumping station was approved so the raw sewage will be brought to the sewer plant and the use of the boat launch is no longer needed. Administrator Latremore explained that there was an issue with ice in the dumping station. Once the water thaws out the Village will be ready to get started.

Administrator Latremore stated that the Village is underneath contract with Revize for the development of the website. Administrator Latremore indicated that Mayor LaBonte, Treasurer Letourneau, and himself sat on a conference call with a company and they have a plan to revamp the website. Administrator Latremore explained that the changes will cost \$3300 and wanted to bring this to the Board's attention before moving forward. Administrator Latremore explained that one thing that was added to the new website was the option for anyone on the website to

sign up for text-based alerts regarding events in the Village. These alerts can range from weather advisories to scheduled public skating. Administrator Latremore is asking the Village Board for approval to sign this contract.

Mayor LaBonte called for a roll call vote to decide on signing the contract in the amount of \$3300 to redevelop the Village website.

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

Administrator Latremore reminded the Board of the electrical fire that occurred at the water plant three weeks ago. Due to the fire, the Village lost its industrial system and is using the Adams system to pump water. The water plant is functional with the Adams system however, having two systems up and running is important. Next Era Contracting Inc. was hired to start repairs for the fire damage. The contractors revealed that there is non-compliance within the water plant which was validated by Scott Decker from Commonwealth Electrical. Administrator Latremore stated that what needs to take place is to install grounding grid and 4/0 bare copper wire to bonding bar, two sets of neutrals and ground from transformer to splice box in entrance way of building neutral and ground bar, install new taps in junction box in entrance way to remove feeder taped up in disconnect, and install grounding points. Administrator Latremore suggested that this be done in-house as the contractor indicated and that just the material to fix the compliance issues costs \$27,532. Trustee Pelkey mentioned that the building was tested against today's compliant codes, but the facility was built in 1968 therefore it's easy to see why the building is not up to modern compliant code. Trustee Pelkey suggested that the process of doing the necessary repairs to become compliant can be done in phases instead of all at once. Mayor LaBonte questioned how insurance would be affected if the Village decides not to do this work. Trustee Pelkey stated that he thinks this is a recommendation not a requirement. Trustee Pelkey said that if it was a new facility, he would be all for repairing the plant, but the goal is to get a new plant and doing these repairs would make that possibility be set back. Administrator Latremore stated that Scott Decker will not approve the use of the industrial system until the grounding is completed. Trustee Pelkey stated that he would like to have a meeting with Scott Decker to discuss this matter.

IV. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

MAYOR LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote for Resolution 2023-05 which would initiate budget modifications.

MAYOR LABONTE- AYE
TRUSTEE ARNO- AYE
TRUSTEE MENARD- AYE
TRUSTEE PELKEY- AYE

**TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ- ABSENT
MOTION PASSED AS AMENDED.**

2. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote for Resolution 2023-06 to accept the petition for nomination from Dale Menard and Nicholas Southwick of Rouses Point for the two-year term position of Board Member, which will be held in the election of March 2023.

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

3. Mayor LaBonte motioned a vote for Resolution 2023-07 which would increase the hourly wage for certain individuals that work for the Village of Rouses Point due to the increase of the minimum wage in New York.

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

4. Mayor LaBonte asked Trustee Pelkey and Trustee Arno for an update about the meeting they had with the Fire Department about the training building. Trustee Pelkey explained that the membership feels very strongly about the training facility. The members understand it needs work, but they asked for more accessibility. They are willing to pay for the siding to be fixed as well as the brush to be cleaned up. Mayor LaBonte mentioned that Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper and him went out to check if the inside of the building was up to Village code. Fire Chief Michael LeBlanc stated that he needed until June 1, 2023, and the brush plus siding would be done. Mayor LaBonte stated that the inside of the building is a lot better shape than he originally thought. Mayor LaBonte mentioned that if they removed the building, Fire Chief Michael LeBlanc informed him that the fire fighters would have to travel to Plattsburgh for training. Trustee Arno suggested that the training building be moved to behind the fire department which would eliminate the need to clear the brush as well as give the training facility access to a restroom. Trustee Pelkey stated that having proper signage to indicate that the building isn't an eyesore and is a training facility is necessary. Administrator Latremore asked if the maintenance of the building would be up to the Village. Trustee Arno stated that the fire department would take care of the maintenance of the building. The Village will help maintain the property as well.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to allow the Fire Department until June 1st to get the training building in order, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

1. Trustee Arno wanted to discuss the chickens and assumed that the Board would have to talk to the Village lawyer about this matter. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the Board would consult with Village Attorney Tom Murnane to move forward considering the interest presented by the citizens of the Village.
2. Trustee Arno asked if the Village is still going through with Rider A. Mayor LaBonte indicated that a couple phone calls have been made to Mr. Murnane regarding this matter due to the importance of the discussion on it. The Village needs to sell power and water to generate revenue for the Village. The board has had a copy and the board will continue to contact Mr. Murnane on this matter until it is taken care of. Trustee Pelkey ask if amendments will have to be made. Mayor LaBonte mentioned that the law must be eliminated for the definition of power usage, adopt the local law which talks about permits, power allocation, supplemental power, and how it will affect Village residents.

TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Nothing to report.

TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey mentioned that the Christmas tree by the Village office still has Christmas lights on it and looks raggedy. He asked the board if they would consider removing the Christmas tree. Trustee Pelkey indicated that it is getting to large and is no longer manageable. Administrator Latremore took responsibility for the lights still being on the tree. Administrator Latremore explained that when it came time to remove the lights, Jason Juneau stated that if the lights were removed, the limbs of the tree may be damaged, so they refrained from acting on the matter and left the lights on the tree. Trustee Pelkey stated that due to winds the lights would not last until next year if left. Trustee Pelkey mentioned that he planted surplus Pine trees 20 years ago and the Village should take a look at those trees and pick the best tree to replace the larger tree. Trustee Pelkey stated he has a method for doing tree transplants and this could be done in-house. Trustee Pelkey feels this is something the Village should consider.

TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ

Absent.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

1. Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper mentioned that the fire department should be allowed to add a Porta Potty next to the training facility because there is no access to a bathroom at that site and agrees with Trustee Arno on this matter.
2. Administrator Latremore asked if the Board would allow for one or two free upcoming public skating events for anyone who would like to attend.

Trustee Arno made a motion to allow for one or two free upcoming public skating events, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

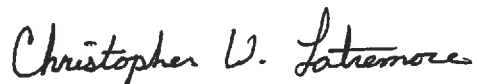
VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Menard made a motion to adjourn at 7:46PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator