

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on July 17, 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

ABSENT: Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky 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 7:00PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one addressed the board.

REGULAR SESSION:

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 3, 2023, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE PELKEY AND ARNO ABSENT.

III. BILLS: \$514,460.09 CHECK # 29724-29767

Deputy Treasurer Becky Pelkey indicated that there were four additions Business Card \$32.16, Champlain EMS \$185,000, and New York Power Authority \$29,101.20 and NYMPA \$24,540.52.

Trustee Menard made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Mayor LaBonte.

ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE PELKEY AND ARNO ABSENT.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Administrator Latremore advised the board that he spoke with Anne Paulson, the Librarian at the Dodge Memorial Library. Ms. Paulson is seeking architects to draw plans and apply for a grant, with the possibility of adding a community room to the library. Administrator Latremore advised Ms. Paulson that it would be in her best interest to address the board with her future plans. Ms. Paulson advised the board that she started her position with the Village in August 2022. Ms. Paulson advised the board that she was a school librarian for 20 years prior to coming to the village. Ms. Paulson advised the board that New York Public and Association Libraries minimum standards as of January 1, 2021, states that libraries maintain a facility that address the community needs, as outlined in the library's long range plan service, including

adequate space, lighting, shelving, seating, power and data infrastructure and public restrooms. The standards also provide programming to address community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service. Ms. Paulson indicated that the library has been very busy, and the library is running out of space. She said the library needs a community room, as well as a children's room. Ms. Paulson told the board that she reached out to Butler Rowland Mays Architects, LLP and has been working with Paul Mays. Ms. Paulson advised the board that Mr. May has been working with libraries for over 20 years. Ms. Paulson provided photos of other libraries that Mr. May has worked on. Ms. Paulson provided a floor plan of the Dodge Memorial Library showing a small breezeway attaching the new structure to the existing building. Ms. Paulson advised the board that the first step that needs to be taken, prior to applying for a grant, would be to have architects draw plans. Ms. Paulson said the cost for the architects would be \$17,800. Ms. Paulson is asking the board for their approval to use the library reserve fund towards the cost of the architects. Mayor LaBonte asked if they investigated utilizing other space in the library to meet their needs. Ms. Paulson advised Mayor LaBonte that they did investigate using the basement and attic, but neither would really be feasible. Ms. Paulson told the board the new community room would extend off the south side of the library and would be able to hold approximately 50 people, but they have no plans on the size of the room yet. Ms. Paulson told the board that this would bring the library from 1907 to 2023. Ms. Paulson advised the board that the architects' fees will remain the same until this fall. Ms. Paulson told the board that this was just an informative meeting, and she has the support of the library board to proceed forward with the architect so they can apply for a grant to construct the community room and children's room. Mayor LaBonte told Ms. Paulson that he is all about the community.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that the roof at the Fire Department is leaking and needs to be replaced.

Trustee Menard made a motion to allow Administrator Latremore to advertise the Fire Department roof out to bid seconded by Mayor LaBonte. **ALL VOTED AYE.**
TRUSTEE PELKEY AND ARNO ABSENT.

2. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that he attended an EMS meeting in Champlain and the estimated cost for 2024-2025 for the Village will increase by \$25,000. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he was not very happy with the increase, but the Village needs to provide the best possible service for the community.

B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

Nothing to report at this time.

C: TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

Absent

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY

Absent

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick advised that the boil water notice has been lifted due to the main water line breaking on Lake Street. Trustee Southwick acknowledged the Village and Village of Champlain employees for they worked on the repair from 7:00 PM till 4:30 AM.
2. Trustee Southwick advised the board that the water plant was in need of a Water Plant Operator and would like to advertise the vacant position.
Trustee Southwick made a motion to advertise the vacant position of Water Plant Operator seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**
TRUSTEE PELKEY AND ARNO ABSENT.
3. Trustee Southwick advised the board that the parade went well. Trustee Southwick said that he spoke to the City of Plattsburgh, and they have a quite zone for individuals with autism, hearing issues or other disabilities and would like to see this done in the Village next year.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

Code Officer Cooper advised the board he had nothing to report.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Nobody addressed the board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Menard made a motion to adjourn at 7:37PM, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE PELKEY AND ARNO ABSENT.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator