

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on June 5, 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 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 Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 15, 2023, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$47,275.85 CHECK # 29614-29646

Treasurer Arsene Letourneau indicated that there was one deletion to the bills:

Labarge Agency- \$1,599.00

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Administrator Latremore stated that on May 29, 2023, he received an email from Brittney Turner. Ms. Turner indicated that she was patiently waiting to hear an update from the board regarding her petition for allowing chickens in the village. Ms. Turner stated that she was under the impression that the next step would be a public forum. Ms. Turner wanted to know when this would occur. Ms. Turner stated that she knows it will not happen this year but would like to be prepared for next year.

Mayor LaBonte indicated the village attorney, Mr. Murnane, has been working on developing the language on amending the village code. Mayor LaBonte stated that there had been numerous phone calls to Mr. Murnane without a return call. Mayor LaBonte stated that he was disappointed with Mr. Murnane. Mayor LaBonte stated that the residents may request to replace Mr. Murnane but the mayor indicated that the number attorneys that practice municipal law are very scarce, and we will have to continue reaching out to Mr. Murnane so the board can present the change in the local code and have a public hearing.

2. Administrator Latremore advised the board that Verizon Wireless sent a second notice revising the lease for the wireless tower located at 124 Academy Street. The new contract would be effective June 1, 2024, and the new rent would be \$1250.00 per month. Currently Verizon Wireless is paying \$1857.09 per month. The board advised the Administrator to contact Verizon Wireless and advise them that the village has a contract in force, and the village wishes to remain with the terms of the current contract.
3. Administrator Latremore advised the board that he received a letter from Ron LeBlanc stating that Border Runners LLC currently owns property at 8-10 Lake Street and is working on filling the remaining commercial space by expanding into the fabrication and painting, business related to the automotive enthusiast market. Mr. LeBlanc indicated that the current land space is severely limited, and having more land is critical for investing in any expansion of business operations. Mr. LeBlanc would like to purchase the property owned by the village west of 8-10 Lake Street and provide the right of way for either party. Mr. LeBlanc stated that this would put the property back on the tax roll and allow for business development. The board agreed that the village currently is not using the property and really has no use for the property. The village indicated that it would have the property appraised. After the village receives the appraisal, the property will be advertised for sale and the village will only accept minimum offers of the appraised value or higher. The buyer will be responsible for paying for the appraisal and all other costs associated to the closing.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte read resolution with proxy 2023-13.
Trustee Southwick made a motion to that MEUA Board of Directors be and is hereby designated as the accredited delegate of the Village of Rouses Point, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE.**
2. Mayor LaBonte read resolution with proxy 2023-14.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to that NYPA Board of Directors be and is hereby designated as the accredited delegate of the Village of Rouses Point, seconded by Trustee Menard. **All voted AYE.**

3. Mayor LaBonte read resolution 2023-15 Bad Debt.
Trustee Menard made a motion to that the attached list of accounts be written off effective May 31, 2023, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.

Roll call:

Trustee Pelkey **AYE**
Trustee Menard **AYE**
Trustee Southwick **AYE**
Trustee Arno **AYE**
Mayor LaBonte **AYE**

4. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that the Town of Champlain recently amended its local law on dog licensing and control. Mayor LaBonte felt that since the Village of Rouses Point uses the same dog control officer it would only make sense for the Village of Rouses Point to make its code the same.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to adopt the new Dogs Control Law and schedule a public hearing, seconded by Trustees Southwick. **All voted AYE.**
5. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he received a proposal for an engineering service for the Water System Improvements Protect from Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$2,300.00.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to enter into a contract with Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$2,300.00 for the Water System Improvement Project, seconded by Trustees Menard. **All voted AYE.**
6. Mayor LaBonte read a letter of resignation from Jerry Pivetta. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he regrets Mr. Pivetta's decision to leave the village and thanked him for his years of service.
Trustee Southwick made a motion to accept Jerry Pivetta resignation, seconded Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE.**

B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Dale Menard indicated that the village needs to start talking about increasing wages to stop employees from leaving the village workforce.

C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO

1. Trustee Arno stated that the letters and steel beams at the Fire Department need to be painted.
2. Trustee Arno stated that some of the windows at the welcome center need to be replaced. Trustee Arno is getting quotes from Stick and Stuff and Adams Glass.
3. Trustee Arno wanted to thank American Legion Post 912 for appointing him as Citizen of the year at their banquet.

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey indicated that paving of Woodhaven Drive, Manor Drive and lower Academy Street should start June 13, 2023. Public Works have been prepping the roads and grinding driveways to prepare for the paving.
2. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that the Rouses Point 4th of July committee wanted to hold a coin drop on Saturday June 10 for 9-2 on Lake Street to help with their expenses.
Trustee Menard made a motion to allow the 4th of July committee to hold a coin drop Saturday June 10, 2023, from 9-2, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE.**

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick advised the board that the doors and locks on the dugouts have been installed and it looks good. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that someone got into the dugout even after the doors and locks were installed, and someone caused damage to the bathroom at the boat launch. Mayor LaBonte cannot understand why individuals want to cause damage to village property and suggest that the village install security cameras, and if the individual(s) are caught, then the village will request for the individual to be prosecuted to the highest level. Trustee Southwick stated that the cost of security cameras would be minimal.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

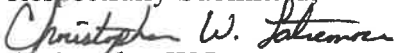
Code Officer Cooper advised the board that permits are picking up. Mayor LaBonte advised Code Officer Cooper that the field next to O'Reilly Auto Parts is getting high. Code Officer Cooper stated the property is in the hands of the county, and it's hard to get in touch with the county, but he will continue his efforts to have them clean up the property.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Treasure Letourneau advised the board that the auditors will be at the village office Wednesday June 7 through Thursday June 8.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:35PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.
ALL VOTED, AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator