

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on March 6, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer

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.

PUBLIC MEETING:

Scott Richner; 16 Pratt St

Scott Richner indicated that he came to speak about his opposition to allowing for backyard fowl in the Village of Rouses Point. He stated that the smell of the chickens would be an obvious aversion to allowing this in the Village. He noted that the argument that the City of Plattsburgh who have recently allowed chickens in the city have not complained will change during the Springtime because the community has not yet experienced the dethawing of organic material build-up. He also noted that chicken manure attracts rodents and flies which would not be in the residents' best interest. He also noted that when chickens pass away, the burying of chickens in the Village will attract scavengers like rat's skunks, and opossums. He also noted that live birds will attract predators such as foxes, weasel, and coyotes which are animals that Village residents have expressed concern over in the past. The last major point Scott Richner made was the possibility of bird flu transmission. He mentioned that bird flu could spread from flock to flock which eventually would affect two other poultry farms in the area. Bringing bird flu in the poultry farms would result in millions of bird being euthanized and 100s of job losses. He also noted that this could also bring quarrels between neighbors. Mayor LaBonte suggested that those in opposition should petition against this as well. Trustee Menard indicated that a petition for both sides would give the Board members a better understanding of how all the Village residents are feelings on this matter.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 21st, 2023, regular meeting, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

II. BILLS: \$510,570.40

CHECK # 28319-28360

Treasurer Arsene Letourneau 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 addressed to the Board. The individual expresses their concern over chickens being allowed in the Village. They mentioned that some residents don't follow the board meetings diligently and are not up to date on the fact that this was proposed. The writer noted that if you open up the possibility for chickens to be in the Village, residents will push the limits of the law and it will be hard to manage. They also noted that individuals they have talked to about this matter would not mind as long as the chickens aren't next to them, but the chickens will be next to someone. The writer feels that this is a classic Pandora's Box situation and once the box is open, anything goes.

Mayor LaBonte noted that there are valid points in this correspondence but you can't assume that individuals will not obey the code. This matter is still in discussion and is far from being approved.

IV. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

MAYOR LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte indicated that a motion needs to be made to authorize Daniel Guay and Bryon Gelineault to travel for training in Lake Placid, NY.

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

TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

1. Trustee Arno wanted to discuss the Sheriff's department. Trustee Arno mentioned that a discussion needs to be had with the Sheriff and the Board. Mayor LaBonte mentioned that there has been discussion made with Major Leon, himself, and Administrator Latremore over their inhabitants of the police station. Mayor LaBonte indicated that their inhabitant of the old police station was made before Administrator Latremore and himself were in office. There was supposed to be an agreement between the Village and the County on this matter and Mayor LaBonte is still waiting for the County Attorney to produce this past agreement. Mayor LaBonte is not happy about the fact they are not paying rent anymore. Mayor LaBonte indicated that he has a lot of questions but not many answers considering there is nothing to go on besides hearsay. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the meeting with the Sheriff will be arranged at the earliest convenience. Trustee Menard asked why they stopped paying rent after a year. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the Sheriff's Department indicated that the agreement stated that rent was only to

be paid for a year. Mayor LaBonte indicated that there will be a discussion with the County Attorney to further investigate this matter as well as a meeting with the Sheriff.

2. Trustee Arno wanted to thank the Public Works department for their great job cleaning the streets during and after the snowstorm.

TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Menard mentioned that Matt Boire was inquiring about what's going on regarding the recommendations made about the I2 Zone, but our Village Attorney Tom Murnane has been on vacation, so no changes have been made yet regarding the zoning. The Village also has yet to receive the recommendations from the Zoning Board.

TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey mentioned that the new dumping station is up and running at the sewer plant. He mentioned that the dumping station is hooked directly up to the sewer plant. Spillage is controlled without being near the lake as well as limited risk of smell.

TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ

Absent

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

None

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:18PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ ABSENT.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator