

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on May 15, 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 Southwick made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2023, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$211,632.26 CHECK # 29568-29612

Treasurer Arsene Letourneau indicated that the following additions have been made to the bills:

Business Cards- \$41.01

Excellus Health Plan- \$44,986.70

Simply Prescriptions- \$6,076.08

Total Additions- \$51,103.79

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Administrator Latremore stated that on April 26, 2023, an individual from Vermont hit one of the light poles on Lake Street and the pole was damaged beyond repair. The individual's insurance was not active. The total cost to replace the light pole is

approximately \$6,000 dollars. The village has two options, first we can report the claim to the village insurance and collect for the damage less the deductible or have the village attorney send the individual a letter to arrange payments for the damage and put a judgement against the individual. The board wished to have the claim reported to the insurance company. Administrator Latremore also advised the board that the time frame to receive a new light pole is 13 to 14 weeks and the village does not have a replacement. Administrator Latremore told the board that the light pole would temporarily be replaced with another post, until the new post comes in. The board advised the administrator to order two light posts so the village would have a spare in the event something like this would happen again.

Trustee Arno asked the administrator if the shuffleboard in the park could be painted.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte gave his condolences to George Rivers on the passing of Peg Rivers.
2. Mayor LaBonte addressed a concern that Trustee Southwick had for Codes Officer Cooper regarding the height of residence lawn. Mayor LaBonte will not be going out to residences taking measurements but stressed the fact that properties in the village need to be taken care of.
3. Mayor LaBonte addressed village code 100-5 obstruction or interference with use prohibited. The code states that no person shall unnecessarily obstruct or interfere with legal use of the sidewalks or streets of the Village by other persons, and the use thereof shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the Chief of Police. Mayor LaBonte stated the reason he needs to address this issue is that a school bus mirror hit a basketball net that was in the road right away. Mayor LaBonte stated he did not want to discourage youth outdoor activity, but residence cannot cause hazards on the village streets or sidewalks. Mayor LaBonte said he will have Code Officer Cooper provide violators with verbal notice, and if they continue to violate, then he will give a citation.

B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Dale Menard Thanked the village crew for doing an excellent job with the spring cleanup.

C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO

1. Nothing to report at this time.

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to hold an executive session regarding personnel issues, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

2. Trustee Pelkey wanted to advise the village residents and people outside Rouses Point that the 4th of July celebration will take place June 30-July 2. Trustee Pelkey stated the parade and fireworks will take place on July 2. Trustee Pelkey stated that information will be posted on the digital sign at the Civic Center, and on the village website.
3. Trustee Pelkey also wanted to advise that the village wide yard sale will be held on June 24.
4. Trustee Pelkey stated that Verizon wireless has a lease with the village for the property at 124 Academy Street. Verizon wireless wants to amend the lease by reducing its monthly rent from its current rate of \$1,857.09 per month to \$1,250.00. Treasurer Letourneau advised the board that the village budget for 2023-2024 was set using current revenue. The board agreed not to entertain the amended lease agreement with Verizon Wireless for now.

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick advised the residents that they received a letter from the village in reference to an issue with a water sample in March. Trustee Southwick assured the residents that the village had no violations, and the water is safe.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

None

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

None

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter recess at 7:23PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to enter executive session at 7:24PM, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:40PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

X. REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to extend Dan Yakey's probation for an additional six months from May 1, 2023, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Trustee Menard made a motion to allow the administrator/clerk to move forward with CSEA and Clinton County Civil Service on adding a non-competitive class electrician with a pay rate one dollar less than the Line Worker position seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Mark Haynes and Andrew Staulcup from ERS addressed the board regarding 64 Maple Street. They spoke about short- and long-term plans. They indicated that they would like to use the unused power which is approximately 8 MEGS. They indicated that right now the village is losing approximately \$6,000 a day by not utilizing power. ERS has a potential tenant. The tenant is a Bitcoin company, and they could use the surplus power to add additional revenue to the village. They suggested the village enter a 6-to-7-month lease, place protections in place to protect the village and its residence and ERS would put \$200,000 in escrow. They indicated that this would be a short-term plan because they are working on a larger deal.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:17PM, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator