

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on November 20, 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. PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Andrew Staulcup, 14 Columbus Drive, addressed the board on local law 3 of 2023 Chapter 57 subsection 4 Commercial/Industrial Development. Mr. Staulcup indicated that he is trying to understand why the village code is being changed. Mr. Staulcup indicated that he has reviewed the comprehensive plan for the Village of Rouses Point, and he feels that this change does not comply with it. Mr. Staulcup asked the board what due diligence was done for the comprehensive plan to comply with this code change. Mr. Staulcup asked the board how this code change would help development. Mr. Staulcup feels that it does not help development and that it completely hurts it. Mr. Staulcup asked the board how do we increase development and bring jobs back to Rouses Point. Mr. Staulcup feels that this is just creating another hurdle. Mr. Staulcup asked the board how much money this was going to save the village, and if they did a cost analysis.

Mr. Staulcup addressed the board on local 4 of 2023 Chapter 64 Electrical System, Municipal Development address electric boilers. Mr. Staulcup wanted clarification that it was not prohibiting electric boilers, but allowing electric boilers that are rated energy efficient boilers. Mayor LaBonte advised that Mr. Staulcup was correct.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one addressed the board.

REGULAR SESSION:

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the minutes of November 6, 2023, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

IV. BILLS: \$204,379.27 CHECK # 30043-30088

Treasurer Arsene F. Letourneau indicated that there was on addition October 2023 NYSEG Corp electric bill in the amount of \$6,828.76.

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Arno.
ALL VOTED AYE.

V. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Administrator Latremore stated that the village will hold its annual parade of toys on December 1, 2023, beginning at 6:00PM at Rouses Park, Lake Street. Watch for Santa Claus as he arrives by fire truck. Administrator Latremore asked residents to join us for caroling down Lake Street to the Village Office, where there will be more caroling, hot cocoa, a visit with Santa Claus, and lighting of the tree.
2. Administrator Latremore also advised that the village parking ban will be in effect beginning December 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Latremore indicated that per Village Code 112-17, the parking of vehicles and trailers, semi-trailer, or coaches, detached from their towing vehicles, is hereby prohibited on all streets within the Village between the hours of 2:00a.m. and 6:00a.m. from December 1 through March 31 of every year.
3. Administrator Latremore stated that he received an announcement that Montgomery Hose, Hook & Ladder Co/Rouses Point Fire Department will be conducting their annual Children's Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9th from noon-3:00p.m. at the fire station. All village residents and their families are invited to attend and visit Santa who will be arriving via fir truck. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. They are requesting the Village Board for approval to allow the fire department to provide fire truck rides during the hours of noon-3:00p.m.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to allow the fire department to provide fire truck rides during the hours of the fire department Children's Christmas Party on December 9th, from noon 3: 00p.m seconded by Trustee Menard.
ALL VOTED AYE.

VI. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte introduced proposed local law 1 of 2023 Chapter 60 Dogs of the Village Code. Mayor LaBonte indicated that by changing the code the village code will now read the same as the Town of Champlain, and since we use the same dog control officer, it only makes sense to make things more uniform. There was no further discussion.

Roll call:

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

2. Mayor LaBonte introduced proposed local law 2 of 2023 Chapter 74 Flood Damage Prevention of the Village Code. Mayor LaBonte stated that this change was necessary for property located in flood zones, and if they want or need to purchase flood insurance. There was no further discussion.

Roll call:
Trustee Pelkey AYE
Trustee Southwick AYE
Trustee Arno AYE
Trustee Menard AYE
Mayor LaBonte AYE

3. Mayor LaBonte introduced proposed law 3 of 2023 Chapter 57 subsection 4 Commercial/Industrial Development of the village code. Mayor LaBonte stated that Administrator Latremore and Trustee Pelkey had a meeting with the NY Municipal Power Agency to discuss the cost-of-service study for the village. It was during this discussion that the Village Code was reviewed, and they suggested that the village code be changed. Mayor LaBonte stated that the village is not anti-business and feels that this code needs to be changed to protect the residents of the village. Mayor LaBonte stated that he reviewed the grant money offered by New York State and made phone calls to two Towns that received the grant but was unable to speak to anyone. Mayor LaBonte stated that there are no guarantees in getting the grant and the village would have to hire a grant writer. Mayor LaBonte feels that changing this code was the best safeguard for the residents. Trustee Southwick feels that changing this code will not affect development, and it prevents any development cost becoming the burden of the residence. Mayor LaBonte agreed that this is best for the residence and feels that we need to follow the recommendations of the NY Municipal Power Agency. There was no further discussion.

Roll call:
Trustee Pelkey AYE
Trustee Southwick AYE
Trustee Arno AYE
Trustee Menard AYE
Mayor LaBonte AYE

4. Mayor LaBonte introduced proposed local law 4 of 2024 Chapter 64 Electrical System, Municipal Development addressing Electric Boilers of the Village Code. Mayor LaBonte stated that this law was presented to the previous board, but there was never a roll call vote. This change in the village code will allow energy efficient electric boilers. Trustee Pelkey stated that he wanted to clarify that this will not affect existing electric boilers, only new installations, and replacement boilers. There was no further discussion.

Roll call:

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

5. Mayor LaBonte advised the board that the village received one bid for the Electric Department new pickup truck. Mayor LaBonte stated that the bid was received from Brennan Buick GMC in Plattsburgh, NY. Mayor LaBonte stated the bid was in the amount of \$44,612.50 which was less than the amount budgeted. Trustee Southwick made a motion to accept the bid from Brennan Buick GMC in the amount of \$44,615.50, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.
ALL VOTED AYE.
6. Mayor LaBonte expressed his condolences to Village Attorney Thomas Murnane for the recent loss of his father.

B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Dale Menard thanked the village crew for putting up the Christmas lights and stated that they look great.

C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO

1. Trustee Arno stated that the slate roof at the Welcome Center needs repair. Trustee Arno said he received an estimate from Don Deso in the amount of \$4,975.00. Trustee Arno stated that Mr. Deso would provide all material and will check the rest of the roof for any damage. Trustee Menard made a motion to accept Don Deso bid for repair of the Welcome Center roof in the amount of \$4,975.00, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
ALL VOTED AYE.
2. Trustee Arno stated that the annual CPKC Holiday train will stop at the Rouses Point Welcome Center on November 25, 2023, between 8:45PM-9:30PM. Trustee Arno stated the village will be serving hot chocolate starting at 7:00PM. Trustee Arno also asked if you plan on attending to bring nonperishable goods to be donated to the local food bank.
3. Trustee Arno indicated that he noticed streetlights out on State Street, Lake Street and behind the village garage.

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey thanked all the volunteers for taking care of the flowers within the village and making the village look better. Trustee Pelkey stated that one of the volunteers started in 1980.

2. Trustee Pelkey wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving.

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick advised the residents that Stick and Puck will be held on November 22 from 1:00-2:00 followed by Public Skating from 2:30-4:30.
2. Trustee Southwick stated that he was happy to announce that village has hired Heath Cardin to fill the open position as Recreational Facility Manger. Trustee Southwick feels that with his skills and knowledge he will be a great asset to the Civic Center.
3. Trustee Southwick thanked all the residents for voicing their concerns. Trustee Southwick indicated that the residents' voices are being heard and hopes they will continue to voice their concerns, for it is taken into consideration when the board is making decisions.

VII. OTHER REPORTS:

None

VIII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one addressed the board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to adjourn at 7:41PM, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
ALL VOTED, AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W. Latremore

Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator