

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

**PRESENT:** John J. Labonte, Mayor  
Dale M. Menard, Trustee  
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee  
Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee  
Nicholas C. Southwick, Trustee

**ABSENT :** Christopher Latremore, Village Clerk/Administrator  
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

**OTHERS PRESENT :** Arsene Letourneau, Village Treasurer

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Patricia A. Garrand, Deputy Village Clerk

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor, John J. Labonte called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**I. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Village Resident, Theresa Schwartz, addressed the board. She lives at 22 Pine Street and wants to talk about the house next door to hers. She stated that it is a disaster. The grass is very long, abandoned pool was filled with garbage and dirt was put on top. Now the grass is growing out of the pool and is five feet tall. Asked the Board for help in getting the owner to clean it up. Mayor Labonte stated that he is aware of the situation and will speak to Code Enforcement Officer, John Cooper again about taking care of it. Theresa thanked the Board for listening and for their time. Mayor Labonte said he will keep her informed and the problem will be addressed.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**II. MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2023, REGULAR MEETING:**

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2023, regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Southwick, **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**III. BILLS :**           **\$98,779.10    CHECK # 29853 - 29878**

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

#### **IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Deputy Clerk Garrand advised that there was no correspondence at this time.

#### **V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES**

##### **A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE:**

1. Resolution 2023-17 Budget Modification General Fund Appropriations regarding \$1,149.00 transferred to the General Fund to Close out the Fitness Trail Capital Project Fund. The funds were transferred back to fund improvements to the park. Second part of Resolution is Library Fund Appropriations for \$18,600.00. Trustee Southwick made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-17, Seconded by Trustee Menard. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

2. Resolution 2023-18 Sewer Pump Capital Equipment Purchase. Trustee Arno made a motion to pass Resolution 2023-18, Seconded by Trustee Southwick. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

3. Local Law 1-2023 Dog Licensing & Control Law. Trustee Arno asked if there was any cost to the Village. Mayor Labonte stated no additional cost to the Village, we already pay for the Dog Control Officer. This will just allow the Dog Control Officer to write up violations within the Village. Trustee Menard made a motion to pass Local Law 1-2023, Seconded by Trustee Arno. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

Mayor Labonte clarified that he mis-spoke, this is a vote to authorize the Clerk/Administrator to set up a Public Hearing for the Law before it is voted on and passed. Mayor Labonte made a motion to authorize the Clerk/Administrator to set up the Public Hearing, Seconded by Trustee Arno. Mayor Labonte called for another Roll Call Vote to authorize the Public Hearing.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

4. Local Law 2-2023 Flood Damage Prevention. Trustee Menard made a motion to authorize the Clerk/Administrator to set up a Public Hearing for this Local Law, Seconded by Mayor Labonte. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote to authorize the Public Hearing.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

5. Mayor Labonte received a very nice letter about our Village Historian, Brandon Racine. Mr. Harrington wanted to thank Mr. Racine for helping him do some research on his family tree. He wrote that Mr. Racine was very helpful and took time and care to help him. He said he was a great employee of the Village and thanked him for his help. Mayor wanted to commend Brandon for his help and for being very good at what he does.
6. Mayor Labonte made a motion to go into Executive Session after the Regular Meeting to talk about personnel matters, Seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

#### **B. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:**

1. Trustee Arno stated that he saw on TV and in the Newspaper that Amtrak is going to start up passenger train travel again from New York to Montreal starting on September 11, 2023. All the Board was very happy to hear this news.

#### **C. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:**

1. Trustee Menard stated that large trucks are traveling up and down the side streets in the Village. He saw the signs that were put up, but they seemed very small and will probably be missed by the truckers. He said there is an old sign from when Pfizer was there, and it said shipping and receiving, and it is a 3 x 4-foot sign. It is just

lying in the grass in the wooded area on the side of the road. Maybe we could utilize that sign. Mayor Labonte stated he would make a phone call and see if can be addressed.

**D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:**

1. Trustee Pelkey stated he had an authorization for travel to send John Bernard and Heath Cardin to train for contact hours for their water license. Cost is \$200. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to approve the travel, Seconded by Trustee Menard. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote to approve the travel expense.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

**E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:**

1. Trustee Southwick stated he also had a request to travel. This is for Daniel Guay and Eric Gooley at a cost of \$230. Trustee Southwick made a motion to approve travel to train, Seconded by Trustee Arno. Mayor Labonte called for a Roll Call Vote to approve the travel expense.

Trustee Brian S. Pelkey – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Dale M. Menard – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Nicholas C. Southwick – Voting – AYE  
Trustee Benjamin J. Arno – Voting – AYE  
Mayor John J. Labonte – Voting – AYE

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

No other reports

**VII. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

No other public comments

**VIII. RECESS**

Trustee Arno made a motion to recess at 7:20 PM, Seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter executive session at 7:22 PM, Seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

Trustee Southwick made a motion to exit executive session at 7:34 PM, Seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Garrand  
Deputy Village Clerk