

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on May 20, 2024, 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 F. 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.

**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 May 6, 2024, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**III. BILLS: \$219,845.45 CHECK # 30534-30580**

Treasurer Arsene F. Letourneau indicated that there were no additions or deletion to the bills. Trustee Menard made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Administrator Latremore indicated that he had nothing to report.

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

**A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE**

1. Mayor LaBonte stated that he quickly wanted to address the Clinton County Health Department violations. Mayor LaBonte stated that the village has started the process of replacing the 60-year-old water plant. Mayor LaBonte stated the water gets tested daily and brought to Plattsburgh weekly for testing. If boiling water is necessary, the village would disclose this information to the residents. The Clinton County Health

Department has mandated the residents be informed. Mayor LaBonte went on to state that the violation the village received was going to benefit the village, for it made the village eligible to receive a zero (0) percent loan for the new water plant, which will help the residents cost on their water rate. Mayor LaBonte stressed the fact that the water is safe to drink and that he will not hide anything from the village residents. Mayor LaBonte said that if anyone has any questions or concerns, residents can either call the village office, or stop at the village office, and any questions will be addressed.

2. Mayor LaBonte had Treasure Letourneau review Resolution 2024-14 budget modification. Treasure Letourneau indicated that May 31, 2024, is the end of the fiscal year, and this resolution is to balance the budget. Trustee Southwick motioned accepting Resolution 2024-14 budget modification, seconded by Trustee Menard. No further discussion.

**Roll call:**

**MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE-AYE  
TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD-AYE  
TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO-AYE  
TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY-AYE  
TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK-AYE**

3. Mayor LaBonte indicated that residents have reached out to him on how topics get put on the agenda. Mayor LaBonte stated that the Administrator sends an email to the Board of Trustees, asking them if they have anything they would like to put on the agenda. Mayor LaBonte stated that the Board of Trustees members will notify the Administrator, and the topic will be put on the agenda for that Board of Trustee. Mayor LaBonte stated that nothing is put on the agenda unless one of the Board of Trustee members requests the topic to be put on the agenda.

**TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:**

1. Trustee Dale Menard thanked Public Works and all the other departments that helped with the spring cleanup and stated that they did an excellent job.

**C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO**

1. Trustee Arno made a motion to hold an executive session regarding a legal matter, seconded by Trustee Menard.  
**ALL VOTED, AYE.**

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

1. Trustee Pelkey advised the board that the village advertised the position for a season laborer to work at the Civic Center, and made a motion to hire Joshua McGoldrick effective June 3, 2024, with an hourly rate of pay at \$15.91, seconded by Trustee Menard.

No further discussion.

**Roll call:**

**MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE-AYE  
TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD-AYE  
TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO-AYE  
TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY-AYE  
TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK-AYE**

2. Trustee Pelkey stated at the May 6, 2024, meeting, the board had discussions on drivers at the Fire Department. Trustee Pelkey indicated the Fire Department had a discussion at their meeting. It was suggested that all drivers need to complete a driver's test, provided by the Fire Department Training Officer. The Mayor and Fire Chief will sign the driver's card indicating that they are a member of the Fire Department First. Next the Assistant Chiefs will provide the driver's test and sign off indicating that the driver could operate each vehicle and sign off. Trustee Pelkey suggested that the Village give the Fire Department two (2) months to complete testing, and if they fail to provide results to the board, then the board will have no other choice than to address the issue themselves. Trustee Pelkey stated that this is particularly important because there have been three incidents that have taken place with the same operator.
3. Trustee Pelkey stated that he has received phone calls over the weekend concerning fights, noise issues and ambulance calls at the Anchorage. Trustee Pelkey stated that it is zoned for the current occupancy but feels that the Village needs to do something to prevent these nuisances from continuing.

**D. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:**

1. Trustee Southwick stated that the Village of Rouses Point Water Department is in the process of conducting a service line inventory of all water service laterals in the Village of Rouses Point System. This inventory is required as part of the Revised Lead and Copper Rule that has been approved by the EPA and NYS Department of Health. The goal of this inventory is to determine areas in the water distribution system that contain lead components, so that these lead service lines can be targeted for replacement. Trustee Southwick continued to state that if residents don't know, really can't tell, or are unable to conduct the service line inventory to call Dan Guay or the Administrator, to set up an appointment to have a one of the village's employees visit your home to help determine what type of material your service line is made of.

2. Trustee Southwick stated if anyone was interested in the Clinton County Health Department report, on the water plant findings, the full details are listed in the May 6, 2024, minutes.
3. Trustee Southwick indicated that a convex mirror has been installed on the corner of State and Lake Street, with the hopes that it helps drivers turning off Montgomery Street with the flow of traffic traveling north.

#### **VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **VII. RECESS:**

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to enter recess at 7:22PM, seconded by Trustee Arno.  
**ALL VOTED, AYE.**

#### **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:37PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.  
**ALL VOTED, AYE.**

#### **IX. REGULAR SESSION**

No action taken.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:37PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.  
**ALL VOTED, AYE.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Christopher W. Latremore*  
Christopher W Latremore  
Village Clerk/Administrator