

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on May 6, 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
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 Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of April 15, 2024, seconded by Trustee Southwick. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$114,161.07 CHECK # 30495-30533

Treasurer Arsene F. Letourneau indicated that there was one deletion to the bills Dell Marketing in the amount of \$692.96.

Trustee Menard made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.

ALL VOTED AYE.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Administrator Latremore advised the residents that the first Smart Growth Comprehensive Planning public information meeting will be held 6-7:30PM Wednesday May 8, 2024, at the American Legion Post 912.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte made a motion to hold an executive session regarding the employment history of a particular person, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
ALL VOTED, AYE.

2. Mayor LaBonte reviewed Resolution 2024-12 mileage reimbursement rate for 2024-2025 year.
Trustee Menard motioned accepting Resolution 2024-12 amending the mileage reimbursement rate to .67 cents per mile in accordance with the 2024 IRS Standard Mileage Rates with the 2024 IRS Standard Mileage Rates for Business, seconded by Mayor LaBonte.
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 reviewed Resolution 2024-13 Delegate to vote by proxy.
Trustee Southwick motioned accepting Resolution 2024-13 that (the MEUA Executive Committee or another delegate as the municipal may desire) MEAU Executive committee be and is hereby designated as the accredited delegate of the Village of Rouses Point, seconded by Trustee Arno.
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**

4. Mayor LaBonte indicated that On February 28, 2024, representatives Tim Simonette and Ryan E. Davies, P.E., from the Clinton County Health Department (CCHD), met with representatives from the Rouses Point Village Water System to conduct an annual sanitary survey. The inspection revealed several issues since the last sanitary survey:

1. Diminished source water quality at the main intake in Lake Champlain due to increased turbidity.
2. The reliance on alternate intakes for extended periods due to higher turbidity levels at the main intake.
3. Challenges faced by the aging diatomaceous earth (DE) filtration treatment plant in effectively treating water with elevated turbidity levels above 5 NTU.
4. While the system has not exceeded maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations for turbidity, turbidity levels over 1.0 NTU were recorded for several days in

December 2023. An MCL violation would be a turbidity greater than 1.0 NTU average/month.

5. Concerns regarding the formation of Disinfection By-products (DBPs) in the distribution system, evident from increasing DBP levels in quarterly sample results, with potential future MCL exceedances.
6. The treatment facility is an aging DE filter plant. Specifically, there are worries about the effectiveness of the Adams filter line, and the lack of redundancy in suppliers for necessary DE powder used as filter media and parts.

Based on discussions with Village representatives, the Village is committed to constructing a new water treatment plant that would alleviate the concerns presented above. To address these issues promptly and efficiently, the CCHD is providing a Stipulation Agreement with associated compliance schedule requirements. We request that one (1) signed copy of the Stipulation Agreement form be returned to the CCHD by May 15, 2024. Failure to accept the Stipulation Agreement may lead to the scheduling of a formal office conference and potential fines.

The CCHD believes that working together to rectify these violations and concerns is essential to ensure the provision of safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of Village of Rouses Point.

The Village of Rouses Point agrees to the terms and conditions that are listed below:

THE Village of Rouses Point AGREES:

1. That all findings of the CCHD are correct.
2. To pay the penalty indicated in this Department's offer of Stipulation.
3. With the recent awarding of grant funds, to hire a New York State Licensed Professional Engineer to design a replacement water treatment plant and submit to the NYSDOH/CCHD for review by May 1, 2024. The CCHD understands that the design is near completion.
4. Evaluation of the existing water intake and alternate intake to ensure water quality is suitable for drinking water filtration. Provide any recommendations or upgrades, as applicable, by December 31, 2024.
5. To complete construction of a new water treatment plant that will be operational by December 31, 2026.
6. As applicable, conduct an Operational Evaluation Level and submit a written report by July 1, 2024, or within 60 days of an OEL exceedance. The evaluation must include an examination of system treatment and distribution practices, storage tank operations, excess storage capacity, distribution flushing, changes in source water quality, and treatment changes or problems that may contribute to TTHM and

HAA5 formation, and what steps could be considered to minimize future exceedances.

THE CLINTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AGREES:

1. That a hearing will not be conducted on the violations stipulated as of the date of this finding or violation;
2. That the penalty indicated in this Department's offer of Stipulation will be accepted;

THIS STIPULATION WILL BECOME AN ORDER OF THE CLINTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to agree to the terms and conditions of the stipulation listed in this document, the fine portion of the stipulation is: **NO FINE** will be assessed, provided that the required Compliance Schedule Items (listed on the next page) are completed by the required dates listed. Failure to complete the required Compliance Schedule Items by the required dates will require the CCHD to proceed to enforcement, including fines of \$250.00 per violation or \$500.00 per repeat violation being due, seconded by Trustee Pelkey.
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**

TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Dale Menard advised the village residents that spring cleanup days will be held this week May 6-10, 2024, with no pickups after Friday.

C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO

1. Trustee Arno advised the board that the dormers at the library are rotted and need to be repaired. Administrator Latremore said he would have Heath Cardin look at the dormers and see if he can make the necessary repairs.
2. Trustee Arno advised the board that the shuffleboard and the village park need to be painted. Administrator Latremore indicated that he has already spoken to Heath Cardin about painting the shuffleboard this year.

3. Trustee Arno stated the Fire Department was constructing a new gazebo behind the Fire Station. Trustee Arno indicated that the gazebo would be used for cooking chicken dinners, and that it would not have been possible without the help of the village residence and volunteers and thanked everyone for their help.
4. Trustee Arno stated that the Fire Department held its annual banquet and Jerrad Mesec was named Fire Fighter and EMS person of the year.

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey advised the residents that the village wide yard sale will take place Saturday Jun 22, 2024.
2. Trustee Pelkey stated the adopted budget included wages for seasonal labor and would like to advertise the position to assist at the Civic Center to help with painting and other work that needs to be done.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to advertise for seasonal labor, seconded by Trustee Menard.
No further discussion.

Roll call:

**MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE-AYE
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TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY-AYE
TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK-AYE**

3. Trustee Pelkey stated that the village has supplied NYS DOT certificate of insurance for the 4th of July parade in the past and would like the board to approve having the certificate provided again this year.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to provide NYS DOT certificate of insurance for the 4th of July parade, seconded by Trustee Arno.
ALL VOTED, AYE.
4. Trustee Pelkey indicated that the office of the New York State Comptroller is now allowing villages to charge fees for certain emergency and ambulance services. Trustee Pelkey stated that during the week Champlain Mooers EMS is billing for their services, and with the village being able to bill for the weekend runs, it could help offset the villages EMS cost.
Trustee Pelkey made a motion to have Administrator Latremore investigate a billing company to bill for EMS calls on the weekend, and that the village would only receive payment from those individuals with insurance, seconded by Trustee Southwick.
No further discussion.

Roll call:

**MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE-AYE
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TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK-AYE**

5. Trustee Pelkey state stated that he recently learned about a couple of minor accidents that took place with the Fire Department vehicles, and that a policy should be put in place regarding the driver's qualifications. Trustee Pelkey indicated the Fire Chief LeBlanc feels that it should be up to the Board of Trustees to set up a policy. Trustee Pelkey stated the volunteers can operate the vehicles without a CDL. After further discussion it was agreed that the Board of Trustees would like the three fire chiefs to implement a driver's qualification, and the Village Board would give the Fire Department two weeks to present a plan to the Village Board. If they fail to present a plan, then the Village Board will consider implementing a policy for driving qualifications.

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick stated that the Water Plant currently uses an older Ford Crown Vic that is not equipped with four-wheel drive. Trustee Southwick advised the board that the adopted budget for 2024-2025 included money to purchase a new pickup truck. The funds would come out of the Water Plant and Wastewater truck reserve. Dan Guay supervises both departments and the new truck would be assigned to Mr. Guay, and his current truck would be handed down to the Water Plant. Trustee Southwick motioned putting out to bid specification for a new pickup truck for the Water and Wastewater Plant, seconded by Mayor LaBonte. No further discussion.

Roll call:

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2. Trustee Southwick stated that there is interest, for Civic Center to be open after hours, for pickle ball. Trustee Southwick stated that this would help generate additional revenues for the Civic Center. Trustee Arno motioned to approve after hours use of the Civic Center for pickle ball, with the hours being from 4PM-8PM, and one person will be delegated as the responsible party for any damage or security issues, seconded by Trustee Menard
ALL VOTED, AYE.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

None

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one addressed the board.

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter recess at 7:34PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to enter executive session at 7:36PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit the executive session at 8:22PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

X. REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Menard made a motion to enter shared service for Code Enforcement Officer, with the Town of Champlain, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ALL**

VOTED, AYE.

Mayor LaBonte made a motion to create the position Constable, within the Village of Rouses Point, for the village needs individual(s) to enforce the village local laws, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:24PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W. Latremore
Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator