

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York, held on December 2, 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 Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of November 18, 2024, seconded by Trustee Southwick. **ALL VOTED AYE.**

III. BILLS: \$228,326.27 CHECK # 31049-31075

Treasurer Arsene F. Letourneau indicated that there were no additions or deletions to the bills.

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

Administrator Latremore indicated that he received a thank you card from Mrs. Marlene Beal. Mrs. Beal wanted to thank all the Rouses Point village workers for the beautiful light decorations on all the streetlights. Mrs. Beal stated that she took a ride through the village and was amazed at how evenly distributed the lights were and that it was truly heart lifting to her.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

A. MAYOR JOHN J. LABONTE

1. Mayor LaBonte indicated that the renovations are underway in the boardroom and wanted to thank Heather Cardin, the Civic Center, and Public Works crew for all their work with the renovations.

B. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

1. Trustee Menard stated that the boardroom looked great and that all the village employees are doing a great job.
2. Trustee Menard indicated that the village employees did an excellent job with the Christmas lights, and they look nice.

C. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO

1. Trustee Arno stated that the Historian would like to start using the train station on Thursdays for his office hours. Trustee Arno indicated that the train station is only being used during the summer months and this would allow more utilization of the facility. The board agreed to have the Historian start using the train station on Thursday for the Historian hours.
2. Trustee Arno stated that the Canadian Pacific holiday train was a success again this year. The food shelf received a lot of donations, and they served 200 cups of hot chocolate again this year. Trustee Arno indicated that they had over 40 people use the bathroom at the train station and suggested that the village rent a porta potty next year. The board agreed that next year they will rent two porta potties for the event.
3. Trustee Arno stated that the Parade of toys will take place on Friday December 6 at 6:00PM starting at Rouse Park. Trustee Arno stated that Santa Claus will be attending for the kids and that there are a lot of goodies. Trustee Arno hopes that everyone will take advantage of this event.

D. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1. Trustee Pelkey requested an executive session to discuss a particular employee, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ALL VOTED AYE.**
2. Trustee Pelkey stated that at the last meeting he was having discussions with Public Works on some projects. Trustee Pelkey stated that the Fire Department is getting a new fire truck and they will no longer need the 1990 tanker. Trustee Pelkey stated that if the village does not sell the tanker, then the village could convert the tanker to a dump truck. Trustee Pelkey stated that the tanker only has 25,000 miles. Trustee Pelkey stated that Public Works Supervisor Adman Menard and John Bernard received a quote for a box and all the hydraulics, and the cost would be approximately \$15,000. Trustee Pelkey feels that if the village puts the truck out to bid and only receives bids

for \$10,000-\$15,000 then the village should keep the truck and convert it. Trustee Pelkey feels that the tanker is a heavy-duty truck. The second project Trustee Pelkey has been working on with Public Works is for a plow truck. Trustee Pelkey indicated that the current plow truck is a 2006. Trustee Pelkey stated that when the village purchased this truck the plan was to replace the truck in 10 years. Trustee Pelkey stated that in 2015 the village started under coating all village vehicles to help slow the rusting process. Trustee Pelkey stated that to replace the plow truck would cost more than \$250,000 and it would take 2 years to get the truck. Trustee Pelkey feels that the village could purchase a plow truck for a fraction of the cost. Trustee Pelkey indicated that Supervisor Menard and John Bernard looked at a plow truck at Gamache's and this maybe the way to go. Trustee Pelkey stated that the village has money in reserve to purchase a used plow truck. Trustee Pelkey stated that this is not a permanent fix but will give the village more time to come up with a long-term plan.

E. TRUSTEE NICHOLAS C. SOUTHWICK:

1. Trustee Southwick stated that January 6, 2025, that the border crossing in the Village of Rouses Point will be open from 8:00AM-8:00PM.
2. Trustee Southwick indicated that he wanted to echo Trustee Menard and Mayor LaBonte that the boardroom renovation looks great and that this is just one project and there will be more happening.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

Line Supervisor Scott Decker indicated that RESA went to the village substation to perform service work on the circuit switch. RESA indicated that the circuit switch had no leaks and was not damaged. Line Supervisor Decker indicated that RESA also assessed the cylinders and the gas in the cylinders was good. Line Supervisor indicated that they energized the circuit switch and will be putting it under load next week. Line Supervisor also indicated that they are now taking photos of the gauges every week to monitor the circuit switch.

Trustee Arno state that the Fire Department Parade of lights will be help on Sunday December 9, 2024, at 6:00PM.

Trustee Arno stated that the Fire Department will be giving fire truck rides on Saturday December 14, 2024, Noon-3:00PM and invited all residents and families to attend and visit Santa.

Matt Favreau stated that on Saturday December 14, 2024, the Rouses Point Stars and Stripes Committee will be conducting its annual Santa Speedo Run from 3:00PM-3:30PM and invited everyone to attend.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No one addressed the board.

VIII. RECESS:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter recess at 7:26PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Menard made a motion to enter executive session at 7:30PM, seconded by Trustee Menard.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:50PM, seconded by Trustee Menard. **ALL VOTED, AYE.**

X. REGULAR SESSION

Mayor LaBonte indicated that during the executive session the particular employee being discussed was Kim Bennett.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to hire Kim Benett to work with Public Works starting December 9, 2024, through March 28, 2025.

No further discussion.

Roll call:

Trustee Pelkey AYE

Trustee Southwick AYE

Trustee Arno AYE

Trustee Menard AYE

Mayor LaBonte AYE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 7:51PM, seconded by Trustee Southwick.

ALL VOTED, AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher W. Latremore

Christopher W Latremore
Village Clerk/Administrator