

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Thomas D. Batha, Mayor
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee
Ron R. LeBlanc, Trustee
Dale M. Menard, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer
Steve Peters, Village Administrator
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer
Brian Pelkey, Public Works Supervisor

RECORDING SECRETARY: Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Thomas Batha called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

No comments from the public

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 22, 2019; Seconded by Trustee Menard. AYE CARRIED

III. BILLS: VOUCHERS 25120-25150 \$ 41,053.14

No additions/deletions

Motion by Trustee Menard to approve and pay the bills; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

1) The Village Clerk read 2 Letters of Resignation from the Planning Board – John Cooper and Don Gladd.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:

1) WWTP Operator Certification classes:

The cost to send Jerry Pivetta to WWTP Operator Certification class is approx. \$2,075. This was not appropriated in this years' budget because Mr. Pivetta wasn't at the WWTP last budget year. Mayor Batha is asking that the board authorize sending Mr. Pivetta to these classes and to approve funding.

Motion by Trustee Menard to pay for these classes; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

- 2) Discussion regarding the number of members on the Planning and Zoning Boards:
Planning Board currently has 3 members
Zoning Board currently has 5 members

Mayor Batha will be talking with both boards in the future about possibly merging the Boards. By law, the Village must have a Zoning Board because there is zoning in the Village. If there were a merger of the Boards, the Village Code would have to be revised.

- 3) Electric Rate Study –
Treasurer Letourneau stated that the auditors rescheduled and will not be here until February 26th and 27th.

Mayor Batha suggested postpone discussion on the Electric Rate Study until March and asked the Clerk to put it on the agenda in March.

- 4) WTP Operator Certification
Discussion and information: Zachary Roberts will be enrolled in the Home Study Correspondence Class for Water Treatment Plant Operator at a cost of \$275. This is a budgeted item.
- 5) Mayor Batha request an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular employees; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 6) Amended Resolution 2019-08: Election Inspectors
Amended to include Nancy Baker as an Alternate Election Inspector
Motion by Trustee Menard to approve; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
- 7) Water Plant RFP (Request for Proposals)
Mayor Batha is asking the Board to review the Water Plant RFP and contact the Clerk or Administrator with comments.

This is to advertise in various places for companies to look at the proposal and make recommendations. The village is not incurring any costs at this stage of the project.

b. TRUSTEE ARNO:

Nothing to report

c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:

- 1) Trustee Dart inquired about the Water Plant Study that was completed by Barton & Loguidice. Trustees Dart and LeBlanc asked for a copy to review.

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

Nothing to report

e. TRUSTEE RON R. LEBLANC:

- 1) Pfizer Property Environmental Review:
Trustee LeBlanc expressed concerns about the demolition work being done at the Pfizer property. He is concerned about the air, water and land quality at the site.

Trustee LeBlanc made a motion “to authorize the hiring of an independent environmental monitoring firm to provide a complete inspection and environmental impact statement of the Pfizer Property, during and after all demolition work is completed, and provide the Village with a written summary report. The Village of Rouses Point will instruct the village attorney to engage the appropriate state and/or federal agencies in assisting with a complete environmental review of the Pfizer property. This motion needs to be carried out within thirty days”. Seconded by Trustee Arno;

Discussion:

Trustee Menard inquired if Pfizer has already done this.

Mayor Batha explained that there are regulatory agencies that is responsible for this. Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper stated that they have received a report for the asbestos abatement, but has not had a chance to read through the entire report. He will drop off the report to Administrator Peters.

Administrator Peters stated that he contacted John Nichols of Pfizer and there is information regarding such matters at the Library.

Suggestion: table until the next meeting until information is received as to what agencies are involved.

Trustee Menard inquired as to the cost of doing such study.

This motion is tabled until the next meeting when Trustee LeBlanc will have prices to do such a study.

2) ERS Donations:

Trustee LeBlanc expressed his opinion that he feels there is a conflict of interest with the merchandise that was received from ERS. Trustee LeBlanc made a motion “to return all physical assets donated to the Village by ERS, or to pay ERS the actual cash value of all the donated items”; Seconded by Trustee Dart;

Discussion: Trustee Dart expressed that he would like the items returned or purchased. He didn't like the looks of accepting the items. Mayor Batha explained that ERS has donated merchandise to non-profit organizations, schools, Miner's Institute and other municipalities in the area. Mayor Batha cited Village Law that allows villages to accept gifts. Additionally, Mayor Batha stated that the Village has received a letter from ERS regarding these donations.

Mayor Batha asked for a ROLL CALL VOTE: Trustee Arno – NO, Trustee Menard – NO, Trustee Dart – YES, Trustee LeBlanc – YES, Mayor Batha – NO; Motion defeated.

3) Trustee LeBlanc made a motion “to create a committee to determine the Village policy as best to recover all applicable expenses involved in past Village bonding and other financial support made specifically for Pfizer development. Committee is expected to develop and present a policy proposal within 120 days”.

Discussion: Trustee LeBlanc explained that he wanted a mechanism of recouping money that the Village has bonded for water, sewer and electric improvements because of Wyeth.

Discussion ensued:

- When the bond payments came due each year, Pfizer was paying for the percentage of what they used. At least 50%.
- No exit plan from Pfizer
- Discussion regarding the charges for installation of additional services for commercial and industrial.
- The fees for installation of services is stated in the Village Code
- Pfizer is industrial, therefore assessed an industrial rate
- PWS Pelkey clarified that if a developer came into the Pfizer property and wanted water and sewer throughout the development, they would be responsible for this.

Trustee LeBlanc withdrew his motion.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

TREASURER:

The auditors will be at the Village Office February 26th & 27th, 2019

ADMINISTRATOR:

WTP RFP (Request for Proposals)

The Board has received the RFP for the Water Filtration Study. Administrator Peters asked that the Board review and provide input prior to advertising.

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

Updates:

Snow removal

Water Plant Projects

Wastewater Plant Projects

PWS Pelkey is working on budget sheets for summer projects scopes and costs:

Substation project

Switch gear on Chapman/Delaware

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

CEO John Cooper inquired about having employees sign agreements, when they have completed schooling for WWTP, WTP, etc., that they will stay with the Village for a period of time. The Administrator will research this.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments from the public

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess at 7:52PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into executive session at 7:56PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

No action taken in executive session

Motion by Trustee Arno to exit executive session at 8:31PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into regular session at 8:31PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

IX. REGULAR SESSION

Resolution 2019-10: Disciplinary Action


Motion by Trustee Menard to approve disciplinary action; Seconded by Trustee Arno;
AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Menard to accept the Letter of Resignation from Steve Peters, with
regret; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:33PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,


Donna J. Boumil
Village Clerk