

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Tuesday, January 22, 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:

Renee Macfarlin – Executive Director Clinton County IDA & Capital Resource Corporation and also the Director of the Economic Development for the City.

Ms. Macfarlin provided a brief summary of the purpose of IDA and what it can offer to businesses, referencing a conversation with Trustee LeBlanc.

- Tax incentives to developers or industry from outside the area
- Sales tax exceptions during construction process
- Tax exempt revenue bonds
- Not historically engaged in recruiting businesses, but it doesn't mean they couldn't
- IDA is a functional entity

Trustee Dart inquired how IDA can help to attract businesses to Rouses Point inquiring about incubator space and how IDA can help. Ms. Macfarlin discussed the tax incentives. IDA generally takes interest in the property. The Economic Development side could work with the Village.

Ms. Macfarlin mentioned ERS Investments and the acquisition of the Pfizer property. She stated that the Village of Rouses Point and the County are fortunate that Pfizer has found someone that is willing to turn the Pfizer property into something productive is very promising.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 7, 2019 and the special meeting of January 15, 2019; Seconded by Trustee Menard.

AYE CARRIED

III. BILLS: VOUCHERS 25065 – 25119 \$ 235,617.44

Additions – NYSEG \$7,404.87

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

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:

On behalf of the Board Mayor Batha thanked Public Works for the job they did during the storm this weekend.

1) Resolution 2019-05: Hometown Cable

Motion by Trustee Menard to approve the Resolution on behalf of Hometown Cable; Seconded by Trustee Arno; ROLL CALL VOTE: Trustee Arno – AYE, Trustee Dart – AYE, Trustee Menard – AYE, Trustee LeBlanc – AYE, Mayor Batha – AYE. CARRIED

2) Resolution 2019-06: Rouses Point Parks Planning & Revitalization Project

Motion by Mayor Batha to approve Resolution 2019-06; Seconded by Trustee Menard; Discussion: Trustee LeBlanc asked for clarification on what the \$213,000 will be spent on. Administrator Peters clarified: streetscape, parking lot, playground equipment, field improvements, fencing, etc. AYE CARRIED

3) CMES Annual Report – For information and discussion

Resolution 2019-07: Budget Modification, Fire Department

Motion by Mayor Batha to approve this budget modification; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

4) Resolution 2019-08: Election Inspectors

Motion by Trustee Menard to approve the Election Inspectors for the 2019 Village Election; Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc; AYE CARRIED

Discussion of assistance for community members affected by the Federal Government Shutdown.

Mayor Batha suggested that late fees for Village utility bills be waived for furloughed employees. This would be in effect until 1 month after the government shutdown ends.

Motion by Trustee Arno to approve waiving the late fees for utility bills; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

- 5) Mayor Batha requests an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 6) Mayor Batha requests an Executive Session to discuss matter pursuant to the Taylor Law; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 7) For information: Mayor Batha will be attending the NYCOM Winter Legislative Conference for 1 day, Trustees Dart and LeBlanc will attend for both days.

b. TRUSTEE ARNO:

- 1) Trustee Arno inquired about the electrical study which was discussed 2 meeting ago. Treasurer Letourneau mentioned that the auditors will be at the Village on January 31 & February 1st for a Section 408 audit.

The Board decided to table this until the first meeting in February.

- 2) Trustee Arno inquired about a new computer for the Historian. Mayor Batha stated that there is a computer for the Historian that came from the County. We are waiting for Twinstare to set up an appointment for installation. If this computer is not satisfactory, then the Mayor suggests putting in a budget request. Also, Trustee Arno inquired about a new printer/copier for the Historian. He will coordinate with the treasurer and administrator.

c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:

- 1) Trustee Dart requests an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc; AYE CARRIED
- 2) Trustee Dart made a motion to allocate \$200,000 for economic development seed money for the 2019-2020 budget year; Seconded by Trustee LeBlanc; Discussion: Trustee Dart explained that this money would attract new businesses, provide place for businesses to move into; rehab existing businesses, try to recover some of the money. Use this money as a rolling fund – if property gets sold then the money will come back to the Village.

Mayor Batha explained that this can be discussed during budget workshops, no need for a motion at this time and can be a budget item request.

Trustee Dart withdrew the motion and will discuss at budget meetings. Trustee Dart will get a budget worksheet from the Clerk.

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

Trustee Menard mentioned that he attended a high school hockey game and heard many positive comments about the rec facility, skate sharpener, rentals and open skate.

e. TRUSTEE RON R. LEBLANC:

1) Water Plant:

Trustee LeBlanc inquired if RFP have been initiated for the new water plant
Mayor Batha explained that there will be 1 RFP launched to be able to receive more.

2) Fire Department:

Trustee LeBlanc relayed concern that the fire department would like collision insurance in the 2019-2020 budget.

Mayor Batha explained that there is full coverage for the ambulance. There is a self-insurance fund of approximately \$150,000 for fender benders. Mayor Batha does not believe it is necessary to have full coverage for fire trucks that only travel a few hundred miles a year.

Trustee Menard suggested that the policy be looked at.

3) Pfizer update:

Motion by Trustee LeBlanc to authorize the attorney of the Village of Rouses Point to provide all legal options and procedures available to the Village, in order to secure ownership of Pfizer buildings 1 & 2, and any other Pfizer property that is deemed essential to the future enrichment of the residents of the Village of Rouses Point. This motion also authorizes the attorney of the Village of Rouses Point to ensure that the appropriate state and/or federal agencies are engaged in a complete environmental review of the Pfizer property, after all demolition work is completed; Seconded by Trustee Dart; ROLL CALL VOTE: Trustee Arno – NO; Trustee Menard – NO; Trustee Dart – AYE; Trustee LeBlanc – AYE; Mayor Batha – NO. Motion defeated.

4) Investigation:

\$3,200 spent on an investigation. Trustee LeBlanc stated that he requested a copy of the investigation and was informed that he had to FOIL the request. NOTE: The Village Attorney informed the Board that if they wish to acquire a copy of the investigation, they would have to FOIL it. Mayor Batha suggested if Trustee LeBlanc wanted to further discuss this, it may be done in executive session.

5) Sportsman Club:

Trustee LeBlanc stated that he was invited to a meeting with the administrator. Mayor Batha added that Sportsman's Club had asked for a meeting to discuss if the Village would be willing to take over the Club. This was a discussion and nothing has come of it.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

TREASURER:

The auditors will be at the Village Office January 31 & February 1, 2019

ADMINISTRATOR:

1) Trailhead: Administrator Peters presented the Board with drawings of the trailhead for the bike path. Discussion ensued amongst the Board.
Motion by Trustee Menard to authorize the Mayor to sign the Letter of Understanding for Option 1 for the trailhead; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED.

2) Recreation Financial Report:

Administrator Peters provided a summary of the financial report provided by the Recreation Center. He explained that a Profit & Loss statement will not work due to many variables. He continued to explain that it would take approximately 2 years of data to see a trend.

Administrator Peters added that there have been 50-60 skate rentals, approximately 50 skates sharpened.

There is a cash reporting sheet that has been implemented to report cash taken in by each employee.

The Board asked that revenue be broken down by category: pro shop, public skating, etc.

There is a difference from this year's revenue compared to last year due to the ice being put down later. This is approximately \$4,400

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

Updates:

Snow removal

Fixing problems throughout the Village

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

This time of year is slow for permits, etc.

CEO Cooper is waiting to attend school in June

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments from the public

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess at 8:05PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into executive session at 8:10PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

No action taken in executive session

Motion by Trustee Arno to exit executive session at 8:57PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into regular session at 8:57PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

IX. REGULAR SESSION

Resolution 2019-09: Disciplinary Action

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

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:59PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna J. Boumil
Village Clerk