

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00pm

**PRESENT:** Daniel H. Letourneau, Mayor  
Arvil J. Moore, Trustee  
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee  
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee

**ABSENT:** John A. Mott, Deputy Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jean LaBombard, Administrator  
Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer  
Brian Pelkey, Public Works Supervisor

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Daniel Letourneau called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Andrew Vincelette, 85 Maple Street: Mr. Vincelette provided a handout of topics and a map.

- Concerns about vehicles racing down Maple. Suggestion to add a stop sign to make a 4 way stop on the corners of Pine and Maple along with an End of School Zone sign. He stated that the residents in that area are willing to pay for the signs.
- Mr. Vincelette asked if the Champlain Bike Trail is stopping before Rouses Point
- Lastly, Mr. Vincelette commented on the Police Department. He made the following points.
  - 40 complaints a month
  - More domestic, theft and arrests in the past 3 months than over the past 3 years
  - No time to do tickets with all the complaints
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> full time person can write grants
    - Can do more versus play paper catch up
  - \$1 per thousand could pay for second full timer
  - What happened to grant for full timer from cadet school
  - If part timer leaves, what is your plan?

Mayor Letourneau thanked Mr. Vincelette for his comments and concerns.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS:**

Trustee Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2016, Special Meeting of September 7, 2016 and September 9, 2016; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

**BILLS****VOUCHER NOS: 15418 – 15494 \$ 372,942.86**

Addition: Business Card \$7.92 for meal expense

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk read the following correspondence:

- 1) Letter of Resignation from Aaron Babbie from the position of Laborer at the Civic Center and acceptance of the position of Recreation Center Maintenance Worker effective 9/12/16. Motion by Trustee Dart to accept this letter; Seconded by Trustee Moore; AYE CARRIED.
- 2) Letter of Resignation from Joe Treadwell from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the Letter of Resignation; Seconded by Trustee Moore; The Board thanked Mr. Treadwell for his service. AYE CARRIED. Discussion: Mayor Letourneau commented that the Village is looking for volunteers to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. If interested, please contact the Village Office.
- 3) Letter from Dennis Roberts, Friends of the Stage Committee regarding the guidelines/policy for the LED Sign.

**REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:****a. MAYOR DANIEL LETOURNEAU:**

- 1) Presentation to Arsene F. Letourneau for 30 years of service from NYCOM
- 2) Update on the Walking Trail at the Civic Center – Jan Letourneau
  - News article in The Sun
  - Finished paving in September
  - Work day on September 24 at 8:00am to finish spreading the dirt on the sides of the trail. Volunteers, please bring rakes and shovels
  - 4 benches arrived from Eastern Adirondack Bench. Waiting for installation which will be in the next few weeks.
  - Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Clinton County Youth Bureau and Clinton County Health Department will be present.
  - A counter has been set up to monitor use. During a 44-day period an average of 32 people used the trail. Peak hours from 2-4 pm and 6-8 pm
  - Over 90 businesses have been contacted for donations to purchase fitness equipment
  - Applied for a grant through CVPH Foundation
  - IOBY.org/project/rousespoint (matching funds)
  - Trustee Arno stated that he will donate 1 month's salary as a Trustee to purchase equipment
  - If the village purchases the equipment with these funds, there will be no tax – follow the procurement policy.

- 3) EMS Update – Trustee Moore reported
  - The Champlain/Mooers EMS Board met Thursday
  - \$75,000/yr for coverage from Sunday 6pm to Friday 6pm, Rouses Point would cover Friday to Sunday  
Contract effective 1/1/17 (pending attorney review)
  - Taxes would increase 59cents per \$1,000
- 4) Audit for Fiscal Year ending 5/31/15
  - Mayor Letourneau gave an overview of the audit pointing out the following:
  - Pfizer has been leaving since 2005, best information we have is they are closing in 2017 and decommissioning in 2018
    - No sale as of yet, no exit date available
    - Will not break up property into separate parcels
    - What happens when revenue from Pfizer is gone
    - In a 2005 report Wyeth provided a 25% tax levy revenue, 63% of water revenue, 41% sewer revenue, 67% electric revenue
    - Water and Sewer rates will be impacted
    - No progressive plan since 2013
  - Electric rates have not increased since 1982 (possible discussion of rate increase). Showing a loss in the past 2 yrs. PSC say there should be a 3.4% rate of return, we are currently at a -3.1% rate of return. Pfizer and Champlain Plastics account for 51% of Electric usage
  - 2 bonds left to pay on (water tower – 8 yrs and waste water plant – 18 years)
  - Mayor Letourneau advised status of budget with regard to using reserve funds to balance the budget (all of this reserve comes from revenue generated from Pfizer for electric, water and sewer fees)
  - Difficult decisions to be made with respect to user fees, electric rates and taxes.
  - Board discussions about a 5 yr plan and a 10 yr plan
  - Mayor Letourneau gave examples of electric, water and sewer rates in nearby communities. Rouses Point having the lowest rates
  - The village will be looking at how it currently does business
- 5) LED Sign
  - Letter from the Stage Committee was discussed with regard to Veteran’s Organization and organizations using the Civic Center
  - Motion by Trustee Moore to amend the LED Sign Policy to include any Veteran’s Organizations within the Town of Champlain may apply to have events posted on the sign; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
  - Motion by Trustee Dart to amend the LED Sign Policy to include any organization using the Civic Center to hold an event may apply to have event posted on the sign; Seconded by Trustee Arno; Discussion: duration will be discussed at annual review. AYE CARRIED

**b. TRUSTEE MOORE:**

Nothing to report

**c. TRUSTEE MOTT:**

Nothing to report

d. **TRUSTEE ARNO:**

- Update on the Water Plant Committee – a meeting was held with AES, Brian Pelkey and Bryon Gelineault to discuss rehabilitation of plant and funding availability. IEEP has agreed to pay for purchase of energy efficient motors in 2016/2017 in the amount of \$73,000.
- Library – Summer Reading Program – over 300 people attended
  - Brickwork on outside of library
  - Possible grant from Betty Little \$2,500
  - Roof over ramp (extension until 2017)

e. **TRUSTEE DART:**

Trustee Dart thanked Brian Pelkey and crew for work well done. They handle the work orders while maintaining their schedule of work.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

Donna Boumil reported that she attended the NYCOM Fall Training Conference with Treasurer Arsene F. Letourneau. She attended many classes and found it to be very informative.

**TREASURER:**

Treasurer Letourneau reported he attended the NYCOM Fall Training Conference which was very informative and provided a lot of networking.

**ADMINISTRATOR:**

No report

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:**

- County finished paving. Would like the Board to authorize the Clerk to send a letter of Thank You for the shared services.
- There has been some sewer and water issues on Pearl Street
- Electric conduit on Chapman is complete. They are pulling cable.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Tom Batha addressed the Board with the following concerns and comments:

- Regarding the EMS update. He asked for clarification about the coverage.
- Budget/fiscal problems – losing money because of Pfizer, continuation of funding current services as we always have, look in house to streamline operations and reduce cost, Electric Department – staffing level once underground project complete, Electric Rates, look at Water Plant, Police Department – staffing
- Look at reducing staff or not replacing through attrition

Mayor Letourneau thanked Mr. Batha and will take these suggestions under consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by Trustee Moore at 8:07pm for an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Arno: AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Moore at 8:09pm to enter into Executive Session; Seconded by Trustee Arno

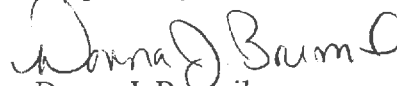
Motion by Trustee Moore at 8:40pm to enter into Regular Session; Seconded by Trustee Arno

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Trustee Moore at 8:41pm to adjourn; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna J. Boumil  
Village Clerk

