

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, March 16, 2009 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** George A. Rivers, Mayor  
Kelly A. Penfield, Trustee  
Jean L. Birtz, Trustee  
Francis J. Baker, Trustee

**ALSO PRESENT:** Brian Pelkey, PW Supervisor

**ABSENT:** Brian B. Jefferson, Trustee  
Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Carol A. Hanfield, Village Clerk

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and then turned the meeting over to Melissa McManus.

**PUBLIC INPUT- Community Redevelopment Strategy and Implementation Plan**

Melissa McManus on behalf of the Village of Rouses Point thanked everyone who was in attendance. She explained that our success in Rouses Point is based on our partnerships. The Dept. of State is funding the study. We have a quality community grant for the entire amount of the study. It is being used to pay AES Northeast. The Development Corporation is providing its expertise free of charge and this is certainly appreciated. There has been a partnership in terms of regional economical development and we are thinking about working together with our partners. A lot of this developed during the days following the announcement of the Wyeth closure. There has been a strong partnership developed with the North Country Chamber of Commerce, the Development Corporation, Empire State Development and Small Business Development Center. This type of regional cooperation is so essential.

Melissa introduced Mr. Garry Douglas from the North Country Chamber of Commerce who talked about the opportunities in our region for development and re-development.

Melissa then introduced Adore Kurtz from the Development Corporation who reviewed the maps that she and Mr. Scott Allen of AES put together along with the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

Mr. Scott Allen, AES, stated that they prepared a Full Environmental Assessment form and under the long EAF it suggest that the Village Board find that the project will not result in any large and important impacts and therefore is one which will not have a significant impact on the environment, therefore a negative declaration will be prepared. They prepared a Negative Declaration which was attached to the EAF and the primary reason supporting the determination for a Negative Declaration is that the project is not a Type 1 action under SEQR. The project is for the preparation of a Community Redevelopment Strategy and Implementation Plan to identify development opportunities in and around Rouses Point. The Plan identifies vacant and under-utilized properties, characterizes the conditions of those parcels, and discusses strategies to implement the redevelopment of those parcels. The project is limited to the following; the mapping of existing roads, streets, highways, resources land uses and ownership patterns; and conducting studies and preliminary planning, without committing the Village of Rouses Point to commence or engage in any action and if the trustees agree with that determination that they can endorse a Negative Declaration for the purpose of SEQR. (SEE ATTACHED)

Trustee Birtz made a motion to accept the Environmental Assessment Form as a Negative Declaration for the notice of the State Environmental Quality Review as determined by the Board; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; ROLL CALL VOTE All Aye

**PUBLIC HEARING: LOCAL LAW #1 OF THE YEAR 02009 "WATER CODE"**

Mayor Rivers opened the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 of the Year 2009.

No one chose to address the Board so the Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Trustee Penfield made a motion to adopt Local Law #1 of the Year 2009 "Water Code";  
Seconded by Trustee Baker; ROLL CALL VOTE All Aye (SEE ATTACHED)

**PRESENTATION: TISH BISMeyer, BURNHAM FINANCIAL**

Tish Bismeyer from Burnham Financial was present to give an update on our health insurance. She stated that they are trying to come up with a three year strategy as an option to tie in with the union contract to a health insurance strategy on controlling cost. She addressed the NYS Deficit Reduction Plan passed in February that there may be new taxes imposed on all employers both in the municipal sector and the private sector. It has not been determined by Excellus when and how they are going to pass on the additional premium. Currently in the health insurance premiums we pay 4% and it may increase another percent to about a 5% tax. This will be coming in the near future. They are urging people to write your congressman and assemblyman - that this not happen. We have four options in our area for Insurance Carriers. She passed out Health Insurance Considerations to be reviewed by the Board and explained some of the options.

**PRESENTATION: DOUG FERRIS, VILLAGE ENGINEER**

Doug Ferris, Village Engineer, presented the Board with a proposal regarding the alternate intake line that was constructed in 1985. For years the Health Department has cited the intake's proximity to the Gaines Marina as a public health issue. It is only a matter of time before this intake will fail and create a water crisis for the Village taxpayers and industrial customers. He believes the stimulus package presents an opportunity for the Village to capitalize on funds to address this issue before it becomes a crisis. As in the past he can fast track this project through a design-build project delivery process to truly tell the funding agencies that we have a shovel-ready project. He then proposed 3 Phases: Phase I – Planning – He will generate a preliminary estimate of the capital and associated project management/engineering costs for the design-build delivery of a subsurface infiltration gallery and/or extended intake line; prepare an engineer's Report for the design and construction of the project; and then prepare a Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund Pre-application for the project. This will be done at no cost to the Village. If we receive the grant money for the project then he will proceed to Phase II – Engineering of the Project and then Phase III – Oversee the Construction. If we don't get the funding the project will not be done. Discussion followed. Trustee Baker made a motion authorizing Doug Ferris to proceed with Phase I of this project; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

**BID RESULTS: Contract 2009-02 – Dodge Memorial Library Portico Repairs**

The Clerk stated that there was only one bid received. The Base Bid was \$990 which the bidder proposes to perform all the work required by the contract documents and then the rest of the bid was done in unit costs per sq. ft. that Doug Ferris will explain. It is per sq. ft. for the roof, trim, masonry and then another part of the roof.

Doug Ferris explained that the library originally had a slate roof and the roof on the portico changed from slate to an asphalt shingle. The characteristics of that roof changed. The snow collects on the shingles and has caused some decomposition. A rotting situation exist and we could not specify how much needs to be reconstructed until the contractor gets into it to see. At that point he will check it out and along with the contractor determine how much needs to be replaced. The cost is \$40 per sq. ft of roof (repair and replace agreed upon structure and roof decking); \$125 per sq. ft. of trim (repair and replace all agreed upon wood eave, fascia and trim, primed and painted to match existing); \$40 per sq. ft. of masonry (repair and replace all agreed upon masonry) and \$45 per sq. ft. roof (install new roofing membrane, flashing and roofing). Trustee Birtz made a motion to approve the contract for the Base Bid with the amount to be determined on the actual work to be done after the portico has been looked at ; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to approve the Special Meeting of March 2, 2009; Regular Meeting of March 2, 2009 and Special Meeting of March 9, 2009 as presented; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

**BILLS: VOUCHER NOS: 12173 – 12235 \$358,132.02**

The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer were not present at the meeting. The Clerk stated that there was one addition to the list of bills from FIA Card Service in the amount of

\$1,868.02 for (Wells Fargo Leasing \$237 – Copier; Training for Jason Juneau & Eric Miller \$637.20 & NYCOM Conference in Albany for Jean Birtz & George Rivers \$993.82). Trustee Penfield made a motion to pay the bills as amended; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk read correspondence from Geri Favreau requesting the Board to waive the Peddler's Fee for the vendors who will participate in the Farmer's Market. They will be setting up for only one day per week. She also requested a letter from the Board giving the Plattsburgh Market group permission to set up a market in the Village at Rouse Park. Trustee Birtz made a motion to approve the waiver for these vendors; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk read a letter from Christie L. Bartlett, CSM Rotational Specialist of the National Passport Center stating that her agency will be teaming up with the Customs and Border Protection to visit border towns along the Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and New York borders to help educate their citizens on the upcoming WHTI on June 1, 2009. As of June 1, 2009 citizens will be required to show proof of citizenship when crossing the border from Canada or Mexico.

This tour will stop in areas affected most by these new laws in an effort to make citizens more aware of the pending changes. They have Rouses Point scheduled for May 5, 2009 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. Trustee Penfield made a motion to allow the National Passport Center to use the Community Room on May 5<sup>th</sup>; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

The Village Clerk read a letter from Joanne Gilroy, Athletic Director of the NCCS District requesting use of the Tennis Courts located at the Civic Center on Monday – Friday; 3:00 to 5:15 p.m., beginning March 17<sup>th</sup> through May 31, 2009. Trustee Penfield made a motion to allow the school to use our Tennis Courts for the required dates and times; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:**

**MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:**

We have received permission from DOT to install the in-street pedestrian and school crosswalk signs. We now have to purchase the signs and according to the Treasurer we can purchase them in this years budget. They are about \$292 per sign. Trustee Penfield made a motion to purchase the R1-6 signs for the streets in the Village; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

The Mayor mentioned that the IEEP Compact Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Program Options is being set up. The IEEP will be providing a proper disposal option for customers when disposal of lamps becomes necessary. They will be sending us the containers for this program. The Mayor asked the Board to consider implementing the compact fluorescent give-a-way. This was done a few years ago. Trustee Penfield made a motion to approve the IEEP Compact Fluorescent Lamp Recycling Program; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers then thanked Trustee Penfield for her time on the Board and that it has been a pleasure and she has done some great things through the years and wished her the best.

Mayor Rivers announced that Trustee Jefferson was absent and then announced that the MEUA will be holding their Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 30, 2009 in East Syracuse. Trustee Penfield made a motion to authorize the Mayor's travel to the MEUA Semi-Annual Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Penfield made a motion to approve the resolution designating Mayor Rivers to be the accredited delegate of the Village of Rouses Point at the MEUA Semi-Annual Meeting April 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED (SEE ATTACHED)

**TRUSTEE JEFFERSON**

Absent

**TRUSTEE PENFIELD:**

Trustee Penfield made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss Electric Personnel; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Trustee Penfield made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Trustee Penfield stated that since this was her last meeting that it has been a pleasure working with all the board members and has appreciated the support of the employees and it has been a good experience in the past 8 years.

**TRUSTEE BIRTZ:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to request an Executive Session to discuss personnel; Seconded by Trustee Baker; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Trustee Birtz made a motion to authorize the Clerk to publish a Legal Notice to go out to bid for a large diameter hose; Mayor Rivers said it is for 2000' of 5" hose that will be paid for by a FEMA grant. Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Birtz also told Trustee Penfield that it has been a pleasure working with her and the she was excellent on personnel matters and did a great job on the Police Department and wished her well.

**TRUSTEE BAKER:**

Trustee Baker suggested that the fee for the use of the Civic Center be \$500 per day and felt that this price was very reasonable. Trustee Birtz agreed with Trustee Baker and discussed the use of the building for the Fete de Danse. Discussion followed. A decision was made that the fee for Jason Andrew who is using the Civic Center from July 6 – July 25 will be \$500. The fee schedule for the Civic Center use for all other events will be discussed at another time.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**VILLAGE CLERK:**

The Village Clerk reminded everyone that the Village Elections will be Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 noon until 9:00 p.m.

The Village Clerk announced that the regular meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. has been cancelled and is being rescheduled for Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to accept the Canvass of Election.

**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:**

PWS Brian Pelkey stated that we sent the Commitment Letter to the County. We are getting it at \$71 per ton. We are saving approximately \$10,000 by going with the County. The price this year is \$71 per ton. Hopefully we will get a good price on the blacktop.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Geri Favreau stated that as a citizen of Rouses Point she wished to thank Trustee Penfield for all the work that she has done for the Board. She has worked with not just the Board but with others also.

**RECESS:**

Trustee Penfield made a motion to recess at 9:22 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Police Personnel  
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Electric Personnel  
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Personnel

**RECONVENE:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to reconvene at 9:47 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Penfield made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract agreement with Michael Bingel setting forth the terms and conditions with respect to the Village's payment to him during his employment; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Penfield made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Hanfield  
Village Clerk