

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on July 19, 2021, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Jed F. Thone, Mayor
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Dale M. Menard, Trustee
Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee
Joseph Rodriguez, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Office
Thomas Murnane, Village Attorney

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Sullivan, Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

REGULAR SESSION:

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Calvin Castine, Clinton County Area One Legislator, reported that sales tax revenue for the towns and villages in the county is higher than projected. March projected was 5.7%, actual was 8.6%. It is also 22% higher than last year at this time. Last year was 7% vs. 8.6% this year.

Legislator Castine also reported on news regarding the reopening of the US – Canada border. Canada will allow fully vaccinated travelers in starting August 9th. He expects the US will follow suit soon.

Legislator Castine also stated that as he was driving into town, he noticed a stop sign at Maple and Chapman was hidden by overgrown trees. The village will address this issue.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 6, meeting, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

III. BILLS: \$345,147.46 **CHECK # 27682 - 27728**

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to exclude the Stafford and Owens bill until it could be discussed and made a motion to pay the rest. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THONE

1) Mayor Thone made a motion to amend previously adopted minutes. There was an error in the name of the Trustee who seconded a motion. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

2) Resolution 2021-20 Tabled

3) Resolution 2021-21 Tabled

4) Mayor Thone presented an updated Drug and Alcohol Policy to include marijuana. Motion to approve made by Trustee Pelkey, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.

5) Mayor Thone informed the board of an issue that occurred at the Center Stage concert and that the Friends of the Stage have requested that “NO Alcohol” signs be posted in the park. Motion by Trustee Menard to have Adam Menard, Public Works Supervisor, purchase 4 signs and post them in the park, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

1) Trustee Arno requested an executive session to discuss an ongoing investigation. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

2) Trustee Arno asked about 43 Chapman Street. John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer, has been trying to call but cannot get through. Mr. Murnane reported that he sent a letter but has not yet heard back. Mr. Murnane will follow up with the insurance company and local property manager.

3) Trustee Arno extended a welcome to two new businesses in the village, an ice cream shop on Pratt Street and Under one Reif smoothies and tea shop on Lake

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

Trustee Menard requested an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE

d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1) Trustee Pelkey asked about the remaining poles in the village. Mayor Thone said he had spoken to Champlain Telephone regarding the poles and upgrading the internet in the Civic Center. He is waiting for someone to get back to him.

2) Trustee Pelkey asked Mayor Thone if he heard back from DOT about permits to restripe the entrance to the Civic Center to become two-way traffic. Mayor Thone said he spoke with someone who came and measured and said it is wide enough, but we need a permit. Mr. Murnane will look into what needs to be done next to finish this project.

3) Trustee Pelkey reminded the board that when the Sheriff took over the police department, they said they would give the village regular reports on activity. We are not receiving any reports. Mayor Thone will follow up.

4) Trustee Pelkey discussed appraising the property on Rabideau Way and retaining the right of way when it is sold. Mr. Murnane suggested a couple of appraisers that could be contacted. Mr. Murnane suggested putting the existence of the 47 foot right of way into the bid specifications. Trustee Pelkey will follow up to obtain an appraisal.

5) Trustee Pelkey requested an executive session to discuss the employment of a particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE

e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:

1) Trustee Rodriguez asked if there was a list of roads that were slated for repaving. He was informed that this year it is Montgomery Street and next year is Smith Street.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

Administrator Sullivan reported that she spoke with Richard Holcomb, Deputy Commissioner of Social Services, regarding the complaints about the Anchorage. Mr. Holcomb informed her that the Anchorage is not the department's first choice for housing due to transportation issues, but there are several placements there now. Only the person listed on the application may stay in the room, no overnight guests. No drugs or alcohol is permitted in the rooms. They never place sex offenders in Rouses Point due to the proximity of the school.

Social Services has done an inspection sweep of the rooms and did not find drugs or alcohol in any. Mr. Holcomb has told me that he welcomes me to call with any future complaints and he will follow up. Code Enforcement Officer Cooper reported that there have been around 40 permits so far this year.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

George Walker asked if the board could request compliance checks at the Anchorage more often to discourage problems. Trustee Menard asked Administrator Sullivan to look into that.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter executive session at 7:52 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 8:45 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE. No action was taken in executive session.

IX. REGULAR SESSION:

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to withdraw a Letter of Intent to Council, seconded by Trustee Arno. Trustees Arno, Menard, and Pelkey voted AYE. Mayor Thone voted NAY. Trustee Rodriguez ABSTAINED. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Sullivan

Village Clerk/Administrator