

Minutes of the Budget Hearing, and Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on April 5, 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

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement
Adam Menard, Public Works Supervisor
Patricia Birkett, Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals
Karin Thone, Vice- Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals

RECORDING SECRETARY: Susan Sullivan, Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

BUDGET HEARING

The mayor asked for comments on the proposed budget.

Pat Birkett discussed the proposal from Barton & Loguidice to prepare a Comprehensive Plan for the village that can be registered with the state and used to guide zoning decisions in the coming years. The total cost is \$42,000.00 and it would take at least one year. There is only \$12,500.00 in the budget for consultants.

With no further comments Trustee Menard made a motion to close the hearing at 7:07 PM, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE

REGULAR SESSION:

Mayor Thone made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-10, Budget Adoption, seconded by Trustee Menard. Roll call vote: Trustee Arno – AYE, Trustee Menard – AYE, Trustee Pelkey – AYE, Trustee Rodriguez – AYE, Mayor Thone – AYE.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to approve the first two stages of the Comprehensive Plan at this point that would cost \$6,500.00. This will include applying for grants that could cover the rest of the project. Seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Scott Richner congratulated Dale Menard and Joseph Rodriguez on winning trustee seats and thanked the residents of Rouses Point who came out to vote.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 15, meeting, and March 17 special meeting, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. All voted AYE.

III. BILLS: \$118,667.37 **CHECK #** 27357 - 27404

Trustee Pelkey questioned the payment to Barton & Loguidice for \$32,219.50. Mayor Thone stated it is for engineering fees for the 30% plans for the new water plant for which a meeting was held in Rouses Point. Trustee Pelkey stated that he wants to be informed of these meetings prior to them taking place so he and other board members can also attend.

Mayor Thone made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Trustee Menard. Mayor Thone, Trustees Menard and Rodriguez voted AYE. Trustees Pelkey and Arno ABSTAINED.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) The American Legion Auxiliary request Board permission to distribute poppies for donations from May until November. Motion made by Trustee Menard to allow this, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.
- 2) The Stage Committee requested permission to hold the outside concerts at the Samuel de Champlain Stage following any Covid requirements that may be in effect this summer. Motion made by Trustee Menard to allow this, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.
- 3) Courtney Lamberton and Kevin Sterling requested permission to have their wedding at the Montgomery Street Pier. Trustee Arno made a motion to allow this, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 4) One bid was received from Roch Belley, NCGD Hockey, for the surplus hockey nets. The bid was \$100.00 for both. Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the bid, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR JED F. THONE:

- 1) Policies for Procurement, Conflict of Interest, Investments, Sexual Harassment, and Meeting Procedures were presented to the board. Mayor Thone made a motion to approve all, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.
- 2) After discussion on setting up individual committees as needed, it was decided to keep the standing committee structure. The mayor would still like to get the "interest list" filled out and returned to him for future use. Trustee Arno made a motion to approve the committee list with Trustee Rodriguez being assigned to committees that were held by Past-Trustee Gadway. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 3) Slate of Mayoral Appointments. Mayor Thone stated he would like to assign Trustee Menard as Deputy Mayor for the coming year. Mayor Thone made a motion to approve the amended slate, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.
- 4) Mayor Thone made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for the Board of Trustees, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 5) Mayor Thone made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 6) Mayor Thone made a motion to approve a discounted peddlers fee for a business, Lakeside Coffee, that already owns property in the village. The proposed amount is \$25.00 for the summer. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 7) Mayor Thone reported that he has been trying to get the streaming capabilities in Halstead Hall up and working with Twinstare. This is part of our on-going safety plan to be able to stream live in a way that the public can be allowed to ask questions while on-line. Trustee Menard will look at what the school uses.
- 8) Mayor Thone reported on a meeting with the Town of Champlain to use some of our excess sewer capacity. Mayor Thone would like to set an initial industrial rate of \$6.63 per thousand gallons metered at the entry to the village. Trustee Menard made a motion to set this initial rate, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.
- 9) Barton & Loguidice has identified a possible grant source for the water plant. The Mayor has signed a letter of support. Administrator Sullivan will work with B&L to follow through on this application with a request for 6.9 million dollars, the total outstanding cost. The village could potentially get 80% of this. Motion made by Trustee Menard to proceed with the application, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.
- 9) Mayor Thone requested 3 executive sessions to discuss the work history of particular employees. Seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Trustee Arno reported that he spoke with the trainer at the Fire Department about AED training for the Civic Center and Electric Department employees. The trainer will work directly with Ethan Goslin, Civic Center Manager, to set up a date.
- 2) Trustee Arno received a call from Nancy Baker, Stage Committee. There is a clothing donation box near the old Pfizer plant, and she would like to move it to near the other ones by the Civic Center. The board agreed this would be a good idea.
- 3) Trustee Arno reported that the Fourth of July Committee is having a raffle to support the festivities. If anyone wants a ticket, contact Karen Weierstall or anyone on the committee.
- 4) Trustee Arno thanked Angelo's for having an egg hunt for the local children.

c. TRUSTEE JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ:

Trustee Rodriguez thanked everyone who voted for him and stated that he is looking forward to working with the board.

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

- 1) Trustee Menard thanked the Fire Department for bringing the Easter Bunny around the village on their truck.
- 2) Trustee Menard reported that last week he and Trustee Pelkey met with representatives of ERS. He felt they had a very good conversation and that they will move forward better from this point on.

e. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

- 1) Trustee Pelkey added to Trustee Menards report on the ERS meeting. He feels there is a clear path now that they understand the intentions of ERS, and he feels good about the future direction.
- 2) Trustee Pelkey tabled his discussion on the electric water boiler moratorium until next time Attorney Murnane can attend the meeting.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper reports that he is investigating a couple complaints, and that permits are starting to pick up a little.

Adam Menard, Public Works Supervisor, reported that the floor in the office is complete and turned out very nicely. Also, spring clean-up is May 3 – 7. Leaves, brush, and branches no larger than 3 inches will be picked up.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

No comments

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter executive session at 8:15 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE. Trustee Arno made a motion to exit executive session at 8:40 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

IX. REGULAR SESSION:

No action taken in executive session.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:40 pm; Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Sullivan
Village Clerk/Administrator