

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on August 16, 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: Becky Pelkey, Deputy 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:

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Rodriguez asked that the minutes be updated to reflect that he said thanks to the civic center and public works departments for working on the dugout. Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2021, meeting as amended, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

III. BILLS: \$161,635.37 **CHECK #** 27682 – 27765

Deputy Treasurer Pelkey reported three additions to the bills. Business card \$640.00; Excellus \$41,550.31; NYPA \$35,088.07; total addition \$77,278.38. Trustee Pelkey made a motion to pay the bills as amended. Seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

The fire department wrote that they have a new member, Christopher Matott, and asked for the board to approve. Trustee Menard made a motion to approve the new member, seconded by Mayor Thone. All voted AYE.

The village received a thank-you card from Town of Champlain Summer Theater Program for allowing them to use the stage, and from the Rouses Point Center Stage Committee for the assistance of the village crew.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THONE

- 1) Mayor Thone reported that he received approval from DOT to restripe the entrance to the civic center parking lot to make it two way. He informed public works and the job is already completed.
- 2) Mayor Thone informed the board that there have been several more instances of vandalism in the village. He will look into obtaining more cameras.
- 3) Mayor Thone requested to attend the NYCOM training and the MEUA meeting in September. Since there are other employees going to the NYCOM meeting Trustee Pelkey made a motion to approve attendance at the MEUA meeting only, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.
- 4) Mayor Thone reported that the village has two open positions to fill. Trustee Arno made a motion to table discussion, seconded by Trustee Menard. Trustees Arno, Menard, Pelkey, Rodriguez voted AYE. Mayor Thone voted NAY. Motion carried.
- 5) Mayor Thone reported that he looked into the village code regarding trailers on private property and found that under 83-3 it says a trailer can only be occupied for a one-week period but 102-2 says 14 consecutive days per year so the issue about the trailer will take more investigation.
- 6) Mayor Thone discussed the progress report from Barton & Loguidice. Preliminary design is at 80%. Trustee Menard asked if they were also still looking for grants; funding opportunities are still being looked into.

7) Mayor Thone requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee, seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

1) Trustee Arno asked about the village clock. It is completed and we are waiting for the situation at the border to clarify further. There will be an update from the US government on August 21.

2) Trustee Arno reported that the fire department received a \$1500.00 grant and asked the Administrator to send a letter to the department regarding the acceptance of the new member.

3) Trustee Arno extended his congratulations to Eric Gooley for passing the water operator test, and thanks the public works department for their work on Montgomery Street and the parking lot.

c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:

Trustee Menard also thanks the public works department and civic center on their work.

d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:

1) Trustee Pelkey reported that he received a call from John LaBonte stating that he cannot make tonight's meeting and asking if the board could respond to his questions regarding the trailer on the neighbor's property in writing.

2) Trustee Pelkey reported that the striping is completed on Montgomery Street and hopes this will keep cars in lane and slow them down.

3) Trustee Pelkey reported that the wastewater processing contract is going well, there have been no problems handling the additional wastewater and the plant will open to a new contract soon.

4) Trustee Pelkey thanked Treasurer Letourneau for providing the report on where we are with the new water plant engineering. Trustee Pelkey asked for information on any grants that we have so far. Administrator Sullivan informed the board that we have a one-million-dollar grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission that has a 50% match. NBRC will provide \$500,000.00 and the village will also.

5) Trustee Pelkey requested an executive session to discuss a contract. Seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

6) Trustee Pelkey requested an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:

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

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer, is still calling and emailing Mr. Havercamp to monitor what is going on at the property at 43 Chapman Street. He has not received a reply.

Tom Murnane, Village Attorney, is working on a complaint to file on this and on the camper situation. Mr. Murnane has sent a letter to the resident who said he is performing cryptocurrency mining in the village.

Mr. Cooper also discussed the Rushard property. Mr. Cooper is trying to gain access to inspect. The owner passed away, the daughter inherited but is in a care facility. The assessor told Mr. Cooper he would need a court order to get in because it is in probate. Mr. Murnane said he checked, and it was not in probate. Mr. Murnane will check again and discuss with Mr. Cooper how to proceed.

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

George Walker, Montgomery Street, offered to let the village put cameras up on his posts and use his Wi-Fi in an effort to identify the persons responsible for the vandalism at the village boat launch. The board thanked Mr. Walker for his assistance.

Scott Richner, Pratt Street, reported that over the past weekend there was an distraught older woman on Pratt street. His wife called 911 and followed the woman all the way to the back of the rec center while keeping 911 informed of her whereabouts. Law enforcement never showed up. The family came and got the woman. Mr. Richner asked if we could ask the police who are in the village to patrol, not just sit in speed traps. Mayor Thone will follow up.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Arno made a motion to enter executive session at 8:58 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

Trustee Menard made a motion to exit executive session at 9:09 pm, seconded by Trustee Arno. All voted AYE.

No action was taken in executive session.

IX. REGULAR SESSION:

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept with regret, Amy Lemieux's and Tyler Trombley's resignations. Seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE.

Trustee Menard made a motion to authorize Trustee Pelkey to contact PLM to discuss the village's need for an electrical engineer consultant. Seconded by Trustee Rodriguez. All voted AYE

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Arno made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 pm, seconded by Trustee Menard. All voted AYE.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susan Sullivan
Village Clerk/Administrator