

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on August 19, 2019 at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Thomas D. Batha, Mayor
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee
Dale Menard, Trustee
Jamie Gadway, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Pelkey, Deputy Treasurer
Brian Pelkey, Public Works Supervisor
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer
Susan Sullivan, Library Director
Meghan Zedick, Village Attorney

RECORDING SECRETARY: Donna J. Boumil, Village Clerk/Administrator

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

REGULAR SESSION:

I. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Ron LeBlanc inquired about the questions he provided to the Village Board on August 5, 2019.

Mayor Batha stated that the questions were answered at the August 5th meeting. Mayor Batha read the responses from the August 5, 2019 minutes.

“Why is the village helping to get communications cables connected to the two Pfizer warehouse buildings? Deputy Mayor Arno responded that the village is not assisting in this. PWS Pelkey responded that Champlain Telephone submitted a dig safe request for new communication and a request to dig up Maple Street.”

“What type of business will be running in the two Pfizer warehouses? Deputy Mayor Arno explained that the Board was not aware of any businesses that are proposed to be occupying the warehouses.”

“Has this new business undergone a zoning review? Deputy Mayor Arno and Administrator Boumil stated that there has not been an application received for a zoning review.”

Lori Langlois, Champlain Street. Mrs. Langlois submitted a list of signatures of residents who are interested in a Dog Park. There are approximately 160 signatures. She also provided pictures of a Dog Park located in Plattsburgh. Mrs. Langlois stated that she is seeking donations from local businesses and residents for materials.

Mark Haynes – Managing Partner ERS Investors

Mr. Haynes gave an update on the ERS Property (former Pfizer Property).

- There are 3 buildings left (#21, 25, 37) for warehouse space. It is estimated that #25 will be ready by November 1, 2019.
- There are not secured tenants as of this date.
- ERS Investors is looking to build to suit (light manufacturing &/or distribution)
- In the process of obtaining permits for a railroad spur in the middle of the property
- The goal for demo cleanup is the end of November 2019.
- Slabs will remain for the main buildings

Mr. Haynes asked if the public had any questions.

Tom Brilotti, owner of Casa Capitano Restaurante in Rouses Point

- Mr. Brilotti asked if there has been a study for a hotel/motel
- inquired as to what type of businesses will be on the ERS Property (an economic plan)
- Mr. Brilotti stated to the Village Board that the village is in desperate need of a hotel

Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper explained the designated zone and asked to set up a meeting with Mr. Haynes.

Trustee Arno inquired about the lawn care around the fence of the ERS Property

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2019 meeting Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED

III. BILLS: CHECK # 25669 – 25716 \$213,746.82

One (1) addition in the amount of \$23.31 for freight on the lineman supply bill

Motion by Trustee Arno to accept and pay the bills; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) The Clerk/Administrator read a letter from Mr. Guy De Rail thanking Brian Pelkey and crew for their assistance
- 2) The Clerk/Administrator read a letter from the Northern Border Regional Commission congratulating the Village on being awarded a \$500,000 grant for infrastructure expansion and redevelopment.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:

- 1) MEUA Delegate Resolution 2019-27 (Resolution by Proxy) for the upcoming MEUA meeting.
Motion by Mayor Batha to designate MEUA Representative as a voting proxy; Seconded by Trustee Menard;
5 AYES, 0 NAYS
- 2) Motion by Mayor Batha to hire Dan Yakey as a permanent fulltime Recreation Maintenance Worker at \$14.42 an hour with a probationary period of 6 months; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 3) Update on playground equipment:
Village crews are removing all of the playground equipment for construction of new equipment scheduled to begin on August 26, 2019. All equipment, except the newest (purple color) is being disassembled. The Mayor wishes to declare the newest set as surplus and notify other municipalities. The Board agreed.
- 4) Mayor Batha requests an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee(s);
Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 5) Mayor Batha requests an Executive Session to discuss an issue pursuant to the Taylor Law; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED
- 6) Meeting with Clinton County Sheriff's Office
Mayor Batha stated he met with the Sheriff's Office to discuss the following concerns:
 - speed control (the Sheriff's Office is offering portable radar equipment to be used throughout the Village which can be stored at the Village Office if needed). The cost to purchase a portable radar unit is approximately \$4,000-5,000.
 - The Anchorage Motel – Mayor Batha expressed recent complaints he has been receiving about some of the residents. The Sheriff's Office has been patrolling. Mayor Batha explained that there may have to be changes to the Code defining motel/hotel vs. efficiency apartments.
 - The Sheriff's Office patrols the Village of Rouses Point approximately 3 times more than what the previous law enforcement was able to.

- 7) Recreation update –
 - Beginning in September, Jan Letourneau – Rec Leader, will be responsible for opening and closing the the rec building on Wednesday and Saturday for pickleball.
 - The roof of the rec building is flaking on the north side. This needs to be looked into.
- 8) An email was read concerning the placement of the decorative flags in the downtown area which posed a concern that the American Flag should not be flown equally to any other flag. Discussion by the Board determined that the flags are flown correctly. This is in accordance with flag etiquette.
- 9) Crossing Guards –
 - Motion by Trustee Dart to approve substitute crossing guards pending a background approval to be done by the Clinton County Sheriff’s Office; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED
- 10) For informational purposes – a check was received in the amount of \$956.33 from the insurance company for damage to the dugout. There was a \$2,500 deductible.

b, TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Discussion about curbing on Academy street:
 - curbing should be continuous
 - wait to complete until budget time
 - public works will shim to be able to plow
- 2) A tree at the library, located nearest the driveway on Lake Street, needs to come down. Many branches are dying.
- 3) Rec Center parking lot extension – possible use the grindings for the base
- 4) Village Clock –
 - Estimates:
 - Gregoire \$2,800 (exactly the same type of clock the Village had)
 - Mayor Batha will research to see if there is money available.
- 5) Fire Department a/c
 - current a/c units are approximately 25-27 years old
 - possibly submit for IEEP to pay
 - Brian Pelkey will look at system

c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:

Trustee Dart requested an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee;
 Seconded by Trustee Gadway; AYE CARRIED

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

Nothing to report

e. TRUSTEE JAMIE L. GADWAY:

Recreation update from Jan Letourneau:

1. Baseball/softball – 100 kids participated in several levels
2. Fitness in the Parks (funded from the Foundation of CVPH) –
 - Karate – 43 kids
 - Pickleball – 8 kids
 - Archery – 16 kids
3. Adult pickleball continues on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. Clerk/Administrator Donna Boumil reported that Most On The Coast will be held on September 28th at the Rec Center. For more information, refer to the village website or call the village office.
2. Ms. Boumil attended and spoke at a presentation from Champlain Bikeways. This program was hosted by CEF (Clinton, Essex, Franklin Library System). Library Director Susan Sullivan will report on this.

DEPUTY TREASURER:

Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

1) Updates:

- power outage to be scheduled for the South End of the Village. Mr. Pelkey is coordinating with local businesses as to a date and time. This is to reduce the load on the south end.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

Library Director Susan Sullivan reported on the presentation by Champlain Bikeways.

- discussion and presentation of bike trails from Montreal to New York State.
- discussion and presentation of bike trails around Lake Champlain
- Donna Boumil gave a presentation about the Empire State Trail
 - trailhead located in Rouses Point at the Rec Center
 - parking availability
 - amenities in the Village

Susan applied for a grant for repair of the front stairs. The grant was approved locally and will proceed to the state for final approval.

Surveys – the library is receiving the surveys which will help compile their 5 year plan
The Friends of the Library funded a \$100 prepaid gift card to be raffled off for those submitting Surveys.

Summer Reading Program is wrapping up with Zumba on the library lawn

Farmer's Market – the last day is August 30th.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

John Cooper reported that everything is working well

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Tom Brilotti, owner of Casa Capitano Restaurante mentioned the Anchorage Motel as an economic detriment to the Village.

Mr. Brilotti expresses concern of landlords who own property without the intent to occupy the bottom space. He suggests that the regulations be changed so the Village may be able to move forward.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess for Executive Session at 8:18PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into Executive Session at 8:21PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

Motion to exit Executive Session by Trustee Arno at 9:22; Seconded by Trustee Menard

Motion by Mayor Batha to hire Eric Gooley as a laborer-in-training at the water plant; Seconded by Trustee Gadway; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Mayor Batha to hire Kevin Hollister as a MEO II at the contract rate; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 9:23PMPM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donna J. Boumil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna J. Boumil
Village Clerk/Administrator