

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on November 18, 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
Dale Menard, Trustee
Thomas M. Dart, Trustee

ABSENT: Jamie Gadway, Trustee

OTHERS PRESENT: Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer
John Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

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.

PRESENTATION:

Dave Kreutz and Mark Haynes of ERS spoke about the progress that is being made at the ERS site and to dispel some of the rumors.

1. ERS owns the old Pfizer Property. They have been paying taxes on the property
2. The intention of ERS is to have a positive economic impact on the Village of Rouses Point
3. ERSI (separate company than ERS) is responsible for the demolition and remediation.
4. Tentative plans for the site: manufacturing, warehousing and data
5. Pfizer is responsible for the ultimate cleanup of the property
6. Reconstruction of Building #25 is currently being done. There are many local contractors being utilized

Open to the public for questions:

Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper asked about the fencing along Maple and Academy Streets. He explained that it is close to the sidewalk and poses difficulty with the sidewalk plow plowing.

ERS responded that they are aware of this issue and it is being taken care of.

No other comments or questions for ERS.

REGULAR SESSION:

I. OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Batha read the excerpt from the Rules and Procedures adopted by the Board December 1998 and reviewed yearly (most recent April 2019) pertaining to the procedure for the Public Comment section of the meeting.

No comments from the public.

II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

III. BILLS: CHECK # 25892 – 25922 \$15,346.08

Motion by Trustee Arno to accept and pay the bills as amended; Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED

IV. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Letter from the 4th of July Committee requesting the use of the Civic Center grounds and facility for the 4th of July Celebration scheduled for June 26-28, 2020. Brigitte Calisti and Karen Weierstall were present to answer any questions.

Motion by Trustee Menard to all the use of the Civic Center grounds and facility; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

- 2) Letter from Garry Douglas, President of North Country Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Douglas responded to Mayor Batha's inquiry about a market assessment for accommodations development in Rouses Point.

Mr. Douglas explained the challenge of attracting hotels due to preference of location near other hotels and an Interstate exit. Additionally, Mr. Douglas stated that the county funded a study at a cost of \$25,00 for a hotel near the airport. Mr. Douglas sought out funding assistance for a study and there isn't anything currently available. He expressed that the Chamber is available to meet with the Village Board to discuss this further.

V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:

a. MAYOR THOMAS D. BATHA:

- 1) Mayor Batha requested approval for and extension of LWOP for a particular employee until December 20, 2019; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

- 2) Mayor Batha requested an Executive Session to discuss a matter pertaining to the Taylor Law; Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED

- 3) Mayor Batha requested approval of Steven Lambert as substitute school crossing guard; Seconded by Trustee Menard; Discussion: Mayor Batha explained that there is a shortage of substitute crossing guards and the 2 crossing guards we have are out on medical leave. Administrator Donna Boumil has filled in a couple of times. AYE CARRIED

- 4) Announcement of the CP Holiday Train at November 27, 2019 at 8:45PM at the Train Station located on Pratt Street. Previously the Board authorized the rental of a porta-potty. Complete Septic from Isle LaMotte, VT provided a low estimate of \$155. Trustee Arno made a motion to obtain a porta-potty from Complete Septic; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

- 5) Mayor Batha requested an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:

- 1) Trustee Arno requested an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular employee; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

- 2) Trustee Arno inquired about the status of purchasing a new clock. Mayor Batha stated that there would be a PO Request completed.

- 3) Trustee Arno inquired about the status of installing 5 receptacles in the HS Hockey locker room. Discussion ensued about the cost and who would install.

Motion by Trustee Menard to approve the Electric Department to install and the village to pay for the receptacles; Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

4) Trustee Arno thanked Amy Lemieux for updating the Message Board at the Civic Center.

c. TRUSTEE THOMAS M. DART:

- 1) Trustee Dart informed the Board that Jerry Pivetta passed the coursework and certification for the wastewater treatment plant operator. Mr. Pivetta is dually certified as a water treatment plant operator and wastewater treatment plant operator. In accordance with the CBA, Mr. Pivetta will receive a 3% increase. To be effective the date of his certification, 11/15/19. Congratulations!
- 2) Trustee Dart received an email from Gaines Marina regarding trees on White Ave that have grown so that they are hanging over the road. They are asking permission to trim the trees back. They will obtain the services of an arborist, if needed, and pay for the expense.

Motion by Trustee Dart to authorize Gaines Marina to trim the trees, with consultation from Brian Pelkey; and be responsible for the services of an arborist and any expenses; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

d. TRUSTEE DALE M. MENARD:

- 1) Trustee Menard discussed the proposals received for the resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts. One estimate was received from Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing. The estimates are: 2 tennis courts are \$19,912, Basketball court - \$ 6,630. This is part of the Parks and Recreation Grant.

Motion by Trustee Menard to accept the estimates and award the resurfacing to Vermont Tennis Court Surfacing.

e. TRUSTEE JAMIE L. GADWAY:

Absent

VI. OTHER REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATOR:

TREASURER:

Nothing to report

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

Absent

LIBRARY DIRECTOR:

Absent

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Nothing to report

VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Tom Brilotti inquired on the status of the Anchorage Motel. Mayor Batha stated that we are waiting for a response from the Village Attorney. He also indicated that this is a difficult situation because there are a few agencies involved, including Social Services.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to recess for Executive Session at 7:30PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard
AYE CARRIED

The Board thanked ERS for attending the meeting and apprising the public of the progress of the property.

Motion by Trustee Arno to enter into Executive Session at 7:37PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

Motion to exit Executive Session by Trustee Arno at 8:26PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard

No action taken in Executive Session.

IX. REGULAR SESSION:

Motion by Trustee Arno to authorize the Clerk to advertise for an Electric Department Line Worker; Seconded
by Trustee Menard; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Dart to advertise for a Public Works Supervisor, salary to be negotiated; Seconded
by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

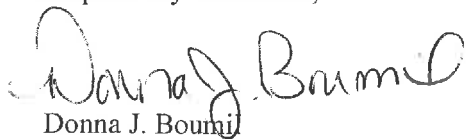
Motion by Trustee Menard to authorize the Mayor to sign the proposal for the Impact Bargaining;
Seconded by Trustee Dart; AYE CARRIED

Motion by Trustee Dart to advertise for the Water and Wastewater Superintendent (advertise in-house first);
Seconded by Trustee Arno; AYE CARRIED

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Trustee Arno to adjourn at 8:35PM; Seconded by Trustee Menard; AYE
CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna J. Boumi
Village Clerk/Administrator