

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, December 21, 2009 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

**PRESENT:** George A. Rivers, Mayor  
Brian B. Jefferson, Trustee  
Jean L. Birtz, Trustee  
Francis J. Baker, Trustee  
John L. Cooper, Trustee

**ALSO PRESENT:** Thomas Murnane, Village Attorney  
Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer  
Brian Pelkey, PW Supervisor

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Carol A. Hanfield, Village Clerk

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Mayor Rivers called the meeting to order and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

Mr. Tom Batha, 75 Montgomery Street, expressed his concerns regarding the staffing at the Water Plant and what he thought would help when Wyeth cuts back on their water and sewer usage and how it will affect the Village. He stated that he would appreciate it if the Board could consider his concerns and look into this matter to see if this is feasible. The Board is looking into this.

Mr. Batha also asked if it was true that the 3 man police department has 5 police cars and Mayor Rivers stated that it was true. Mr. Batha then expressed his concerns about the amount of vehicles we have. Discussion followed.

Geri Favreau, 6 Pearl Street stated that the Planning Board would like to schedule a special meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Village Office. This meeting will be open to the public. Also, the Planning Board will be holding their regular meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. This will be advertised.

Legislator Harry McManus was present and stated that the staggered terms passed for the County and District 1 remains at four years and the even district numbers drew the 2 year terms. The County Budget is in good shape. The rate has been lowered to \$5.88 which is also the rate in the Village of Rouses Point. The Essential Air Service – the County has tentatively agreed to put in a new air carrier Cogan Air – there will be three flights a day to Boston and they co-share with US Air, Continental, United and Air Canada. In February you should be able to book flights out of Plattsburgh to almost anywhere. The State Budget is going to affect the County. They are looking at cuts in Probation, Real Property and Social Services between now and the end of March. The County Budget runs with the calendar year and the State budget runs April – March so nine months of the new State Budget will affect the County Coffers. The County saved over \$400,000 in health insurance. Treasurer Letourneau stated that we switched our insurance as of the 1<sup>st</sup>

of the year saving the Village \$50,000. Mr. McManus discussed the Homeland Security monies that are available to protect the water and sewer plant operations. The Pfizer plant closings – they will continue to market the building in Chazy beyond the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. They will go a couple of months beyond that. Rouses Point should go thru 2010. Treasurer Letourneau addressed Legislator McManus about the tax program. Discussion followed.

**MINUTES OF MEETINGS:**

Trustee Jefferson made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2009 meeting as presented; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**BILLS:**

Treasurer Letourneau stated that there were no additions or deletions. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to pay the bills as presented; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk read a letter from John Cooper resigning as Village Trustee effective December 31, 2009. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to accept the letter of resignation with regrets; Seconded by Trustee Baker; Mayor Rivers personally wanted to thank Trustee Cooper stating that he was an excellent board member. AYE CARRIED

The Clerk read a letter from Jason Andrew, Director of Norte Maar, requesting use of the Civic Center from July 7 to July 30, 2010 for a Summer Arts/Rouses Point program for children. Mayor Rivers made a motion to table this for one month; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk read a letter from Montgomery Hose, Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, Inc. informing the board of a new member with restrictions, Camille Piche. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to approve Camille Piche as a new member with restrictions for a probationary period of six months; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

**REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:**

**MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:**

Mayor Rivers made a motion to appoint Dennis Roberts to fill the unexpired term of Trustee Cooper effective January 1, 2010; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers made a motion to appoint John Cooper as an alternate to the Planning Board effective January 1, 2010; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers requested authorization to execute any and all agreements with the NYS DOT regarding the State's construction project (PIN 7BRD.10, Rouses Point – Border Crossing) on Route 9B. This project will start the 1<sup>st</sup> of April; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED (SEE ATTACHED)

**TRUSTEE JEFFERSON**

Trustee Jefferson stated that Daniel Guay received his Certificate of Completion on the Grade A/B Operators Course for the water plant.

Trustee Jefferson made a motion authorizing Eric Miller to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Lineworker Apprentice Program; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Jefferson made a motion authorizing Eric Miller, Jason Juneau and Dan MacCallum attend the 2010 Lineworker Safety and Training Program; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Jefferson stated that it has come to the attention of the Village Board that we have a problem with people dumping garbage on the south side of the road going down to the breakwater. It is in the Town of Champlain but there is access for the water to go under a culvert and back into Lake Champlain. There are computers computers, tv's, tires, anti-freeze and other junk that is being thrown in the swamp. This has an effect on the water that we consume. We need to address this as quickly as we can. We will be sending a letter to the Town of Champlain and let them know that there is a problem asking them to put signs . up. He has already spoken with the Police Dept. and let them know that it is just outside the Village of Rouses Point but it does affect the residents and we would like them to monitor . this area and if they encounter someone throwing stuff into the swamp that they call the State Police or the County and they would write the tickets. With the new budget coming up there is money available for the cleanliness of Lake Champlain and it is critical to the area that we take care of the lake so we will send this letter to the Town of Champlain.

**TRUSTEE BIRTZ:**

Trustee Birtz requested an Executive Session to discuss Village Personnel; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; Roll Call Vote All Ayes

Trustee Birtz stated that in discussion with the Village Historian it was stated that from time to time historical markers get put up and she would like to review the historical accuracy that is placed on the markers. We should be made aware of this and this should take precedence especially when placing markers that they come to her for review prior to the final print being put on. He wanted to bring this to the Board's attention for future historical markers being placed in the Village.

**TRUSTEE BAKER:**

Trustee Baker had nothing to report.

**TRUSTEE COOPER:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss a Contract Negotiation; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Trustee Cooper made motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the CSEA Side Letter of Understanding setting forth a precedent in the interpretation or application of the Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the Village and CSEA; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED (SEE ATTACHED)

The Village Clerk, Treasurer and Village Attorney wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:**

PWS Pelkey gave an update on the projects. The Electric Crew has been working on Rose Ave. and it is totally cleaned up and all the wires are down. The poles will continue to stand until Timewarner gets their wires off. State Street is completed. They will be working on Academy Street tomorrow. Progress is being made with the 24” storm drain that is going in along the school. We have found a lot of problems but the guys are doing an excellent job installing the new pipe. He continues to work on the budget and asked the Board if they have an item for the budget to get with him. He will be getting measurements and prices on the streets that need to be paved. He asked the Board to think about getting rid of the old water tower. We need to do something with it. It is an eyesore and will eventually be a liability issue.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

Geri Favreau, 6 Pearl Street, stated that at her Planning Board meeting questions were asked. Is there a residence requirement for being on the Planning Board. Mayor Rivers told her that it is state law that they have to be a Village resident. They asked about attendance requirements and it is listed that a member must attend 75% of the meetings and the last question was the last two applications were dismissed and if the money could be refunded for the fees. It was also asked about putting the draft minutes and agenda on the web site and she will work with Arsene on that.

**RECESS:**

Trustee Baker made a motion to recess at 7:35 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Village Personnel.  
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Contract Negotiations.

**RECONVENE:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to reconvene at 8:05 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Birtz made a motion to deny the request to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Village of Rouses Point and the CSEA regarding insurance coverage; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Hanfield  
Village Clerk