

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: George A. Rivers, Mayor
Brian B. Jefferson, Trustee
Kelly A. Penfield, Trustee
Jean L. Birtz, Trustee
Francis J. Baker, Trustee

ALSO PRESENT: 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:

Paul Duffy, 79 Lake Street stated that a couple of weeks ago he brought up the issue of the winter parking ban in the Village. He stated that he was present to do a follow-up of what has been looked into or discussed since the last meeting and to remind the board about it. He explained that some properties in the Village have no where to park because of the parking ban. He stated that he has talked to a few of the board members about parking on other peoples property and that is not a good solution. He said the comment has been made that the lighting system is too expensive but how do you know until you find out what it would cost. He then suggested that another solution would be to issue parking permits to those affected residents so they can use the Village parking lots. Total ban on parking for the four months every night is excessive and punitive to the small number of Village residents and property owners that it affects. There are not that many people affected by it and he feels that it does de-value their property. Mayor Rivers stated that this is being looked into.

Matt Faubert, Boy Scouts of America, 351 Rte. 9B, Rouses Point stated that he is working on his Eagle Scout project and is looking to get the Board's approval to build a set of dugouts at the Rec. Center. He has already received the okay from Mike O'Brian and needs the approval from the Board. Mayor Rivers told him that the Board would like to see a set of plans. Matt stated that he will have everything for the project and supply all of the labor to build it. It won't take any upkeep like the other set does. He wants to put a tin roof on instead of fiberglass and it will be painted. He will be building new ones for the field. Again, Mayor Rivers suggested that he supply a sketch or plans with pictures and does not see much of a problem and we will check with our insurance agent to see what is required for insurance coverage.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

Trustee Jefferson made a motion to accept the minutes of December 15, 2008 as presented; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

BILLS: 11902 – 11961 \$162,377.79

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk read a letter from Jason Andrew, Director of Norte Maar requesting to reserve the Civic Center from July 6th to July 25th, 2009. During this time the Civic Center will be used as a venue for the 6th Annual Fete De Danse. Fete de Danse 2009 will feature the Quadricentennial celebratory product of VOYAGE DE DANSE. The performance will take place over the course of three evenings on Thursday, July 23 – Saturday, July 25 (three evenings). Trustee Penfield stated that it should be discussed with the Manager of the Civic Center about the performances over the course of the three evenings and how it is going to have to be staffed. We should call Jason and talk about the changes from past years. Mayor Rivers explained that this is being done because of the Quadricentennial this year and a grant has been received for this event. Discussion followed. A decision

was made by the Board to place this request on hold until the Board has a chance to talk to Mike O'Brian about the work schedule for this summer and also the staffing requirements for the three nights.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:

MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:

Mayor Rivers presented a resolution and asked the clerk to read it regarding the Village Election setting forth Voter Registration Day. Mayor Rivers made a motion to approve this resolution; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes (SEE ATTACHED)

Mayor Rivers requested permission to attend the 2009 NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting, February 22-24, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Albany. Trustee Jefferson made a motion authorizing the Mayor and Trustee Birtz to attend this meeting; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers requested authorization to attend the NYCOM Winter Legislative Meeting in February and asked if anyone else wished to attend. Trustee Birtz stated that he would be interested to attend. Trustee Jefferson made a motion authorizing Mayor Rivers and Trustee Birtz to attend this meeting; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers stated that he will be attending the NYMPA meeting next Tuesday and Wednesday in Syracuse. A luncheon will be held in honor of Bob Mullane who retired as of December 31st as general manager of the NYMPA. They have decided to name the conference room at the new building The Bob Mullane Conference Room.

Mayor Rivers announced that the new ambulance will leaving New Jersey on the 14th of January.

TRUSTEE JEFFERSON

Trustee Jefferson made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss an Electric Customer; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

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

Trustee Jefferson mentioned that his brother was sick over the holidays and the Rescue Squad had to take him to the hospital and he wanted to acknowledge the kind work that the Rescue Squad does in the Village and thanked them for keeping up the good work.

TRUSTEE PENFIELD:

Trustee Penfield made a motion requesting an Executive Session to discuss the CSEA Contract Negotiations; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

TRUSTEE BIRTZ:

Trustee Birtz reaffirmed to Mr. Duffy that the parking situation is being looked into. They are going to sit down and try to see how many people are disrupted and do not have any access to their building off Lake Street. It may be just a few residents north of Montgomery Street. Most of the rest of the Village probably has enough parking behind their establishments as parking lots. This will be looked in to and be resolved before winter is over.

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

TRUSTEE BAKER:

Trustee Baker stated that next week he hopes to meet with Steve Fuller's Engineer to look at the Civic Center ceiling. Discussion followed.

OTHER REPORTS:

TREASURER:

Treasurer Letourneau reminded everyone to get their budget sheets to their chairpersons and wished everyone a Happy New Year!

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

PWS Brian Pelkey gave an update on the transformer for the substation. It was on its way and in Illinois they hit an overpass so they had to bring it back to South Dakota to have it tested. They are trying to fix it and turn it around as soon as they can so we should have it in our yard hopefully next week. They had a planned route, because it is over height, over weight and over width so they can only travel during the day and a State Trooper made them take an alternate path. The State of Illinois will be paying for the damage. There was not much damage and in talking to Dean Larson from T & R Electric, the State Trooper made the driver stop underneath an overpass and it cleared the first two bushings and if he wouldn't have stopped he would have cleared. They called us and they were told that we did not want it like that unless it was a 100% guarantee.

PWS Pelkey stated that he met with Scott from Atlantic Detroit to do a final wiring on the switch in the Water Plant and it works okay so now if we loose power in the Water Plant we can run.

PWS Pelkey stated that we have been having problems with the hand held metering system so Gottogo Electric and Brad from Itron (the company that made the system) will be here on Thursday. There are a quite a few issues that they will be working on. They will be reading the meters, reading the demands, doing the multipliers, etc. We pay to have this done so this will be addressed late Thursday morning.

PWS Pelkey stated that we were going to take the old docks from the Turcotte property and destroy them. I was approached by the Clinton Community College kyacking team who asked if they could have the docks. They are in need of a lot of repair. Mayor Rivers stated that the docks be surplus. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to surplus the old docks that are unusable from the Turcotte property; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; Trustee Penfield asked if on behalf of the Village there was anything that the Village could use these for and was told that they we have no use for them they are in need of much repair.

AYE CARRIED

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Melissa McManus stated that we received several different grants when the news of Wyeth closure was announced in 2005. We received money from the EDA, Empire State Development, and from the Dept. of State. When the good news about Akrimax purchasing Wyeth came we had to wait to see what was going to happen with that. First, Empire State Development pulled its money and then the EDA pulled their money. We still have the money from the Dept. of State to spend. We have \$35,000 to spend and not much time to spend it because the grant expires at the end of March. She stated that she asked for an extension but was told that under normal circumstances they would give us an extension but these aren't normal circumstances with the State. If we have the money and it's an older grant spend it down instead of trying to get an extension.

Melissa stated that in talking to the Mayor they figured that we needed to get someone in quickly who could do the study for us. Her first thought was the Development Corporation of Clinton County. They put together a proposal with us with AES which is the surveying and engineering firm that they usually work with. This is to do a Community Dedvelopment Strategy and Implementation Plan – a big name for taking a look at the areas around the Village where there is vacant land either in the Village or right outside in our franchise area. What are the conditions, what could go in there possibly and what has to change to make that happen.

Melissa stated that we have all talked about the Route 2 development and hoped that more would go in there. We would like to take a look at what could happen to open that development up. We have the land along the railroad with other vacant parcels. This is the time and we have the money to take a look at it and get some recommendations.

She explained that the way the study would run is that we would have a community meeting and let people come in and show the areas that are vacant then look at what they are zoned at and ask people to tell us what they think about that land or what it might be. We would then send the consultants off to come up with a proposal back to the Village and eventually the public in terms of what should go there and what has to happen to make it possible. We may find areas that are not possible. We will have information and have possible actions to take that hopefully will let us work in the future towards bringing in some more

development. We all said when we got the Wyeth announcement that we never wanted to be left in a position where all our eggs were so much in one basket. We have \$35,000 in grant money and they came in at \$30,000.

Trustee Jefferson made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with the Development Corporation and/or AES Northeast to go ahead with the Community Development Strategy; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers announced that we sold the Ford Tempo today for \$200 instead of the \$3.75.

Mayor Rivers thanked everyone that was involved with the Parade of Toys and the holiday season. There were a lot of good comments on how nice the Village looked.

Ben Arno, 104 State Street stated that he thought the Christmas lights on the poles downtown should be white – they would stand out more.

Ben Arno stated that he heard we had a Village employee retiring in the Water Plant and asked if he would going to be replaced. Mayor Rivers explained that we have to replace this position. Discussion followed.

Trustee Birtz stated that he had attended a meeting with the County Health Department and prior to that he along with Trustee Penfield and Baker thought that maybe we could get away without having that extra person. He attended the meeting and was told that our pumping station is antiquated and it is to the point where it is going to have to be replaced and we don't have the opportunity now to leave it unmonitored because of the chlorine levels and the different problems we are having with the water pump. At this juncture we cannot afford to not have someone there. We are going into an injection system that the County has asked us to do. Discussion followed.

Ben Arno asked the Board if it was their intent to hire another police officer and was told that it is being looked at. Trustee Birtz stated that we have one part-time (chief); one full time officer and one part-time officer. Discussion followed.

RECESS:

Trustee Birtz made a motion to recess at 7:45 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Electric Customer
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Electric Personnel
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Personnel
No action was taken during Executive Session regarding Contract Negotiations

RECONVENE:

Trustee Birtz made a motion to reconvene at 9:03 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Penfield; AYE CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Baker made a motion to adjourn at 9:03 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Hanfield
Village Clerk