

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York, held on Monday, June 1, 2009 at Halstead Hall, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer

**ABSENT:** Brian B. Jefferson, Trustee

**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:**

No one chose to address the Board.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Baker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 18, 2009 and May 29, 2009 as presented; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

**BILLS:**

Treasurer Letourneau stated that there were no additions or deletions to the list of bills. Trustee Birtz moved to approve the bills as presented; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk read a letter from Benjamin Arno notifying the Village Board of his resignation from the Zoning Board effective June 1, 2009. Trustee Birtz made a motion to accept the resignation of Benjamin Arno from the Zoning Board with regrets; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk read a letter from Donna Boumil notifying the Village Board of her resignation as a Library Page effective June 30, 2009. Trustee Birtz made a motion to accept the letter of resignation of Donna Boumil as a Library Page; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk read a letter from Bruce West, Community Day Chairman of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadri-centennial Commission notifying the Board that on August 8, 2009 the Quadri-centennial Committee is planning a Community Day. This will be held in the Village of Champlain at the River Park across from the Samuel de Champlain History Center. Many events are planned for this day including live entertainment, picture exhibit, canoeing and kayaking on the Great Chazy River and much more. The time is between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. They will be offering refreshments and serving hot dogs, etc. and asked the board members if they would volunteer to man the grill during this time. The Board agreed to help with this event.

The Clerk read a letter from Michael Tetreault, Jr., Code Enforcement Officer requesting the Board to use their power to enforce Section 9 of the Property Maintenance Code “Action upon non compliance” on property located at 34 Pratt Street and recommended that the Board authorize the windows facing Pratt Street be boarded up as they are danger to pedestrians on the sidewalk. He also requested that the grass and brush be cut by the Village. Discussion followed. Trustee Cooper made a motion to move forward with “boarding up” this property and removing the brush and grass at this location; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

## **REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:**

### **MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:**

Mayor Rivers requested authorization to sign the Agreement with the Village Engineer. Mayor Rivers stated that he spoke to the Engineer and the 35 hours per month is a figure for budget purposes only. Last year the hours were below what was budgeted and he only works on an as needed basis. We definitely need an engineer. Treasurer Letourneau suggested that the numbers can be changed to what is in the budget which he believed was 23 hours per month. Trustee Birtz stated that he would not approve the signing of this agreement until it is changed. It was requested that this be tabled until the next meeting.

The Mayor stated that on June 25<sup>th</sup> we are hosting the MEUA Northern Regional Meeting which is being held at the North Country Golf Club. He requested that the Board, the Office Staff and the Electric personnel be invited to attend the dinner. There is also a tour of Wyeth and Golfing and he has until the 15<sup>th</sup> to reply with the numbers. Trustee Birtz made a motion authorizing the Board, Office Staff and Electric Personnel to attend the MEUA Northern Regional Dinner; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers gave an update on the Fixed Price TCC (Transfer Congestion Charge) Deadline. He stated that it is recommended that we buy 13 of the 14 TCC's offered. Trustee Cooper who also attended the NYMPA meeting explained that the purchase of the 13 TCC's is actually like an insurance to keep our rates where they are. Mayor Rivers explained that this purchase will take care of the high congestion charges that we have had. We pay so much a month so this will keep them as even as possible and again that this is insurance and recommended by the accountant to buy the 13 units. Trustee Cooper made a motion to purchase the 13 TCC's that have been recommended; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers stated that he wanted to appoint Steve Pinto to the Zoning Board as a regular member and also appointed Ben Arno and Brad Martin to serve as alternates to the Zoning Board; Trustee Birtz made a motion to accept these appointments; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers stated that the next item was the JNS Communication Tower. He explained to the Board that he has told Kim from JNS that it is the wishes of this Board that nothing would go on that tower unless there was an absolute guarantee that the coating on the inside will not be affected. She has been dealing with Landmark and Verizon. Landmark would like to review the

installation proposal and drawings and have requested \$2500 for this review. Verizon is willing to pay the \$2500 but they need a letter from the Village Board to okay the review. Trustee Baker made a motion authorizing the Mayor to send a letter authorizing Landmark to review the drawings; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

**TRUSTEE BRIAN B. JEFFERSON:**

Absent

**TRUSTEE JEAN L. BIRTZ:**

Trustee Birtz requested an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues; Seconded by Trustee Cooper. ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

**TRUSTEE FRANCIS J. BAKER:**

Trustee Baker stated that they have started to remove the insulation off the ceiling. They figured the easiest thing to do was to wet it and let it sit for a day or so and then start peeling. Trustee Birtz asked if there was a projection as to when it will be done. Trustee Baker stated that may be done on the removal by the end of the week and the project completed within a couple of weeks. Discussion followed.

**TRUSTEE JOHN J. COOPER:**

Trustee Cooper requested an Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel; Seconded by Trustee Birtz; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**TREASURER LETOURNEAU:**

Treasurer Letourneau stated that we started to collect taxes today and then asked the Board to request an executive session to discuss a utility customer. Trustee Birtz requested an Executive Session to discuss a Utility Customer; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:**

No one chose to address the Board.

**RECESS:**

Trustee Birtz moved to recess at 7:22 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

No action taken during Executive Session regarding Personnel Issues  
No action taken during Executive Session regarding Police Personnel  
No action taken during Executive Session regarding a Utility Customer

**RECONVENE:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to reconvene at 8:04 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Birtz made a motion to hire Heath R. Cardin as a Public Works Maintenance Person at a salary of \$13.21/hour commencing June 16, 2009. This position is full time with full benefits; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; AYE CARRIED

Trustee Birtz made a motion to hire Cory Sterling to work as a Seasonal Temporary Full-time Laborer at the Civic Center at a salary of \$9.26/hr commencing June 22, 2009. This is a seasonal position with no benefits.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Birtz made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Hanfield  
Village Clerk