

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on Monday, November 2, 2009 at Halstead Hall commencing at 7:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Arsene F. Letourneau, Treasurer
Brian Pelkey, PW Supervisor

ABSENT: Jean L. Birtz, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING: LOCAL LAW #5 OF THE YEAR 2009

Mayor Rivers announced that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to extend the moratorium for an additional year on the acceptance of applications for the use, installation and placement of internally illuminated signs within the Village of Rouses Point.

No one chose the address the Board on this Local Law so Mayor Rivers closed the public hearing.

Trustee Jefferson made a motion to approve Local Law #5 as presented; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mr. James L. Gero, 59 State Street addressed the Board with concerns regarding a tree limb that was cut on his property last Wednesday. He observed the Village crew giving a hardy pruning to a locust tree in front of his property which was appropriate because the tree is on Village property. However, earlier the crew destroyed a significant branch on his lone remaining 100 year maple tree, a tree that grows on his property. This action was a mistake. He contended that the branch was cut for the only reason that it was within reach of the crew's long extension chainsaw. He continued to state that the limb was dear to him and that the branch was his most favorite feature of his property. Over the years that he has lived here his gaze was continually drawn to that branch every week of every month all year long.

Trustee Jefferson stated that it didn't just happen at his place it also happened at a few other places and that it should not have happened and apologized to Mr. Gero.

Mayor Rivers stated that there were several complaints that afternoon. They are not supposed to cut any branches on private property unless they check with the property owner. That is the way it has always been done. Unfortunately, this was handled improperly. He told Mr. Gero that he feels for him and the other people that this happened to. He apologized and stated that this is not our policy. It is a very sad situation.

Jason Juneau, President of the union for the Village of Rouses Point employees stated that they have a policy that is in the contract for dental and vision which is not covered very well through the Village insurance. This is being given to them through the CSEA union. If they have 50% of the union members that want this insurance they can get it. The reason it was in the contract was so the Village would be able to take it out of their pay with the employee paying for it all. It can also affect the office personnel even though they are not union. There is also an insurance similar to AFLAC that he will be getting information on. Again, there is no cost to the Village. Discussion followed.

REGULAR SESSION:

MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

Trustee Jefferson made a motion to accept the minutes of October 19, 2009 and the Special Meeting of October 27, 2009; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

BILLS: VOUCHER NOS: 13133 – 13178 \$51,207.86

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk read a letter from The Committee for Fort Montgomery Days Celebration thanking the Village's generous donation of tables, chairs, stage, sound system, clean-up equipment and continued support for the recent celebration. The celebration was very successful beyond anything that they anticipated. The Village's generous donation to the event was an important part in helping the estimated 2000 plus people who attended and enjoyed this very special occasion.

The Clerk read a letter from Geri Favreau, Rouses Point/Champlain Historical Society, notifying the Village of their intent to purchase a historical marker to be placed on the property owned by Natalie Hirsch and Victor Chang at 221 Lake Street and have already obtained permission from them. The wording will be: "In 1805, David Mayo ran a sail ferry that crossed Lake Champlain from the foot of Champlain St., Rouses Point, NY to Windmill Point, Alburgh, VT". The wording is taken from Peg Barcomb's book "Rouses Point".

The Clerk read a letter from Geri Favreau, Stage Committee, notifying the Board that the community stage project is well underway and the first phase should be complete within the next couple weeks. They will receive \$13,500 from the State Quad Commission and local and civic groups have contributed another \$6,850. They budgeted \$20,000 to cover the cost of supplies and labor. This year the Village budgeted \$850 for the Adirondack Regional Theatre (Wyeth Paid) and \$400 for a second Strawhatter Concert which did not happen. She is requesting the Village to use this money to help purchase a security gate, lighting and a plaque to recognize the generous donors. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to rollover the \$1250 for this project; Seconded by Trustee Baker; AYE CARRIED

The Clerk announced that the North Country Ballet Ensemble presents the "Nutcracker" performance. They will perform parts of Act I & Act II. This will be held on Sunday, November 15th @ 3:00 p.m. at the Francis "Bud" Moore Auditorium at the NCCS High School. It will be FREE – Monetary Donations are accepted for the area food shelf. The "Nutcracker" used in this performance will be given away and also a chance to win a pair of tickets to the Nov. 27th 7:30 p.m. show at the Hartman Theater at SUNY Plattsburgh. Tickets for NCB E Plattsburgh and Lake Placid performances of the Nutcracker will be available for purchase. This is sponsored by the Rouses Point/Champlain Historical Society.

REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR AND BOARD:

MAYOR GEORGE A. RIVERS:

Mayor Rivers presented a resolution designating the offices to be filled and the terms thereof for the Village March Election and made a motion to approve this resolution; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes (SEE ATTACHED)

Mayor Rivers presented a resolution for the ADOPTION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to approve this resolution; Seconded by Trustee Cooper; ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes (SEE ATTACHED) Treasurer Letourneau added that this is at no cost to the Village.

Mayor Rivers presented a Bond Resolution authorizing the installation of insulation in the Village Civic Center, in and for the Village of Rouses Point, Clinton County, New York, at a maximum estimated cost of \$168,875 and authorizing the issuance of not exceeding \$168,875 Serial Bonds of said Village to pay the cost thereof. Treasurer

Letourneau stated that this will be a five year issuance. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to approve this Bond Resolution for a maximum estimated cost of \$168,875; Seconded by Trustee Baker; Trustee Jefferson mentioned that we did a lot of work on the inside of the rink this year because we had trouble with the roof and as you can see it is a lot brighter. Everything worked out well. Some of the work was paid for by the IEEP so we tried to do it as cost effective as we could. ROLL CALL VOTE All Ayes

Mayor Rivers stated that a special meeting was held with the two vendors regarding the security systems for the Civic Center and the Public Works Building. They presented their product. Trustee Jefferson made a motion to accept the quote from Security Concepts of NY, Inc from Keeseville in the amount of \$9,985.87 for the Civic Center and \$9,542.12 for the Public Works Building; Seconded by Trustee Baker; Trustee Jefferson stated that last week NCC Systems from Potsdam and Security Concepts from Keeseville gave presentations on their systems. He along with Trustee Cooper and Baker went to Keeseville and checked out the security system at a businessman in Keeseville who also owns a business in Rouses Point and asked him about the Security Concept system and he said he was very pleased with them. They also met with the owner of Security Concepts and he answered all of their questions. They were given a hands-on demonstration and were very satisfied. AYE CARRIED

Mayor Rivers gave an update on the status of the Cell Tower. He explained that we have a contract with Verizon to put an antenna on our water tower. That contract has been approved by the attorney's and we are waiting for it to come from Verizon to be signed but they have to have a clearance from Landmark (the builder of the water tank) stating that the work they are going to be doing on the top will not affect the coating on the inside of our tank. We will not allow any welding or anything to be done on that tank until we get the approval. The coating is very expensive. Last summer we had to shut down the tank for over two months and run strictly on the pumps while the coating was being done. We have a ten year guarantee on the coating. Other tanks have antennas on them in different areas but we want that guarantee.

Mayor Rivers announced that the CP Holiday Train will be here on November 26th on Thanksgiving Day at 11:00 p.m. Rouses Point will be the very first start again this year. This worked out quite well last year. The only request is to bring a canned good for the local the food shelf. They also donate a \$1000 check to the food shelf.

TRUSTEE JEFFERSON

Trustee Jefferson made a motion requesting permission for Bryon Gelineault and Mike Riley to attend a one day seminar in Peru, NY on 12/19/09; Seconded by Trustee Baker; Mayor Rivers stated that Gary Molinski & Mike Riley will be giving a presentation on record keeping at this seminar. AYE CARRIED

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

TRUSTEE BIRTZ:

Absent

TRUSTEE BAKER:

Stated that the new stage needs a 12' h x 20.5' l door. This needs to be closed up so we have to decide what to do about this. Mayor Rivers stated that the approval previously done on the roll over of \$1250 will be used for this purpose.

TRUSTEE COOPER:

Trustee Cooper made a motion requesting the Mayor be authorized to enter into an Agreement with a particular Village employee, and to withdraw pending disciplinary charges, on terms and conditions recommended by the attorney for the Village; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED

OTHER REPORTS:

PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR:

PWS Pelkey gave an update on the projects going on. Rose Avenue is completely Underground, the wires and old street lights are still up but we are working on Academy St. to get the street lighting done and then we will go back and take down all the wires on State

St. & Rose Ave. They are completely done. All the street lights are now up. The Electric Dept. worked really hard to get this done. We have received a lot of good comments. We are trying to get the pipes and streetlights in the ground on Academy before the ground freezes and then the old wires will come down.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

No one chose to address the Board.

RECESS:

Trustee Baker made a motion to recess at 7:31 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson;
AYE CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No action was taken during Executive Session regarding an Electrical Customer

RECONVENE:

Mayor Rivers made a motion to reconvene at 7:37 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson;
AYE CARRIED

Trustee Cooper made a motion to pay a certain electrical customer \$205.99 for damage received on October 16th by a power surge; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson; AYE CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Baker made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 p.m.; Seconded by Trustee Jefferson;
AYE CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Hanfield
Village Clerk