

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Rouses Point, New York held on April 4, 2022, at Halstead Hall, Civic Center, 39 Lake Street scheduled to commence at 7:00 PM.

**PRESENT:** John J LaBonte, Mayor  
Benjamin J. Arno, Trustee  
Dale M. Menard, Trustee  
Brian S. Pelkey, Trustee

**ABSENT:** Joseph Rodriguez, Trustee

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Arsene Letourneau, Treasurer  
Tom Murnane  
Code Enforcement, John Cooper

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Christopher Latremore, Clerk/Administrator

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Deputy Mayor Menard called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OATH OF OFFICE:**

John J. LaBonte was sworn in for Mayor two-year term.

Brian S Pelkey was sworn in for Trustee two-year term.

Benjamin J. Arno was sworn in for Trustee two-year term.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Comments from the public regarding the Village of Rouses Point tentative Budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

No public comment.

Public hearing closed at 7:02PM.

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**I. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

William Phelps indicated that he moved to Rouses Point in of February 2021. Mr. Phelps is concerned about the increased cost in the electrical from last year. Mr. Phelps is hearing a lot of rumors about the property on Maple Street and would like some clarifications. Mr. Phelps would like to know if the village has any signed contracts with ERS, and who are the tenants occupying the building. Mayor LaBonte advised Mr. Phelps that he has had conversations with ERS, and he is planning to meet with them to have further discussions. Mayor LaBonte told Mr. Phelps he will report back to the residents as soon as he receives some information.

Marlene Beal congratulated everyone on the election and had concerns about her utility bill. Ms. Beal advised the board that at the last meeting the board agreed to petition the commissioner on the high electricity bills. Ms. Beal ask Mayor LaBonte if he has made any contacts. Mayor LaBonte told Ms. Beal that he just took office and will investigate.

**II. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2022, seconded by Trustee Menard.  
**ALL VOTED AYE.** Trustee Rodriguez Absent

**III. BILLS:** \$27,288.36      **CHECK #** 28451-28491

Treasurer Letourneau indicated that there was no change to the bills.

Trustee Arno made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE.** Trustee Rodriguez Absent

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Clerk/Administrator Latremore read a letter of resignation from Michael Duffy from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Trustee Menard made a motion to accept Mr. Duffy's resignation, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE.** Trustee Rodriguez Absent

Mayor LaBonte appointed Patrick Canning to fill the position until 2023.

Clerk/Administrator Latremore advised the board that the American Legion Auxiliary requested board permission to distribute poppies for donations from May until November.

Trustee Menard made a motion to allow, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

**V. REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND TRUSTEES:**

**a. MAYOR LaBonte**

1) Mayoral Appointments 2022-2023

2) Mayor LaBonte Commission appointments.

3) Schedule of Meeting

Trustee Arno made a motion to accept the schedule of meeting for 2022-2023, seconded by Trustee Menard. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

4) Resolution 2022-12: Approval of Budget 2022-2023.

Trustee Pelkey made a motion to approve the Village Of Rouses Point Budget for 2022-2023. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYE CARRIED** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

5) Resolution 2022-13: Water rate increase.

Trustee Menard made a motion to approve water rate increase of \$1.00, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYE CARRIED** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

6) Resolution 2022-14: Mileage Reimbursement

Trustee Menard made a motion to approve mileage reimbursement, seconded by Trustee Arno. **ROLL CALL VOTE: AYE CARRIED** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

7) Legal Notice: Announcement of Public Hearing to raise sewer rates.

Trustee Menard made a motion to advertise the Public Hearing for April 18, 2022, seconded by Trustee Pelkey. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent

8) The board reviewed village polies for approval.

Trustee Pelky made a motion to accept the village policies, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

**b. TRUSTEE BENJAMIN J. ARNO:**

1) Trustee Arno thanked the Civic Center crew.

**c. TRUSTEE DALE MENARD:**

- 1) Trustee Menard thanked the civic center crew for all their work maintaining the facilities.
- 2) Trustee Menard reported the dog park was going very well and Adam Menard advised that the dog park still needs some gates and benches but should be completed in two weeks.

**d. TRUSTEE BRIAN S. PELKEY:**

- 1) Trustee Pelkey thanked the residents for their support for another two years term as trustee and looks forward to working with the new mayor.
- 2) Trustee Pelkey advised the board that he met with the water and wastewater committee for he is the chairperson. Daily operations are running normal, and they are doing normal maintenance.
- 2) Happy to announce with the COVID restrictions being lifted our Canadian neighbors will be able to cross the border and come to the village again.

**e. TRUSTEE RODRIGUEZ:**

- 1) Absent

**VI. OTHER REPORTS:**

- 1) Mayor LaBonte asked the board if he could sign the administrator/clerk contract since the prior mayor did not sign it. Trustee Menard made a motion to give the mayor the authority to sign the contract, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.
- 2) Code Enforcement Officer John Cooper advised the board he had turned in his quarterly reports.
- 3) Trustee Arno advised the public that Lakeside Coffee was holding an Easter egg hunt on April 9, 2022.

**VII. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

No comment

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Menard made a motion to adjourn at 7:36PM, seconded by Trustee Arno. **All voted AYE** Trustee Rodriguez Absent.

Respectfully Submitted,



Christopher W Latremore  
Village Clerk/Administrator