REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
02/21/2017

PRESENT:
Supervisor Best
Councilor Burnham
Councilor White
Tess Eells – Town Clerk
Councilor Kerr
Councilor Whiteford
Highway Superintendent White

GUESTS:
Bobby Knox
Harvey Thomas
Morris Jeffries

The Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Supervisor Best.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:
A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to accept the minutes from 02/16/2017 as presented by the Town Clerk.
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: none

TOWN CLERK REPORT:
January Report:

16 dog licenses	$82.00
Hunting licenses commission	4.14
3 Certified copies	30.00
1 Building permits	25.00
0 marriage licenses	.00
1 impoundment fee	10.00
Revenue to supervisor:	$151.14
Disbursed amounts:	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	22.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
Decals	70.86
Total Disbursed	$ 244.00

I have collected 70.63% of the taxes $1,152,558.83 as of 02/16/2017. I have also finished paying the supervisor the town warrant and now sending money to the county treasurer.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford
Seconded by Councilor White
To accept the Clerk Report as presented
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-o Motion carried

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE:

- Sand bags are being removed because of the mild weather and they will come up with a plan for next year. The plastic is at the barn it will have to be stored somewhere.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Robert Best
Financial Reports
• The details of all income and expense transactions for January have been filed with the Town Clerk.
• The account balances as of 1/31/2017 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.
2. The material for the audit of the 2016 books is ready to go to the auditor.

3. **RESOLUTION** # 30 * Budget Modification
A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize the supervisor to do the following budget modification:
• Increase A7550.4 (celebrations, contractual) by $618 and increase A2705.0 (donations) by $618. This is the reimbursement by the Fire Department for the purchase of Christmas lights.

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

4. Internet Access.
• We have not heard back from SLIC, Time Warner (Charter Communications) or North Country Broadband.
• TDS has been awarded $9,393,753 to expand internet service in rural areas. TDS will obtain private funding to match the award, resulting in TDS having $18,787,506 for the project. The program is to result in 95% of
TDS customers having a min. down load speed of 25 Mbps for 95 % of their customers. I have called TDS to learn more about the project. I would like to know if Russell will be part of the project and when we can expect work to begin. It is my understanding that the project is being engineered at the current time.

• Additional information on the NYS Program for internet for all, can be found at nysbroadband.ny.gov

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White accept the supervisor report as presented.
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion carried

- Morris Jeffries asked if he would lose his high speed internet if he changed. Was told yes. Time Warner is now Spectrum.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Harvey Thomas

- We did a control burn at Donny Fountains.
- Our March Chicken BBQ is canceled and now it will be May 20th.
- Carl will be honored as a 60 year active Fire Department member and will be recognized for his years of service.
- We will be discussing people falling through the ice at a meeting.
- Mrs. Enslow turned 100 years on 02/16/17 we would like to have a resolution done by the board to honor her.

RESOLUTION # 31 Dorothy Enslow

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Burnham
WHEREAS, the Russell Town Board met on February 21, 2017 and,
WHEREAS, Mrs. Dorothy Enslow a lifelong resident will be one hundred (100) years young on February 16, 2017, and the Russell Town Board would like to acknowledge that Mrs. Enslow has been a lifelong resident of the town and a model citizen. Mrs. Enslow along with her deceased husband Howard ran a farm and raised their family here performed many acts of community services. In her later years Mrs. Enslow turned her home into a boarding home for area Senior Citizens and dedicated herself to their care and wellbeing.
THEREFORE, we the Town Board declare February 16th to be known as "DOROTHY ENSLOW DAY" in the Town of Russell.

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to accept the Fire Department report as presented.
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 02/21/2017 * Larry White

The bulk of our time has been spent on snow and ice removal.

We have chipped brush from the trees we removed on the Tooley Pond road.
We have removed more trees on Donnerville road and cleaned up a blown down tree from the Belleville cemetery.
We continue to do service and maintenance on the county track drill as time allows.
We completed work on building screens for the 2009 Mack and it is on line with everything working well.
We are working with the DEC for upcoming work on the McCarthy road.
We have trimmed over hanging limbs on several roads.
We have the quotes in for the loader replacement.
The men have worked well and I thank the men for a job well done.
I handed in a check from Russell Fire department for $1, 209.64 and from Timm's Salvage for $148.21 for scrap metal.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- I got a quote from CAT for $16,746.00 for new loader with ours as a trade in
- I got a quote from NORTRAX for $7,510.00 for a John Deere with ours as a trade in.

RESOLUTION # 32 * John Deere loader

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White **Therefore**, authorizing the highway superintendent to accept the purchase quote for a new 544K John Deere loader of $7,510.00 and it will include a rear camera and a 36 month 2000 hour warranty with the trade in of our loader from NORTRAX.

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

- Councilor Whiteford asked the Highway Superintendent why they are opening up the McCarthy road; as this was a question brought to his attention.
- Superintendent White stated that it is a seasonal road and the DOT says seasonal roads are low maintenance and need work done to keep them on the road inventory. We are opening it up so 2 vehicles could pass each other. We don't spend a lot of money on these roads. I keep the men working on something. We have wood contracts which would be about 100 cords and cost about $500 that helps towards heating the Town Barn.
- Harvey stated that when they opened up Donnerville road there are houses now on the tax roll from it. Also helps the fire department get access better if there is an emergency.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept the Highway and Highway Committee reports as presented.

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: nothing this month

HORSE TRAILS REPORT: David Whiteford

On January 25, 2017 I and Mrs. Thompson met with foresters at their office in Potsdam. We made suggestions for improvements to be made by us and volunteers from the horse riding community. The consensus was that Tony Sparacino with Henry Dedrick along with me, Ronda and Bonnie would meet when the weather permits and finalize our plans. We expect to accomplish this when it begins to dry up.

- Parking area
- Trail improvements
- Road improvements

BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: David Whiteford

January 30, 2017 I met with the combined partners of the committee for the Grasse River Blueway Trail. We talked with Barbara Kendall from the Department of State and Monica Ryan from River Street Planning and Development about the completion date, 04-30-2017 and the need for an extension. We added recreation points to the map and talked about logos for the trail. The meeting for February 13 was canceled. I also spoke with the Deputy Regional Permit Administrator, Jessica Hart and she sent an application for municipal permit to improve the canoe launch.

- David did a sample sketch of a dock for the canoe launch. It was discussed on how it should be built and what kind of retaining wall would work with some steps.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept both reports as presented.
Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

<u>RESOLUTION</u> # 33* Audit Report-Robert Best & Sandy Burnham
A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to pay the following bills.

Audit Committee Report
February 21, 2017

Fund	Vouchers	Total
Year 2016	30	2,355.60
Year 2017		
General	31 - 69	$52,991.16
Highway	15- 37	$29,568.67
Capital Highway Improvements	2-3	$32,855.53

Fire Protection	1-2	$85,473.00
Street Lights	2	$742.95
	Grand Total	$203,986.91

Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Burnham stated that the CEO should check out sewer smell at a house coming into Russell from Canton. Tess will call him.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 34 * Reappointing Fred LaPoint to Board of Review
A motion was made by Councilor White
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford
THEREFORE, the Russell Town Board will reappoint Fred LaPoint as a member of the Board of Review for the Town of Russell for a 5 year term beginning October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2021
Ayes- 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays- 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 35 * Rodney Bristol Retirement

A Motion was made by Councilor Burnham
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford
WHEREAS, Rodney Bristol has provided the Town Board with his letter of resignation effective midnight on July 31, 2017, a signed copy of which is attached hereto; and
WHEREAS, in consideration of the above Rodney Bristol has requested the use of yet un-accrued vacation time prior to its accrual April 1, 2017 and which he considered in his decision to retire; and
WHEREAS, the Town did not provide health insurance for the first 3 months of Bristol's employment with the Highway Department and therefore the Russell Town Board desires to provide Mr. Bristol with those three (3) months of health insurance beginning August 1, 2017, and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED, that the Russell Town Board accepts Rodney Bristol's resignation, and further
RESOLVED, that the Town of Russell authorizes the Highway Superintendent to allow Rodney Bristol to use his anticipated additional vacation time prior to its accrual on April 1, 2017, and further
RESOLVED, that Rodney Bristol shall continue to receive health insurance coverage from the town of Russell until November 1, 2017

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays - 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 36 * Holding harmless The County of St. Lawrence for providing Services for 2017

HOLDING HARMLESS THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY FOR PROVIDING SERVICE FOR 2017

TOWN OF RUSSELL
By Town Board, Town of Russell

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford,

WHEREAS, the Town of Russell is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

WHEREAS, both the Town of Russell and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Russell and the County of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that to the fullest extent permitted by law, the Town of Russell indemnify and hold harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgments, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees and all court costs and liability (including statutory liability) arising in whole or in part any manner from injury and/or death of person or damage to or lass of any property relating to or arising out of neglect or intentional acts and/or omissions of the Town of Russell or any directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, or agents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance
On an “Occurrence” basis, with the following limits:

$1,000,000 Each Occurrence
$3,000,000 General Aggregate
$1,000,000 Products Aggregate
$1,000,000 Personal Injury
$ 50,000 Fire damage Legal Liability
$ 5,000 Medical payment Expense

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 2026

Ayes: 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays: 0 Motion carried

- Bobby Knox stated that while the control burning was going on he was at the pump house and it looked like someone walked over to the pavilion, he thinks if it snows a path should be cleaned so people do not have to walk through the snow.

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor White to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm all were in favor

Respectfully submitted by
Town Clerk – Tess Eells