

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
03/21/2017

PRESENT:

Supervisor Best
Councilor Burnham
Councilor White
Town Clerk -Tess Eells
Councilor Kerr
Councilor Whiteford
Highway Superintendent White

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Harvey Thomas
Morris Jeffries
Larry Denesha
Paul Baxter
Tomorrah Averill

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm by Supervisor Best

The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: none

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford
To accept the minutes from 02/21/17 as presented by the Town Clerk
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 03/21/2017

February Report:

20 dog licenses	116.00
Hunting licenses commission	1.38
1 marriage licenses	7.50
1 Certified copies	10.00
2 Building permits	50.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
1 donation for community room	20.00
Fax and copy money	<u>120.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$324.88
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	32.00
NYS Department of Health	22.50
Decals	<u>23.62</u>

Total Disbursed \$403.00

I have collected 76.04 % of the taxes \$1,250,704.95 as of 03/15/2017

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford
Seconded by Councilor Kerr
To accept the Clerk Report as presented
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:

- The net is coming down, and the sand bags are still down there.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 03/21/2017 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 2/28/2017 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.

2. **RESOLUTION # 37** * Budget Modification

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize the supervisor to do the following budget modification:

- Increase A1110.4 (Court Contractual) by \$ 5,392 and increase A3021.0 \$ 5,392 (Court Facilities). This is the grant money that Judge Friot had applied for. It is primarily for replacing a section of the court house roof.

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

3. Street Lights

- We are scheduled to have two street lights installed in area of ball field. One will be at the entrance to the ball field; the next is two poles to the west, just past the western boundary of the field. There is no charge for installing the street lights.
- We are scheduled to have two outlets installed on street poles. One will be at the entrance to the ball field and the other at 16 Mill Street. There is no charge for installing the outlets.

4. At the request of the Theater Committee I will be getting estimates to have the plate glass in the theater main doors replaced. One section has had the glass removed and plexiglass installed, another section has cracked glass, and the other glass sections have been heavily scratched.

5. Resolution for State Funding for Seniors
Robert Best

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr accepting the supervisor's report.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Harvey Thomas

- We will have EMS training in April
- We will have a chicken BBQ on April 9th till chicken is gone
- On May 20th we will honor Carl Hull for 60 years in fire department
- We have our Russell Festival on July 15th and 16th. We will have the same bands for block dance as last year, fire works
- We will be doing training on LUCAS machine
- We will be raffling a kayak to be drawn at the Russell Festival
- Asked if the fire hydrant was done, Larry said yes. We will flush them out and the valves need to be looked at
- Supervisor Best stated he would do a resolution for Carl and we also need a block dance, fireworks resolution done in April.
- Councilor Whiteford asked Harvey if anyone went out to Colton for the training for ice rescues. Harvey said no.
- Don Thompson will do water training up at Boyd Pond
- There were a lot of ice rescues this year

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to accept the FD report as presented.

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

HIGHWAY SUPEINTENDENT REPORT: Larry White

The heavy snow last week went well with no major break downs; so far for this winter our salt use has been up approximately 50 tons mostly due to ice.

The break in snowfall has allowed us to work on other projects.

We have graded and added gravel to sections as they dry out on Silver Hill North and South sections, Burnell and North Woods roads.

We have been working on brush and trees on the Tooley Pond, Ritz, Boyd Pond, Hatch and Colton roads. We also have been cleaning up from the high winds on 3/6 and 28th.

We will be working with the county moving rock with the army trucks in Gouverneur.

Rodney informed me he wanted to return to work on April 3rd.

Our new truck is working well so we are able to strip the 01 international of its plow and sand equipment and use it for brush and trees.

I thank the men for a productive month.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- We discussed CHIPs road proposals; we will have them for April meeting

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

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Larry asked if the board would support the state restoring funding for Seniors

RESOLUTION # 38 * Restoration of Funding for Seniors

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr

Whereas the State Office For the Aging is a vital organization, critical for the well being of our seniors; and

Whereas the funding of the Office For the Aging is facing a possible cuts in its funding; and

Whereas New York Connects serves more than 230,000 older New Yorkers;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Town of Russell supports, and asks for your support, to restore the following items in the final 2017 - 2018 State Budget:

- Fully restore and keep a dedicated revenue stream to support New York Connects funding to the State Office For the Aging, and
- Restore the 25% county match exemption under the Community Services for the Elderly (CSE) program to preserve local funding to operate home delivered meals, non-medical transportation, in home services and case management services for the elderly so they can remain independent in their community; and
- Support an additional \$24 million for Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) to provide EISEP to the 15,000 older New Yorkers on waiting lists statewide; and
- Restore \$700,000 cuts to fight and prevent Elder Abuse; and

•Restore Title XX funding for seniors to save the estimated 65 senior centers in New York City from closing.

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

- If cuts go through we will be out \$93,000, we hired someone from Office of the Aged to help seniors navigate medicare, SSI etc. we have had positive feedback from this position.
- I fought to keep this funding in the county budget and now the state wants to cut it. We have support to keep the funding.
- Don Chambers and I and other elected officials have been lobbying for more money for highways, PAVENY runs out in 2019.
- NYS has 11 million drivers and the highest gas prices. 5 Billion a year and only 2 Billion goes for transportation infrastructure.
- The full board signed a resolution for a 3 year contract with PROACT it will be approximately a 10% savings
- We are looking at health care- same level of care with a 1 year contract with Excellus Blue Cross. It would be a savings of 2.2 million- the co-pay will be higher, we are getting good cooperation from the Unions.
- Russell bridge will be replaced and still a 2019 project. We have signed with an engineer for the project
- As of April 6th there will be no dispatching from state police
- Our Risk Manager Paul Baxter started March 6th. Paul talked about himself and what he is expected to do for the county and towns.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept the legislature report.

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

HORSE TRAILS REPORT: David Whiteford

I have met with the County highway Department Superintendent, Don Chambers to discuss the legality of installing signs to promote all the trails in the town. He informed me that promotional signs would not be legal. After investigating with his sign department he found that they could install directional signs to specific areas. This would be most acceptable for us as a group if this would be acceptable with the town. If, so after we determine the symbols needed, the county would need a formal request from the town. We also have materials donated from C-R Little Builders for signs for trails at Whippoorwill State Forest. Bonnie Howard, Ronda Thompson and I are meeting here 3/22/17 to develop the symbols needed for the directional signs from the county and the trail signs for the DEC. Also the DEC is developing better maps for the fire department.

GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: David Whiteford

We last met the afternoon of February 28th in Massena and we discussed the progress of the extension of the implementation of the Blueway Trails Plan and it is the consensus of the group that we will get the extension. We moved on and at our next meeting on 4/13/17 in Canton, we need a count of how many signs we think we need. I count 5; I don't know how much this will cost yet.

Councilor White stated he would show the trails up on their property. David also stated that the supervisor in Madrid said when they get their floating docks out this spring David can take pictures to show how they are built.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor White to accept these reports as presented.

Ayes – 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 39* Audit Report-Robert Best & Sandy Burnham

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to authorize paying the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	# 70 – 88	\$ 7,312.79
Highway	# 38 – 58	\$24,729.82
Capital Improvement	# 0	
Street Lights	# 3	<u>\$ 694.38</u>
	Grand Total	\$32,736.99

Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Supervisor Best got a letter for insurance changes to go over and the renewal will be coming up May 27, 2017

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 40 * Shared Service Agreement with DOT

A motion was made by Councilor White

Seconded by Councilor Whiteford

Whereas, the State of NY (NYSDOT) and the Town of Russell Pursuant to Section 99-r of the General Municipal Law, the State and the municipality wish to share services, exchange or lend materials or equipment which shall promote and assist maintenance of state and municipal roads and highways and provide cost savings by maximizing the effective utilization of both parties resources.

Whereas, the term of this agreement shall be for four (4) years from 3-2-2017 to 3-1-2021

Therefore, the Russell Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the agreement for a four year term.

Ayes: 5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays: 0 Motion carried

There was some discussion about hiring for a position at the highway department.

Highway Superintendent White stated he was in contact with National Grid about some tree removals.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to adjourn the meeting @ 7:15 pm

All were in favor

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by

Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk