

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
05/16/2017

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Harvey Thomas
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries
Tom Peet (auditor)
Andrew Smith
Dennis Griffin

Pledge:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Deputy Supervisor Burnham

TOM PEET, CPA AND ANDREW SMITH – Audit Report for 2016

- Tom and Andrew went over the important pages in the report for the board. The town is in good shape. No red flags.
- He found no problems, everyone cooperated with the audit.
- No over expenditures.
- Highway fund in good shape.
- Tom asked if the \$4500.00 came in yet from Canton for maintenance of North Woods Road; yes it has for 2016.
- The town is complying with the NYS for town share of pension assets and liabilities.
- No deficient fund balance and no overdrawn appropriations’.
- The Court audit was done and no issues were found. The system they use works well we look at case studies they manage their accounts well.
- There will be a BAN payment due July 5, 2018 of \$63,000.00.
- There were no significant audit findings that needed addressing. The audit went very well.
- There were no instances of non compliance.
- There were no difficulties with management with the audit.
- There is a copy of the audit in the Town Clerks office if anyone wants to look at it.

The Board thanked Tom and Andrew for their report of the audit.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 04/18/2017 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes – 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion carried

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 05/16/2017

April Report:

23 dog licenses	176.00
Hunting licenses commission	21.82
0 Marriage License Comm.	0.00
1 Certified copies	10.00
3 Building permits	75 .00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community use	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$282.82
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	51.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>373.18</u>
Total Disbursed	\$707.00

I have collected 85.90 % of the taxes \$1,430,121.07 as of 05/10/2017

A motion was made by Councilor White

Seconded by Councilor Whiteford

To accept the clerk Report as presented

Ayes - 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion Carried

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Netting is still not fixed

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 05/16/2017

Financial Reports

- The details of all income and expense transactions for April have been filed with the Town Clerk.

- The account balances as of 4/30/2017 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.

2. **RESOLUTION # 48** * Budget Modifications

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

- Whereas the State of NY has notified us that Russell will receive additional money for Extreme Winter (\$36,543.32) and additional money for the Pave NY Program (\$ 43,758.91), therefore increase the CHIPS Revenue (H3501.0) by \$ 80,302.23 and increase CHIPs Highway Improvement (H5112.4) by \$ 80,302.23

Ayes – 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford
 Nays – 0 Motion carried

- Whereas the primary grass mower, the Farris, is approximately 15 years old and needs increasing repairs. It should be replaced with a similar commercial mower. I will be looking into options and prices.

* The board agreed to have the supervisor get prices for a new lawnmower. Larry suggested selling the old one on the auction site.

3. Theater Doors

- The glass in the theater front doors has been replaced.
- 4. An additional letter and information from the Town Association, regarding the Shared Services law is in your packet of materials. Please read through this information.
- I will be attending a meeting in Malone in a couple of weeks, to learn more on how we can meet the State’s mandate for shared services. I want to see if we can share plowing and road maintenance with neighboring towns.
- 5. On a personal note, I have decided not to run for election this fall. It has been enjoyable working with others to improve the town. However there are family and medical considerations which I need to make my priority.

Robert Best
 Town Supervisor

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

Ayes-4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford
 Nays-0 Motion Carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Harvey Thomas

- Dinner for Carl Hull on May 20th @ 6:00 Pm for 60 years of service
- We will be doing flags for North Russell Cemetery we picked them up from Town Clerk.
- We have the flowers for the monuments for Memorial Day

- For Russell Festival we are doing a 5K walk/run, Block dance, Fireworks, BBQ, stuff for the kids.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor White to accept the Fire Department Report as presented.

Ayes-4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays-0 Motion Carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 05/16/2017 * Larry White

We have been through all the roads patching and will again as time allows.

Two men spent several days on repairing and replacing road signs.

We drilled and blasted a small shot on Dana Hill road for drainage.

We cleaned out the storage building at the Pit.

We have built up the area for the ball field parking and rest of the rock barriers.

We have ditched sections of the White, Pestle and Fordham Hill roads.

We have removed a section of Pestle Street for drainage and correcting the base

We have replaced 1 pipe on Pestle Street, 2 on Fordham Hill, 1 on the White road and 1 on Lazy River road; we also installed approximately 150 feet of drainage tile on the Fordham Hill road above the Hatch road.

We have removed brush on a section of Dana Hill road and Fordham Hill road.

We have removed the pavement and added gravel for realignment on the Lazy River road.

We are scheduled to start shim on 5/16.

This has been a busy month and I thank the men.

Tim White asked if the ball field parking area inside fence could be graded.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: No meeting held

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Asked if the town got their 2017 rabies list cards. He stated the town clerks helped with the schedule this year.
- The Tire Take Back days are this Saturday 8 tire limit at Ogdensburg transfer Station

- We appointed a new Real Property Director; Bruce Green to fill 2 years left on Darren Colton's term, Darren is retiring.
- We presented a resolution requesting a 1% increase for sales tax for 2019
- At J&L 10 buildings have been demolished it is looking good.
- Ruth Doyle sent out letters to anyone that would be interested in joining her at a meeting concerning the shared service issue.
- Larry asked the board and galley what they felt about the age for buying tobacco products be increased to 21. The consensus was not in favor of it.

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

Ayes – 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT:

David Whiteford

- I went to Madrid to take pictures of their dock. It is metal and was done by Alcoa.
- Harvey suggested checking with the county to see if they had extra Styrofoam blocks.
- Tim White offered to donate and saw the wood needed for the dock when he knows what is needed.
- Larry Denesha suggested talking to Rick Towne to see if Alcoa could help this community with a dock.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the horse Trail report as presented.

Ayes – 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 49 * AUDIT REORT: 05/16/2017

Sandra Burnham

Robert Best

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize payment of the following bills:

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	119 - 143	\$ 10,193.45
Highway	77 – 102	\$ 28,657.76
Capital Improvements	4	\$ 7,510.00
Street Lights	5	<u>633.96</u>
	total:	\$ 46,995.17

Ayes-4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays-0 Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bobby Knox stated the Theatre windows look nice.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 50 * Insurance Renewal

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr **THEREFORE**, the Russell Town Board authorizes the town supervisor to sign the Insurance renewal for the term 5/27/2017 to 5/27/2018 with the insurer Selective insurance Company of America with Rose & Keirnan as our representatives at the cost of \$33,568.56..

Ayes- 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays- 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 51 * Letter of engagement

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford **Therefore**, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign the letter of engagement with Pinto Mucenski Hooper Van House & Co.

Ayes – 4 White, Kerr, Burnham, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor white to adjourn the meeting @ 7:10 pm

All were in favor

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk

