

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
06/20/2017

PRESENT:

Supervisor Best
Councilor Burnham – arrived @ 6:10
Councilor White
Town Clerk -Tess Eells
Councilor Kerr
Councilor Whiteford
Highway Superintendent White

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Harvey Thomas
Mike Solon
Larry Denesha (Leg)
Tomarrah Averill
Morris Jeffries
Dennis Griffin

Pledge of allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Best

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor White

Seconded by Councilor Whiteford

To accept the minutes from 05/16/17 as presented by the Town Clerk with the correction from Tom Peet's report from last month of the BAN being due January 5th 2018 not July 5th.

Ayes-4 White, Best, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: none

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 06/20/14

May Report:

19 dog licenses	100.00
Hunting licenses commission	37.12
0 Marriage License Comm.	.00
1 Certified copies	10.00
7 Building permits	175 .00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community use	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$322.12
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	27.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>635.88</u>

Total Disbursed \$985.00

I have collected 93.04 % of the taxes \$1,560,558.06

- I am finished collecting for the year and it was a good year. I am all balanced out with the County.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford
Seconded by Councilor Kerr
To accept the clerk Report as presented
Ayes – 4 White, Best, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT: Robert Best

- Matt has the new netting to go up may need the HWY departments help with the poles.

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 06/20/17 * Robert Best

Financial Reports

- The details of all income and expense transactions for May have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- The account balances as of 5/31/2017 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.

2. **RESOLUTION # 52** * Budget Modifications

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White authorizing the Supervisor to do the following budget modifications:

- Increase A1670.4 (central printing & mailing) by \$ 900 and decrease A1990.4 (contingency) by \$ 900.
- Increase A1910.4 (Insurance contractual) by \$ 3,100 and decrease A1990.4 (contingency) by \$ 3,100.
- Increase DA5130.4 (Highway maintenance contractual) by \$ 32,855.53 and decrease DA911.0 (fund balance) by \$32,855.53.
- Transfer of expense to correct accounting error: Transfer \$ 32, 855.53 from Highway to Capital Improvements by charging DA5130.4 (Highway Maintenance contractual) \$ 32,855.53 and crediting H5130.2 (Capital Equipment) by \$32,855.53.

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

3. HOME Consortium Re-authorization for 2018 - 2020. This enables the consortium to include Russell in a possible home improvement program. The town is automatically re-authorized unless we vote to withdraw from consideration. This is with no cost to the town.

4. Shared Services with the County.

• I attended a meeting organized by the County to start organizing how the county and its public organizations can develop a plan to increase shared services. The attendance of the towns, villages, school districts and other local organizations was not very large. The county administrator is going to work on developing a plan for the municipalities and other organizations to consider. There is a deadline of September first to have a plan. There is an option for extending the time period for one year. Most attendees would prefer to take the extension, questioning how we can come up with a plan and have it approved by the various municipalities and other member organizations before September first. There is no date for a follow up meeting at this time. I have filed a copy of the material covered at the meeting with the Town Clerk. If you wish to have a copy please contact her.

5. Correspondence:

* I received an email from Jean Given saying she is pleased with the caretaking of the Balsam Cemetery.

I received a letter from St. Lawrence Public Health Department recommending the town employees get a Hepatitis A & B shot

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Harvey Thomas

- Our Fire Department festivities is July 15th and 16th
- On the 15th we will have a 5K walk/run anyone can do it that is interested starts at 9 am. The craft fair starts at 9 AM, the block dance will be from 9 PM to 1 PM. The cook shack will be open. The fire works will be at dusk.
- On the 16th there will be frog jumping, big wheel races, fire-matics for kids, chicken BBQ and silent auction.
- Russell community garage sales will be that weekend also.
- We had 8.5 hour training
- I inquired about bronze plaques for veterans and was aided with this we will take them down after July 4th.
- Could the corner posts be straightened up around the monument at Balsam Cemetery and the chain is put back up. Hwy department can help with the corner posts.
- In the paper it stated that insurance companies are not paying for non-emergency calls. Dispatch should determine what a non-emergency or emergency call is.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr accepting the Fire department report.

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

Nays-0 motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 06/20/2017 * Larry White

We have completed shim on all CHIP's projects and have assisted Dekalb with theirs.

We have drilled and blasted areas for drainage on Pestle Street, Fordham Hill and Silver Hill South.

We have completed our work on Lazy River road with highway realignment and this section will be paved while the county is here. We may be paving next week or it won't be until after our shutdown over the 4th.

We have cut shoulders on Silver Hill South, Curtis, Blackmer, Nolan, Stalker and Mackin roads and added gravel and chloride. We have completed grading and spraying all main gravel roads and are working on the seasonal roads now.

We have mowed road sides on all main roads and some seasonal roads.

He handed in 2 checks \$ 200.00 each for sluice pipes and 1 check for \$713.45 from Russell Fire Department for fuel.

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

A motion by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to accept the Highway Superintendents report.

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

Nays-0 Motion carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: no meeting

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Did the town get their mortgage tax, yes it was down a little from what was budgeted
- 2 weeks ago some of us went to Albany and met with senators and assembly with our legislature agenda; they were complementary about us going down to discuss it with them.
- Every 2 years we request a 1% sales tax increase and the assembly and senate are at odds with it. The governor is trying to do away with us having to request this every 2 years.
- Our Human Resource director resigned and we took applications for the position we will be looking at them Monday.
- The resolution to raise the age to purchase tobacco products from age 18 to 21 failed 11 against 4 for.
- He explained their unreserved fund balance went up 2.3 million from 2015 to 2016.

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

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

Nays-0 Carried

HORSE TRAIL AND GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORTS: David Whiteford

BLUEWAY TRAIL:

- I spoke with Dave Button on June 4th and the only thing he had to say is that they got their extension they applied for and have heard nothing since. On 04/20/17 I went to Madrid and took pictures of the dock; it was inside a secure fence so I could not get the measurements. On 06/18/17 I again went t Madrid after a call from Bill, the highway superintendent informing me that the dock was in the water and got the measurements.

HORSE TRAILS:

- In May I met with Ronda Thompson and we got a sign painted for approval by the DEC.
- On 6/1/17 I met with Tony Sparacino, Forester at DEC and got the sign approved. We talked about the signage that the county will install on their approval.
- I spoke with Tony at 4:00 PM today he told me that they would be in touch with the county by the end of the week hopefully.
- I could not reach Ronda today but I believe the signs are nearly done. After that is complete we have to inform the DEC a week in advance when we are going to install them.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 53* Audit Report-Robert Best & Sandra Burnham

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	144 – 170	\$51,034.69
Highway	103 - 127	\$22,400.84
Capital Improvements	5	\$27,518.75
Fire Protection	none	\$0.00
Street Lights	6	<u>\$633.02</u>
	total:	\$101,587.30

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Whiteford stated to Harvey that he will be getting those coordinates he requested for the trails.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tess stated she was getting prices from UniFirst for cleaning the rugs; they say we can save 40% Tess will see when the contract runs out with Century & linen.

RESOLUTION # 54 * Letter of Support for David Schryver

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White authorizing the Town Clerk to sign this letter of support:

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 523
Reston, Virginia 20192-0523

To Whom It May Concern:

David J. Schryver who operates the website www.nnywaterfalls.com is proposing to the United States Board on Geographic Names the naming of two waterfalls located in the State of New York, County of St. Lawrence, Town of Russell.

They are:

Harts Falls, a 13 foot tall waterfalls, at the coordinates N 44° 30' 09", W 75° 10' 08"
Plumb Brook Falls, a 10 foot waterfall, at the coordinates N 44° 23' 52", W 75° 09' 00"

These waterfalls are not currently listed on the USGS Geographic Names Information System, nor are they noted on USGS topographical maps, but locally have been known by these names for many years.

The Russell Town Board fully supports Mr. Schryver's efforts to have these waterfalls officially named.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

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

RESOLUTION # 55 2016 Court Audit

A motion was made by: Councilor Whiteford

Seconded by: Councilor Burnham

WHEREAS, the Russell Town Board hired Pinto, Mucenski ,Hooper Van House & Company to audit the Russell Court records for the year 2016, and

WHEREAS, at a board meeting on May 16th 2017 Tom Peet (CPA) presented the audit report for the 2016 Town Justice books,

THEREFORE, the Russell Town Board accepted the auditor's report of the Justice records for the 2016 year as presented.

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

NAYS - 0 Motion carried

The highway superintendent stated Rodney Bristol was retiring July 31st and that he would like to hire Tyler Bristol to start on August 1st he stated he did not want another winter like this last one with a man down. He asked if the board had any concerns.

Councilors White and Whiteford stated they are against the hiring of another man they do not see the need.

Councilor White stated he talked to a number of people who said you told them if the town did away with winter maintenance on county roads you would not hire another man. Superintendent White stated he has never said that. He did away with county roads because the town was losing money on them.

Councilor Whiteford discussed the cost of another man. Mr. White stated the tax payers would only see a savings 1 year if he did not hire another man.

Councilor White stated why couldn't you do 2 three men shifts instead of 3 two men shifts in the winter.

Councilors Burnham and Kerr are for hiring Tyler Bristol.

Harvey Thomas stated that Tyler has the experience and on the FD side the roads are good now.

RESOLUTION # 56 Authorizing the HWY Superintendent to hire Tyler Bristol

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

Therefore, Authorizing the Highway Superintendent to hire Tyler Bristol to replace Rodney Bristol starting August 1st 2017

Ayes – 3 Burnham, Best, Kerr

Nays – 2 White, Whiteford

Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM

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

Nays-0 Carried

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk

