

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @6:00pm**  
**08/15/2017**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Bobby Knox  
Mike Solon  
Harvey Thomas  
Tomarrah Averill  
Larry Denesha  
Mike Perry

The pledge of allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Supervisor Best

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None**

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham  
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford  
To accept the minutes from 07/18 as presented by the Town Clerk  
Ayes-5 White, Burnham, Best, Whiteford, Kerr  
Nays-0 motion carried

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 08/15/2017**

July Report:	
18 dog licenses	\$102.00
Hunting licenses commission	9.70
2 Marriage License Comm.	15.00
3 Certified copies	30.00
7 Building permits	175.00
1 impoundment fee	<u>10.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$341.70
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	28.00
NYS Department of Health	45.00
Decals	<u>470.30</u>

Total Disbursed \$885.00

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-0 motion carried

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:**

- A men's softball tournament is the weekend of the 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT: 08/15/2017**

Financial Reports

- The details of all income and expense transactions for July have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- The account balances as of 7/31/2017 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.

2. Budget Modifications - none

3. Sales Tax. The third quarter sales tax check is for \$ 84,493. That is \$ 4,200 more than budgeted and \$3,380 higher than last quarter.

4. Worker's Compensation. The towns share of the Compensation Fund will increased by \$786 (2%). This is due to a change in how liability is calculated. Liability will be based 100% on the actual claims. This replaces the previous calculation which was based on 50 % of the town's assessed value and 50 % experience. We can expect the county to establish a system of inspectors and consultants to work with the compensation members. The goal is to increase safety and prevent injury, thus lowering our liability.

5. Class Action Case

- There may be a class action law suit in which the Town could be a claimant. From my reading of the court document I do not think we have an actual claim. The claim would cover the purchase of any financial instruments by the town between August 2007 and May 2010. The town attorney is looking into the matter, trying to obtain additional information.

6. Bridge - design for water line

- Engineer wants to know if Russell is likely to put in a water line across the river within the next 30 years. If yes then the bridge will be designed to carry water across the river.

7. The electrical connection of the DC power from the solar panels to the AC power used by National Grid was damaged. It happened the night of the major lightning strikes we had. Fourth Coast, the company that designed the solar system and worked with us in installing it, was willing to make the repairs as part of their warranty. The repairs were done quickly. We lost one day of production. This is very generous of Fourth Coast

since it is entirely possible that the problem was caused by the electrical storm.  
Robert Best  
Town Supervisor

- The board feels when the bridge is being done they may as well design it for a water line because some day it may be needed.
- The solar panels have been up almost 5 years and this is the first issue with them.

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

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

Nays - 0 Motions carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Harvey Thomas**

- I got info from the 5K walk and it raised over \$1,000.00 and there are 12 Fire Department personnel receiving the benefits at this time.
- On September 16<sup>th</sup> is the FD picnic we would like board members to come.
- We had an incident with the purple truck someone backed into it.

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 Superintendent Report: 08/15/2017 \* Larry White**

We have replaced pipes on Lazy River, West, White, Fordham Hill, North Woods and Blanchard Hill and 2 on the Hill and Cassidy roads.

We have cut brush & weeds around all guide rails and bridge rails.

We have used the Excavator to cut brush on the Curtis & 2 sections of Silver Hill North as well as at our pit entrance for visibility. We followed up on the Curtis & Silver Hill with the chipper to clean up larger debris.

We have also removed brush on a section of the West & a section of Fordham Hill roads.

We removed approximately 100 ft of road on Fordham Hill & added a lift to improve the grade in prep for 2018 paving.

We have added gravel & graded the seasonal section of the Cook & Forbes & Burnell roads.

The heavy rains on 7/24 flooded several areas; 2 places the shoulders were washed out on the down side & the most damage was done on the Lazy River road where the wash outs went under the pavement; these sections have been cut out & removed & filled in with gravel. Soon we will be repaving these sections. Other areas had only minor wash outs

Rocky's last day was 7/31/17. He has been a great employee & a great asset to me as well. We wish him well in his retirement.

Tyler started on 8/1/17 and his experience with the county tells me he will be a good employee for us.

We have both wood sheds full & wood ready outside for winter; as well as more on hand.

This has been a busy month with good results & I thank the men for their efforts.

Larry handed in a check from Timm's Salvage for scrap metal for \$147.32

- Councilor Whiteford asked Larry about the stuff that was put out for auction back in the spring; Larry stated he gave the check to Bob \$7,537.00 he received it on 8/1/17 Bob stated it will be on the next financial statements.
- Larry stated that the monument markers at the Balsam Cemetery have been put up right now.

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

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

Nays-0 Motion carried.

#### **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Larry White**

- We discussed the 2018 prep work and the work we are doing on the other end of the Fordham Hill rd.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr too accept the Highway Committee report as presented.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

#### **LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha**

- Bob already went over the workers Comp for Russell
- The Resolution on the communication surcharge failed on 8/7
- Info on J&L: we were awarded \$500,000 for clean up and we just got an additional \$75,000 from the State. The cleanup is almost complete.

- In 2018 there will probably be a change in the way the tax sale auction will be done. It will be done online with registration and bidding. It should draw a wider range of bidders. There will be a buyer's premium and it will be at no cost to the county it will save \$10,000 - \$12,000 a year for the county.
- Harvey asked if when the 911 was done did they applied a surcharge; Larry said yes on land lines.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT:** David Whiteford

- I have heard nothing on the Blueway Trails.
- Two weeks ago today Bonnie Howard and I retagged trails with the right colors and we are still working on that as time allows us to.
- Tim is finishing up the plans for the dock and I will fill out the paperwork and Bob will have to sign it so we can send it to Watertown.
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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 # 59\*** Audit Report-Robert Best & Sandy Burnham

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize paying the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	202 - 227	\$ 8,267.64
Highway	146 - 155	\$ 18,554.81
Capital Improvements	-	.00
Fire Protection	none	\$0.00
Street Lights	8	<u>\$601.14</u>
	total:	\$27,423.59

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

- Bob stated the Fire tax has been paid to the Fire Department.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Harvey asked if the CEO could do something about the property on CR 21 that burned a couple years ago we saw some young adults coming out of it. It should

be brought to the owner's attention that it needs to be boarded up to keep people out of it because of the danger. Bob stated he can check with the town attorney also on the matter.

A core sample was done down at the old Parkers gas station.

Harvey got a call from WWNY news they are going to do a special on Carl Hull. Larry stated he wanted to thank the Fire department for the use of the truck to wash out the ditches and drain grates on the hill and on the pipes on Fordham Hill rd.

**NEW BUSINESS: none**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor White to adjourn the meeting @ 6:45 pm

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

Nays - 0 Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by  
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk