

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm**  
**02/20/2018**

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor White  
Councilor Burnham  
Councilor Averill  
Tess Eells – Town Clerk  
Councilor Kerr- absent  
Councilor Whiteford  
Highway Superintendent White

**GUESTS:**

Bobby Knox  
Alice Hance  
Morris Jeffries  
Brenda Hale  
Dennis Griffin  
Bradley Griffin  
Deb Hickox  
Harold Cook  
Larry Denesha  
Mike Solon

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- We did a resolution supporting Amish signs- town tabled it until next month's meeting
- St. Lawrence County is looking for more election inspectors, Tess has some information in her office or call the board of Elections at 315-379-2203
- The sales tax for 2017 came in over what was budgeted in 2016
- We had an audit by the NYS comptroller's office
- We have a new Public Health Director- Dana Maguire, I feel she will be a good fit
- The shared services panel will meet in March
- J&L funding is in place for phase 2 there will be a site visit in March; and we hope to do phase 3 this year also; the DEC will be taking a larger role in this after the EPA is done.
- Talked about the property tax sales in St. Lawrence County

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

Ayes – 4     Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays – 0     Motion carried

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** none

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 01/16/2018 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays-0 motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT:**

**January Report:**

23 dog licenses	\$128.00
Hunting licenses commission	5.52
2 Certified copies	20.00
0 Building permits	.00
0 marriage licenses	.00
0 impoundment fee	.00
3 donations for community room use	<u>45.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$198.52
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	35.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>94.48</u>

Total Disbursed \$ 328.00

I have collected 68.97% of the taxes \$1,148,217.41 as of 02/08/2017. I have also finished paying the supervisor the town warrant and now sending money to the county treasurer.

A motion was made by Councilor Averill  
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford  
To accept the Clerk Report as presented  
Ayes-4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford  
Nays-0 Motion carried

**BALLFIELD COMMITTEE:**

- Sandy Burnham stated that the ice in the ice rink is uneven. Larry stated that the 2x6 were done even so it must be due to thawing and freezing issues and not being filled to the top.

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Timothy White

Financial Reports

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.

-Account balances as of Feb 20, 2018 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.  
-Qtr. 1 of sales tax came in around \$1200 above budget.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Burnham accept the supervisor report as presented.

Ayes-4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays-0 Motion carried

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: N/A**

## **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 02/20/2018 \* Larry White**

Most of our time has been on snow & ice; on January 22<sup>nd</sup> during the freezing rain we had 3 trucks off the road. 1 was halfway down an embankment on the Hatch road. We want to thank the Reeds for their help with their excavator that was in the area. There was only minor damage to the truck; airline and spring shackle.

We had to replace the plow on the 2012 pickup. The old one was beyond repairs and the 2017 was at Blevins Ford for a water pump replacement under warranty. I thank the men for their efforts.

Handed in a check for \$192.10 from Timm's Salvage for scrap metal

## **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- We went over the upcoming CHIPS projects
- We went over the road projects for this summer

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

Ayes – 4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays – 0 Motion carried

## **HORSE TRAILS REPORT: David Whiteford**

- Nothing to report on this at this time

## **BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: David Whiteford**

- On February 13<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting and went over signage. SUNY Canton will design the signs for us to look at and approve.
- I need a copy of the bill for the other signs that were done and also a picture of the county signs. We may be able to get reimbursed for them.
- We need to order the materials for the dock so we can get at it first thing in the spring.
- 

A motion was made by Councilor Averill and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept both reports as presented.

Ayes – 4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays – 0      Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 30\*** Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandy Burnham

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

Audit Committee Report  
February 20, 2018

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	33 - 67	\$50,880.29
Highway	15- 31	\$32,514.00
Capital Highway Improvements	1	5,150.00
Fire Protection	1-2	\$87,181.00
Street Lights	2	\$944.16

Ayes-4    Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays-0    motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 31**      **DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize the Highway Superintendent to appoint a Deputy Highway Superintendent for 2018 at the pay of \$1050.00 per year.

Ayes – 4    Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays – 0    Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 32**      **SALARIES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Averill to set the salaries of all elected and non-elected officials as follows for 2018:

SUPERVISOR: \$9,986    - Timothy White  
DEPUTY SUPERVISOR -\$213.00 –  
CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR: \$27,147– Tess Eells  
HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT: \$48,566- Larry White  
DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT:\$1050.00 per year Sid Bristol  
MUNICIPAL JUDGE: \$ 10,739 – Terry Friot  
BOARD MEMBERS (each) \$1,787 – Charlie Kerr, Sandy Burnham and David Whiteford, Tomorra Averill  
ASSESSOR: \$16,642 – Amy Hunt  
BOOKKEEPER: \$6,830- Brenda Hale  
DCO: \$4,428 – Jack White  
HISTORIAN: \$1,120 – Natalie Pitcher

REGISTRAR of VITAL STATISTICS: \$305- Tess Eells  
CEO: \$9,498 – Ike Guyette  
BUDGET OFFICER: \$2,729 – Timothy White  
DEPUTY TOWN CLERKS: \$ 11.53 per hour –Sandy Tyo & Shammie Robinson  
CUSTODIAN WORKER: \$ 11.60 per hour - Sid Bristol Jr. & Darryn Dygert  
COURT CLERK: \$ 11.94 per hour – Erin Whitmarsh  
TOWN ATTORNEY: \$ 180.00 per hour - Henry Leader  
Ayes- 4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford  
Nays- 0 Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 33 Support of St. Lawrence County Bridge-NY Application and Authorization of Temporary Construction Easement**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to:

**WHEREAS**, the lazy river Bridge over the Grasse River in the Town of Russell, BIN 3341820, is in dire need of replacement, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Russell supports the County’s Bridge-NY application for replacement of said bridge, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Russell will issue a temporary construction easement to the county over the Town right-a-way for the bridge and the vicinity,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that this resolution will take effect immediately and a certified copy shall be sent to the St. Lawrence County Superintendent of Highways.

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

**RESOLUTION # 34 \* 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 Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Averill,

**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 loss 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: 4 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford

Nays: 0 Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 35 AGREEMENT TO SPEND TOWN HIGHWAY FUNDS**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Russell Town Board authorizes pursuant the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that money's levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, and received from the State for the repair and improvements of highways, shall be expended as follows:

- General Repairs: The sum of \$229,584.00 may be expended for general repairs upon 77 miles of Town Highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the removal thereof.

**THEREFORE**, signed by all board members and Highway superintendent and this agreement will take effect when it is filed with the County Superintendent of Highways.

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

**RESOLUTION # 36**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Averill to:

**ESTABLISHING THE COLD WAR VETERAN’S EXEMPTION- RP 458 b**

**WHEREAS**, the State of New York has been amended to add RP-458 b of the Real property tax law, and

**WHEREAS**, RP-485 b establishes the property tax exemption for Cold War Veteran’s, and

**WHEREAS**, a local law of adoption is required to provide for such exemption

**THEREFORE**, the Russell Town Board authorizes the Town Lawyer to draw up the local law pertaining to this exemption.

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

- Supervisor White appoints Natalie Pitcher as the Town Historian
- Supervisor White appoints Tomorra Averill to the Highway Committee
- Supervisor White will remove Harvey Thomas from the Ball field committee.
- Councilor Whiteford was informed that the highway men are asked to plow one way and then Larry plows the other way on the roads; Larry stated it has been done that way every winter.
- Councilor Whiteford asked the highway superintendent if the men have a wheel saddle for when the men remove hubs for safety. Larry will price one.
- Morris Jeffries asked about Horse and Buggy signs being put on Blanchard Hill road. Larry will talk to the men at the sign shop on that.

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Averill to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 pm all were in favor

Respectfully submitted by  
Town Clerk – Tess Eells