

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
09/17/2019

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Amy Hunt
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries
Dennis Griffin
John Stransky
Terry Friot
George Dodds

Pledge:

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

GEORGE DODDS:

- I have bought the Wayside Tavern and will be opening soon I am waiting on liquor license to come.
- It will be called Wayside Roadhouse
- I live in Edwards and I managed a bar 40 years ago

JOHN STRANSKY:

- I am from Hermon Rescue and I am checking on where Russell stands with contracting with us.
- Supervisor White met with them and discussed a contract but the board felt they were not informed about it all yet.
- There was more discussion about EVAC and CPR qualifications for drivers.
- The HWY Superintendent offered his men to help when they are available.
- John stated an impact report from all towns involved will be done and Hermon Rescue will show all financial information with the towns.
- It will be a 1-year contract to see how the program goes with a full time EMT on duty.
- Supervisor White stated it will be a \$4,000 increase but it will be beneficial to the town.
- John stated there will be a training day.
- The EMT will be placed by an Agency not Hermon. Hermon will sign a contract with the Agency, and someone will always be there on call.
- Hermon has 7 after hour EMTs
- Terry Friot asked about DeGrasse and Clare. Clare contracts with Canton.

RESOLUTION # 53 Hermon Rescue Contract for 1 year

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford **THEREFORE**, the Russell Town Board will authorize a contract with Hermon Rescue for a One (1) year contract to make available emergency services for the residents of Russell.

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

MORRIS JEFFRIES:

- I would like to see the vegetable sign down at the intersection of Blanchard Hill and CR 24 be either raised or lowered it is hard to see oncoming traffic.
- Superintendent White will address the issue.

AMY HUNT(Assessor)

- I started 2 years ago, and I will be certified at the end of November.
- There has been changes to the STAR program the state is taking over a lot of it now. You can make up to about \$86,000 to be eligible for the Enhanced STAR. New homeowners need to call the State or go online to sign up for STAR the local assessor does not do that now.
- Larry White stated he thinks the assessor does a good job and is easy to work with.
- If anyone needs to talk to the assessor give her a call at 315-244-6800.

TERRY FRIOT (Justice)

- I just wanted the board to know the work will be starting on the courthouse from the JCAP grant. I will be having the Handi-cap ramp redone with composite material and the back door replaced.
- I am also asking the board to do a resolution so I can apply for another JCAP grant for the 2109-2020 grant cycle. I would like to have siding done and windows replaced.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept the minutes from 08/20/19 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 09/17/19

August Report:

26 dog licenses	194.00
Hunting licenses commission	99.73
16 Certified copies	160.00
7 Building permits	175.00
2 Marriage Licenses	15.00
0 impoundment fees	.00

Fax & copy money	.00
0 donations	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$643.73
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	56.00
NYS Department of Health	45.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>1,760.27</u>
Total Disbursed	\$2,505.00

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Superintendent White stated that something more needs to be done about the parking at the field, some vehicles were sticking out in the roadway. The issue will be looked at more in the spring.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White

Financial Reports

- The details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- The account balances as of September 17, 2019 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and St. Lighting Funds have been filed with the Town Clerk.

I would like to start meeting with the department heads in the next couple of weeks to discuss the budget and be able to come up with a tentative budget.

I would like to move the October meeting to the fourth Tuesday that would be October 22, 2019

RESOLUTION # 54 Rescheduling October board meeting

A motion was made by Councilor Averill and seconded by Councilor Whiteford
THEREFORE, the Town Board authorizes changing the October Board meeting from October 15th to October 22nd at 6:00 Pm at the Russell Town Hall.

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

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- The State wants the County to do the AIM money out of the sales tax.
- The St. Lawrence county treasurers report for 2018 audit is complete with no discrepancies. We have a good fund balance.
- We had 4 applicants for the EMS Director position. We have selected a person, but I can't say who yet.
- Tax sale was 9/14/19
- Keith Zimmerman has retired.
- The Town Supervisors will meet to discuss the winter maintenance we will have a representative there.
- A discussion about the Supreme Court rulings on Hazardous intersections was held. A few town roads were discussed that could fall under that category and should be resolved in the future.
- We are doing sales tax negotiations with the City of Ogdensburg. The Towns will get the same funding.
- The Towns will get there AIM funds, but we will take it out of county sales tax revenue.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

RUSSELL FD: Sandy and Bobby

- We had our Chicken BBQ it went well
- We had the FD painted and new signs made. We still want to have the outbuildings painted.
- We must fix the roof on the FD.
- We have a Spaghetti dinner coming up

DEGRASSE FD: N/A

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 09/17/2019 * Larry White

We have completed our reconstruction projects on the Lazy River road. We have increased visibility at the White road intersection from approximately 150 ft to 750 ft.

We have cut shoulders on the Lazy River, North Woods and White roads and added the material to the shoulders as needed for the fill areas.

We have removed trees on the Backus, Forbes and Cassidy roads.
 We have replaced pipes on the Pyrites – Russell, Lazy River, Hill, Blanchard and Belleville roads. The pipe on the Belleville road was to increase size to prevent another washout we had earlier.
 We have added gravel and graded the gravel roads as needed and patched paved roads.
 I will go over the information I have so far on the Spicer road bridge and its red flag inspection.
 We have worked with Edwards, Hermon and Dekalb and they helped us truck in fill for our projects.
 We will be working on our areas to pave today.
 We continue to mow roadsides as time allows.
 This has been a busy month with good results, and I thank the men.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Larry White

The Spicer road bridge has been red flagged, it has 3 pipe crossings. I met with Don Chambers and Andy Willard and the DEC to go over options for the bridge. They suggest putting in a new sleeve. I would like to do a reconstruction of the bridge because it has a poor alignment with Plumb Brook soon. I got prices on galvanized pipe to sleeve the worst pipe. I would like to ask the board for funding to address this issue.
 Supervisor White stated there is money in the fund balance that could be used for the pipe and the core drilling. We can budget \$20,000.00 to cover it.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Averill to accept the HWY Superintendent and HWY Committee reports.
 Ayes – 5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
 Nays – 0 Motion carried

HORSE TRAILS AND BLUEWAY TRAILS REPORT: David Whiteford

- Deb Christy did some trail work on 09/14/19 I was not available to help.
- I have nothing on the Blueway Trail as of now.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Averill to accept the report as presented.
 Ayes – 5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
 Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 55* Audit Report-Timothy White & Tomorra Averill

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	119 - 219	\$ 9,827.24
Highway	125 - 136	\$ 18,317.49

Capital Improvements	-	\$.00
Streetlights	9		\$650.45
Grand Total:			

Ayes-5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
 Nays-0 motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Nancy Bessette will be stepping down from maintenance and Linda Walrath will be replacing her to clean the Town Hall, Court House and Library/Museum.
- Bobby Knox stated that work needs to be done on fence at ball field.
- Sandy Burnham asked if the town could help with hanging up Christmas Decorations this year.

RESOLUTION # 56 Court JCAP Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham
 Seconded by Councilor Whiteford

THEREFORE, the Russell Town Board authorizes the Russell Town Court to apply for a JCAP Grant in the 2019-2020 grant cycle for work on the Town of Russell Court House.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Averill to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm

Ayes-5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
 Nays-0 motion carried

Respectfully submitted by Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk

