

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
03/17/2020

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Dennis Griffin
Greg Given

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

The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: nothing

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Averill
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford
To accept the minutes from 02/18/20 as presented by the Town Clerk
Ayes-5 Averill, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 03/17/2020

February Report:

6 dog licenses	24.00
Hunting licenses commission	1.38
1 marriage licenses	7.50
7 Certified copies	70.00
0 Building permits	.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	50.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$152.88</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	6.00
NYS Department of Health	22.50
Decals	23.62

Total Disbursed \$205.00

As of 03/10/2020 I have collected 73.88 % of the taxes \$1,364,116.36

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 03/17/2020 Timothy White

Financial Report:

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of March 17, 2020 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.
- I am looking at a grant for a new plow truck. I will go over the details with the Board if this is something they want to look at doing.
 - It will be a USDA grant to finance with a 2.9% interest rate with no early pay off penalties. I feel if we put \$35,000 from the fund balance each year will cover the payment. I will have the rest of the paperwork for the next meeting. The board agrees a new truck is needed. Highway Superintendent White stated he is against spending that amount of money on a new truck.
 - In light of the Corona virus I would like to cancel all activities in the community room. I would also like to get some input from the board as to some other precautions we can take to keep the community safe.
 - We will close all the Town offices to the public as of 3/18 until further notice. She will be open 8:00 Am to noon for calls, mail etc. The Town Clerk/Tax collector has a drop mail slot on her door for tax payments to be dropped off into.
 - The Court has been closed and adjourned till further notice
 - The Russell Public Library is closed until further notice
 - The community room is closed till further notice
 - We will close the highway down
 - Everyone on highway will still get paid there 40 hour week
 - I will post this information on the radio and send an email to North Country now.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to close all of the above until further notice.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford accepting the supervisor's report.

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Larry is glad the board is taking action to help with the Corona virus
- The County is doing what they can also their employees will be paid but with no sick time
- We have no confirmed cases in St. Lawrence County at this time
- I have been sending updates as they come into Supervisors and clerks
- Meals are still be delivered to seniors out of the Office of the Aged. If other seniors are in need please contact them so they can help you out.
- WE had a meeting Monday to discuss how to handle this situation. Emergency services has been bomb barded with calls. We are not sure what the cost will be when this is over.
- County Treasurer gave a report last evening- interest in 2017 was \$28,000 in 2018 \$142,000 and 2019 \$668,000
- There will be no free tire disposal this year
- The property tax sale will be at the Golden Dome in Ogdensburg on September 12th.
- Governor closed all restaurants and bars

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Greg Given

- All meetings are cancelled till further notice
- We trained on respirators
- Our Chicken BBQ is cancelled
- We had 5 fire related calls last month
- The school lunches will be handed out at the Fire Department first of the month

DeGrasse: nothing

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

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

HIGHWAY SUPEINTENDENT REPORT: Larry White

We have put the used oil furnace together except for the chimney. The fuel oil that was in the barn tank was pumped in at the Town Hall and Court House. We also extended the containment tank for the fuel oil tank to fit the oil burner.

We have cut trees on the Lafaver and Boyd Pond roads.

We have stripped the ledges on the Boyd Pond road project and have them drilled. We are scheduled to blast on Wednesday. This is called off now.

We have moved the Athney loader in for some repairs and adjustments.

We have received our last salt order for a total of 334 tons. Down approximately 30 ton from last winter.

We have been patching roads as time allows and started sweeping some of the roads with heavy buildup.

I thank the men for a job well done throughout the winter.

Councilor Whiteford asked if highway department puts out Ash Borer traps. Larry stated the DEC does that. We only report the trees we cut down that are ash trees.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HORSE TRAILS REPORT: David Whiteford

- David attended the Ash Borer meeting in Canton. If you have an Ash Tree in your yard infected with the ash borer the National Grid will come cut it down for you.
- Ms. Ashley has not been available when I stop in to see what is going on with the blue Way Trail.
- We should get the dock put in now that the ice is gone.

GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: David Whiteford

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 34* Audit Report-Timothy White & Tomorrah Averill

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	# 57 – 80	\$10,321.63
Highway	# 38 – 62	\$35,766.03
Capital Improvement	# 0	
Street Lights	# 3	<u>\$ 733.90</u>

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

- Councilor Burnham stated Ike Guyette (CEO) fell and injured his hip and is now back in the hospital.
- Superintendent White stated that Gabe Hogle is done work on 03/20 and I will be replacing him with Jeffrey Coller.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 6:30 pm

All were in favor

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk

