

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm**  
**09/15/2020**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Bobby Knox  
  
Larry Denesha

**Pledge:**

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

Tess Eells:

- Linda Walrath asked me to ask the board if she can hold a craft fair in the Town Hall on November 7<sup>th</sup>. The board stated as long as she followed the guidelines.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 08/18/2020 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 09/15/2020**

August Report:

18 dog licenses	96.00
Hunting licenses commission	125.83
9 Certified copies	90.00
6 Bldg Permits	150.00
4 Marriage Licenses	30.00
0 impoundment fees	.00
Fax & copy money	.00
0 donations	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$491.83</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	26.00
NYS Department of Health	90.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>2,155.17</u>
Total Disbursed	\$2,763.00

A motion was made by Councilor Averill  
Seconded by Councilor Burnham  
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 he talked with Matt Scott and they feel the fence along right field needs to be replaced and if the town bought the fence then Matt would get some men together and put the fence up.
- Councilor Whiteford asked about how much it would cost. Supervisor White looked on the internet for approximate cost and it would be about \$90.00 a 25-foot roll for chain link fence and it will take about 250 feet. There is enough money in Playgrounds and recreation to cover the cost.

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Timothy White

1. Financial Report
  - Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
  - Account balances as of September 15, 2020 for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and Street Light Fund have been filed with the Town Clerk.
  - I have started the paperwork for the grant on the new plow truck; I am waiting on Jon to finish the annual audit to finish the paperwork. I talked to the bank on Friday they gave me the man's number to get the loan on the truck until the loan goes through.

Town Supervisor  
Timothy White

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr 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

- COVID- as of today there were 2 new cases 307 total to date with 7 active cases and 296 released from isolation. As of September 14<sup>th</sup> there have been 51,549 tested.
- We had a audit report on 8/21 for 2019 books and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row they had no findings. We were complimented on our unappropriated fund being at 21 million and in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 the property tax has remained flat.
- Vacancy Revue Process: this is when a position is vacant and the department has to come before a board and they review why they feel the position needs to be filled and the board determines if it needs to be or

not. In 2019-2020 we saved 1 million 600 thousand dollars doing it this way.

- We talked about a potential reduction from NYS for Social Services by 20%. The county will have to make up for the shortfall from the fund balance.
- Sales tax: this quarter is down, and Mayor Skelly sent out a letter to town supervisors to support him in getting more sales tax. Supervisor White stated he talked to others and sure it will lower the town taxes but then the county will have to raise taxes. Larry is asking the board not to support Ogdensburg with this change. The board feels it is fine how it is.
- Larry asked if anybody has seen the intersection by Hermon Dekalb school and what they think of it.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr 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 are having a spaghetti dinner on October 3<sup>rd</sup> it will be take out only
- We are having a turkey dinner on November 3<sup>rd</sup> take out only
- We are having a chicken BBQ on December 5<sup>th</sup> till gone with take out only
- We may have a chicken BBQ in January
- Councilor Whiteford asked how the FD is doing financially. Sandy stated they are doing good. She said she was trying to see if Sen. Blankenbush or Sen. Griffio could help with some work on the Station that needs to be done. We need the flooring fixed and a new furnace is needed.

DEGRASSE FD: N/A

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

#### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 09/15/2020 \* Larry White**

We have been grading and adding materials to gravel roads as needed.

We have been cutting brush around road signs and replaced several signs.

We have started screening sand; we have a broken belt in the motor and are looking for parts to repair it.

We have completed drilling for Pierrepont.

We are mowing roadsides as time allows.

We have split and stacked all the firewood we had on hand and will be putting up more.

We have patched all roads as needed and repaired several areas washed out along the edges.

The men are now using their vacation time.

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

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Larry White

I also got a price from Kelly services for repairs on a garage door of \$2,370.00.

There is money in Garage and pit to do the repairs.

We are cutting some dead trees

We went over the road projects we did this year and discussed next year's possible projects.

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

- Nothing on horse trails.
- I need pictures of the dock to send in with final papers to the DEC.
- The dock will come out around October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 # 50\*** Audit Report-Timothy White & Tomorrah Averill

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	176 - 197	\$10,461.79
Highway	141 - 155	\$23,379.37
Capital Improvements	5 - 7	\$77,463.69
Streetlights	9	\$629.90

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

Nays-0    motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION** # 51 Court 2019 Audit

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham

Seconded by Councilor Averill

**WHEREAS**, the Russell Town Board hired Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper Van House & Company to do an audit on the Russell Town Court 2029 records.

**THEREFORE**, the Russell Town Board awaits the final findings for the 2019 year.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

The Board said to do the warranty on the new truck.

Larry asked do we do the pipe on the Town Line RD or does Canton. Tim said to go ahead and do it.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm

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

Nays-0 motion carried

Respectfully submitted by Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk