

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ the Russell Town Hall 04/20/2021 @ 6:00 pm

PRESENT:

Supervisor White – absent
Councilor Burnham
Councilor Beachard
Tess Eells – Town Clerk
Councilor Kerr
Councilor Whiteford - absent
Highway Superintendent White
Deputy Supervisor Hale

GUESTS:

Tammy Carlin
Chris Bradford
Jacob Rowley
Bobby Knox
Larry Trombly
Larry Denesha
Dennis Griffin
Bradley Griffin
Emma Paolino

Pledge

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Emma Paolino: Project Developer for US Light Energy

- She stated that she has a proposed Solar facility on 1040 CR 21 it is a 97-acre parcel, and they will have a 15 acre solar farm on it.
- It will be a community solar farm.
- Subscribers can participate and it can be applied to credit on their bills.
- An agreement is done for the ones hosting the solar farm.
- The solar development must go on the utility grid.
- We work with the local CEO he gave us 15 ft side setbacks and a 30 ft front set back.
- There will be a 7 ft fence with a locked gate with high voltage warning signs on it.
- The arrays stand 15 ft off the ground. With a 20 ft wide gravel road.
- Larry White stated the town has their own solar system.
- This array will be a single tilt array. It is a small farm that will produce 2.38 megawatts.
- Larry White asked how it effects taxes and assessment?
- Emma stated the developer pays the taxes on their portion.
- We do a Pilot agreement at the County level.
- Our firm partners with civil engineers from NY. We have certified plans that are stamped by NYS.
- If the Solar farm ceases to exist everything is completely removed.
- We go and talk to the town first to get started.
- Larry Denesha (County Legislature) suggested the town refer them to talk to the IDA and St. Lawrence County Planning Office.
- The Board agreed with Larry Denesha on this.
- Chris Bradford asked if a cost is projected?

- Emma stated it is no cost to join and a 10-15% savings on electric bill.
- Tammy Carlin asked how many can join? Emma stated a farm this size could serve around 2-3 hundred homes.
- Larry Trombly asked where the nearest sub-station is to it? Emma stated she was not sure, but she would find out for the next meeting.
- Larry asked can we get a list of other farms around here? Emma stated there is one in Lowville owned by an investor, we are out of Latham, NY.
- If approved, it would be constructed within 3-4 months.
- We do contract locally for some of the work.
- The board agrees that the St. Lawrence County IDA and Planning Office should be in with the planning. Emma Will get the contact info from Larry Denesha.
- Emma stated she will be coming again throughout the process.
- The Board thanked her for her presentation.

Tammy Carlin, Chris Bradford and Jacob Rowley: Ballfield:

- Tammy stated for the PeeWee kids, that the upper field and 2 lower fields need some work done on them.
Benches need to be replaced.
New back stops
Dugouts built.
Work on the bases
And another shed for storage.
A concession stand would be nice.
Bathrooms replaced eventually.
- I spoke with Tim earlier today and we would like to start some things now and some would have to be done after the games are over.
- Tim stated they will be rolling the fields on Friday. This should help out with the dips and holes.
- We discussed in long term of having bathrooms put back in down there.
- Tim and Matt Scott already budgeted \$1500 to get new fencing and will use old fence on the Cutt's field.
- Jacob stated updates to the fields would be proper dirt in the in-fields and break away bases are safer.
- Larry White said the highway men can help when available. He will supply the dirt needed if it is what they want. The fence needs to be trenched and buried again. Larry will have Darryn look at the lights that are not working.
- Chris stated that the bases need re-measuring and straightened out.
- Tammy is asking the board to help with funding all these items.
- Councilor Burnham asked for costs for these items.
Benches: \$700 each and we need 7
Dugouts: 8ft x 30ft for 6 total \$5000.00 - \$6000.00.
Backstops installed: \$5000.00.
- Larry White stated they will look at backstops and see if they can tighten them up to work for now.

- Tammy stated she wants to buy a new grill out of the children’s REC funds. The board made a motion to allow Tammy to purchase it and will be reimbursed from the Children’s REC fund, all board members agreed.
- Larry White suggested turning a corner of the pavilion into a concession stand, the electric is already there. The highway department will help when they can. The board will need a cost proposal for the concession stand also.
- Tammy wants to go over the ballfield committee list and if they are not active they can get people who would be.
- The board thanked them for coming.

The Town Board will Special Board Meeting on April 27, 2021 at 6:00 Pm to discuss the finances for the ballfield requests.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 03/16/2021 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 04/20/2021

March 2021 Report:

15 dog licenses	\$60.00
Hunting licenses commission	11.24
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
7 Certified copies	70.00
3 Building permits	75.00
1 Town Hall Donation	50.00
0 impoundment fee	.00
Copy & fax money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$266.24</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	15.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>808.76</u>
Total Disbursed	\$1090.00

As of 04/08/21 I have collected 85.83% of the taxes \$1,595,963.93.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard

Seconded by Councilor Kerr

To accept the Clerk Report as presented

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays-0 carried

BALL FIELD REPORT: already done above.

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisor White

1. Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- Account balances as of April 20, 2021 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- I have signed the engagement letters with Pinto for our annual audit.
- The Peewees have begun practices and I had AJ's Portables place port-a-pots at the fields.
- Our small mower is worn out and I have got prices coming for a replacement. I will get them to the board as soon as they come in.

A motion was made by Council Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Supervisor report as presented by Supervisor White. Read by Deputy Supervisor Hale.

Ayes- 4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays-0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- COVID: as of today, 19 new cases total cases to date 7047 since it started 9 in the hospital. 135 active cases but 1 month ago there were 540 cases active, so we are doing much better.
- Vaccination cards- save them in case a booster is needed, take a picture of them, and carry them with you.
- Gov. Cuomo extended the Pause till May 6th.
- DANC survey will be done on 4/30 we had 1500 surveys done, 11% have no internet service access and 34% say they are unable to get the speed they need.
- The CR 27 bridge in DeGrasse will begin work in June and should end in November. They will widen it by 4 feet. The Dutton road bridge will have pre-cast beams.
- A resolution was done on April 5th so we can get the salt bid at \$75.00 a ton. The county used 11-hundred-ton last year.
- There is an additional 100 million for CHIPS.
- Extreme Winter money was restored.
- Sales tax first quarter 2021 is 6.6% over first quarter in 2020.
- The Lazy River bridge might be another year yet.

- The historical bridge in Parishville is being replaced so the ATV bridges will be taken out and we would like to put one on the Lafaver road bridge. Could I get a voice vote from the board to do this?

A motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to agree to have a ATV bridge installed on to the Lafaver road bridge to allow ATV/snowmobile/UTV usage to be able to access the Multi-use trails.

Burnham – yes

Beachard -yes

Hale – yes

Kerr – yes motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Bobby stated we had a ham dinner last Saturday we had 20 people.

DeGrasse: None

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Fire Department report as presented.

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays-0 Motion Carried

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 04/20/2021 * Larry White

We have cut trees on the North Woods, Grandy, Lazy River, Fordham, Blanchard and Belleville roads.

We now have both woodsheds full and approximately 20 cords still outside.

We have stripped the plows and sand equipment and washed everything down and did some paint touch-ups.

All roads have been swept and bridges cleaned.

We have been through all roads patching and will be going through them again soon.

We have graded and added gravel where needed on all roads.

We have stripped rock on Fordham and Lafaver roads; drilled and will be blasting Wednesday. This will increase visibility on Fordham Hill and drainage on Lafaver roads.

All men have had their MSHA first Aid and CPR classes.

I thank the men for a productive month.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- We had no meeting we are waiting on how much CHIPS money we will get so we can start writing up the work on the roads we want to do.
- Total for Russell will be \$370,000 this year.
- CHIPS: got a 29% increase
- PAVENY: 50% increase
- Extreme Winter: 50% increase
- I will propose to the board finishing the Burnell road, some work on Lazy River Road. Shim work on more roads that are in need, Pyrites-Russell road up to the Smith road 2.8 miles, connect the areas on the Blanchard Hill road down to CR 17.
- I will have more on this for the next meeting.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: David Whiteford - None

RESOLUTION # 35 * Audit

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize the payment of the following bills.

Audit Committee Report
April 20, 2021
Sandy Burnham
Timothy White

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	77 - 94	\$ 8,361.88
Highway	65 – 85	\$ 30,883.80
Capital Improvements		\$.00
Street Lights	4	\$ 724.98

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, Hale, Kerr

Nays-0 Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Larry asked Brenda to make a note for Tim about getting the new Truck ordered.
- The new Broom has not come in yet should be soon.
- Brenda will make a note for Tim that Larry needs new balance sheets.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Larry stated he will be doing some work above the farm he use to live in on Blanchard hill rd. He wants to sheer the hill off or raise the road so it will be easier for the people to see the Amish pulling out.
- The Assessor gave the board a update letter on what she has been doing.
- Chris Davis gave the board a letter stating he will be having a small engine repair shop at his place at 43 Pestle Street road. He will be open with the exception of Tuesday 9am to 7pm and 9am to 3pm Sundays. We offer aftermarket parts for many outdoor power tools. We will only test start equipment and do running adjustments between 10am and 4:30 pm so the noise will not bother neighbors. We also do mobile repairs.

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by
Town Clerk – Tess Eells