

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**05/18/2021**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Larry Denesha  
Bobby Knox  
Matt Scott  
Brenda O'Brien  
Jody Wenzel  
Patrick Kelly  
Toni Trombly  
Larry Trombly  
Dennis Griffin  
Bradley Griffin

**PLEDGE:**

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

**Patrick Kelly** – St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Corporation:

- I am the CEO of the IDA.
- We follow the NYS Municipal Law for tax incentives.
- We provide services for marketing incentives for businesses. We try to draw new businesses to St. Lawrence County.
- The Pilots are taxes in Lieu of taxes. It allows break on taxes for a certain number of years.
- We want to secure the pilots to help Towns and school districts.
- The Real Property Tax Law 487 provides all solar farms a tax incentive. Developers are searching out places for farms to take advantage of the state incentives.
- We have approved 16 solar farms with the IDA Pilot we lease from the developer and sell back to them. We try to bring consistency with all developers. We build in protections for the communities.
- Towns receive Pilot payments from the county.
- We are trying to figure a fair pilot value for all solar farms here in St. Lawrence County. We try and do a 2% increase each year. We try and be fair we are not the highest or the lowest.
- The town will have to agree to the Pilot.
- A downside for us is they are not a big job provider. But the landowners receive revenue for the farms.

- We talk with the Providers to negotiate cost per megawatt and come back to the Towns.
- We will always come back to the town with updates as the projects advance.
- We only do what the Town Board approves.
- Supervisor White asked if the old J&L mines area was for a solar farm? Patrick stated it is going to be a utility scale.
- Is the solar farm in Lisbon about the size of the one projected for here? Patrick stated yes.
- Larry Denesha stated he thought there were more questions asked and not enough answers that is why he suggested the town contacting the IDA.
- Thank you, Patrick, for the information.

**JODY WENZEL:** Director of the St. Lawrence County Risk Management.

- I work with the workman's comp if you have any questions, please contact me I will help anyway I can when you are filing a claim.
- We administer safety audits for towns, I will walk through the facilities and I will look for things that are safety issues. I will send a report on each building to the town. The town will review them; date them when issue is completed and send back to us and we file them. The state likes to see that they are done. We are 3 weeks out in scheduling so we will get a hold of you as soon as we can.
- I will look to see if a workplace violence policy is in place.
- We have all kinds of training for employees; you can reach out if there is a particular training you would like done.
- I am in the process of being an OSHA trainer.
- Thank you, Jody for the information.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 04/20/2021 and 04/27/2021 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 05/18/2021**

April 2021 Report:

43 dog licenses	250.00
Hunting licenses commission	13.69
1 Marriage License Comm.	7.50
3 Certified copies	30.00
3 Building permits	75 .00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community use	.00

Fax and copy money	5.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$381.19
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	69.00
NYS Department of Health	22.50
<u>Decals</u>	<u>286.31</u>
Total Disbursed	\$759.00

As of 05/11/2021 I have collected 88.03% of taxes \$1,636,963.21.

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

**BALLFIELD COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- I ordered the backstops.
- Supervisor White went over the price list for the Ball fields:
- Girls upper field:

200ft of 4ft fence & posts	\$1200.00
Back stop	2700.00.
15ft benches (2) at \$550.00 each	<u>1100.00</u>
	\$5,000.00

Cutt's Field same as above \$5,000.00

Fireman's field:

250 ft fence & posts & quick rete	\$1600.00
Back stop	2700.00.
15 ft benches	<u>1100.00</u>
	\$5400.00

Grand total for fields \$15400.00

BBQ & Bathroom areas:

32'x16'x6' 10 yds concrete	\$1500.00
400' waterline	200.00
2x6x12 -128 for framing	2600.00
88 sheets 7/16 OSB	4050.00
Toilets	600.00
5 sinks	500.00
Misc. water connectors	500.00
500 gal. plastic septic	700.00
100' leach field	<u>800.00</u>
	\$11,450.00

Grand total for all                      \$26,850.00

- After the 4/27 meeting myself and a couple board members went down to look things over and looked at the playground. The playground needs work done on it also. Some people were upset we did not include them.
- Brenda O'Brien asked if the dugouts were not being done? I think if it is hot pop- up canopies could be used. Brenda asked who is paying for all this work? Supervisor White stated it is taxpayer's money. Brenda stated then it is up to the board to decide the cost and what can be done with the money because they oversee the budget.
- Supervisor White stated we (the board) will fix what needs fixing first.
- Matt Scott asked if we checked with the Amish on lumber prices. Tim stated no.
- Supervisor White asked the board if it would be okay to order the fence and benches etc.
- Larry asked about painting the lines at the ball field and putting a line down the sides to keep people parked in farther. Yes, it needs to get done.

**RESOLUTION # 39     Purchasing fence, benches etc.**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr: **Therefore**, the board authorizes the supervisor to order the fence, benches etc. as outlined above to begin fixing up the ball fields and playground area.

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

Nays – 0                      Motion carried

**SUPERVISORS REPORT: 05/18/2021**

1. Financial Report
  - Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
  - Account balances as of May 18, 2021, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the Town Clerk.
  - I have ordered three new back stops for the ball fields, but they have not shipped as of today. I also have some other prices on fencing to get the fences up to snuff and looking nice.
  - I did not do the sealed bid on the mower. I wanted to talk to the board first because the snow blower will go with it, and it will bring more money.
  - Larry stated years ago the walk behind snow blower was kept in the back storeroom at the town hall and the CEO said because of gas it could not be kept in there, so it was sold.
  - Supervisor White stated we will purchase a walk behind self-propelling one and it can be kept in the shed behind the library.

- Does the board want the lawn mower w/ snowblower put on Auction Internationals or do a sealed bid? The board said to do a sealed bid o be opened at next board meeting on June 15, 2021.
- Larry stated he has 2 trucks and the old metal out behind the town barn going on Auctions International. They will put anything on the website to sell.

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

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

Nays-0 Motion Carried

**LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha**

- As of today, we had 11 new COVID cases. 3 are in the hospital.
- On 5/4/21 we passed a resolution to support the NYS law to allow 12- & 13-year-old to hunt big game with a adult. We will hold a Public hearing on June 5<sup>th</sup> for people to voice their opinion on the matter.
- We passed a resolution May 15<sup>th</sup> for National Police Week as a good gesture recognizing our St. Lawrence Law Enforcement.
- CHIP's will be about a 40% increase for Town & Villages above the 15% they get.
- 2 Highway buildings will be getting bids that will be opened on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Potsdam one is on hold.
- The CR 27 bridge will be closed June1st to November 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be widened 4 feet and be paid for with Bridge NY funding.
- The Lazy river bridge will be in 2022 scheduling County will do 5% of the cost.
- The Dutton road bridge will be done in 2022 with county funding. A precast will be used on this bridge.
- The Multi Trail opened Saturday a lot of people were out on them. There were concerns about UTV not being able to be registered so St. Lawrence County looked at Lewis Counties law and it was done as AV-UTV under Off-Highway Vehicles; we are doing something similar. You can go online and get an application and apply to the County Clerk office for registering the UTV, it will cost \$65.00 and if you belong to an ATV club cost will be \$45.00. Only to ride on the Multi Trail System.

A motion by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept legislature report as presented.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: N/A**

## **Highway Superintendent Report: 05/18/2021 \* Larry White**

We have our paving projects prepped for paving and have an estimate paving time of late June to early July.

We have cleaned up the blast area on Fordham Hill and Lafaver roads.

We drilled for the Town of Canton and helped with their blasting.

We cut a section on Blanchard Hill to improve visibility and drainage.

We cut out a section on Boyd Pond to repair the base and ditched several sections.

We replaced a pipe crossing on Blanchard and Lafaver roads and a driveway on the Northwoods road.

We have patched all roads as needed.

We are grading, adding gravel and chloride to all gravel roads.

We met with auctions International to list the 2 trucks and scrap metal out back to clean up the area.

This has been a productive month I thank the men for a job well done.

Councilor Whiteford stated he is on Highway Committee and has only been to one meeting. Larry stated he does not have a phone number he can reach you on. Tess will get the number to Larry.

### **HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- We discussed the road projects for this year.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

### **HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT:**

David Whiteford:

- David stated nothing going on with Horse trails yet.

- Blueway Trail: The dock was put it but during high water floated down to Pleasant Street, we will be retrieving it and putting it back hopefully this week.

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

**RESOLUTION # 40\* AUDIT REORT: 05/18/2021**

Sandra Burnham  
 Timothy White

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	95 - 116	\$13,159.80
Highway	86 – 109	\$30,450.19
Capital Improvements	-	\$ .00.
Street Lights:	5	660.13

Ayes- 5 Beachard, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr  
 Nays-0 Motion Carried

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Larry asked the board if they decided to get the new pick-up yet.
- Supervisor White stated he feels a ½ ton pickup should be sufficient for the maintenance to use.
- Larry stated that he just wants to leave the men in good shape for a pickup. He said the 9 ft snow dog plow could be sold it is to big for the pickup.
- It is up to the board what they want to do, the board will check into it more.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor White stated I would like a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel issue:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to enter Executive Session at 7:13 PM to discuss town personnel.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr to exit Executive Session: The Town Board took action Terminating a Part Time employee Darryn Dygert for failure to perform the terms of his job effective May 21, 2021.

And will Return to the regular meeting at 7:35 PM

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

- Bobby Knox asked if he could resume his card parties on Thursday evenings. The board stated yes follow the CDC guidelines.
- Supervisor White stated he wants to hold off on the painting quote because he is waiting on another one to still come in.
- Councilor Whiteford asked if the town Hall chimney was looked at and if it will need repairing this year.
- When there is a lift truck here painting the gutter above community room door is leaking so it needs cleaning out.
- Tess will contact TDS to see if the pay phone in the park can be removed it has not worked in years.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM  
All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk