

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
11/16/2021

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries

The Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor White @ 6:00 pm

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Morris Jeffries was curious about what is going on at the ballfield pavilion. Supervisor White stated bathrooms and a kitchen will be going in. A septic system will be done, and water ran to the area.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 10/19/2021 and 11/09/2021 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-3 Beachard, Burnham, White
Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 11/16/2021

October Report:

7 dog licenses	\$34.00
Hunting licenses commission	160.87
0 marriage license commission	0.00
4 Certified copies	40.00
2 Building permits	50.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 Donation of community room	.00
Fax & copy money	<u>28.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$312.87

Disbursed amounts:

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	9.00
NYS Department of Health	0.00
Decals	\$2,758.13

Total Disbursed \$3,080.00

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard

Seconded by Councilor Burnham

To accept the Clerk Report as presented

Ayes – 3 Beachard, Burnham, White

Nays – 0 Motion carried

BALL FIELD REPORT: Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White 11/16/21

1. Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- Account balances as of November 16, 2021 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION # 64 Budget Modifications

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize the following budget modifications:

- Budget modifications: increase DA5140.1 (misc. personal service) by \$4829.00 and decrease DA5110.1 (general personal service) by \$4829.00. Increase A1670.4 (central printing) by \$497.55 and decrease A1220.2 (supervisor capitol) by \$497.55. Increase A5680.4 (transportation safety) by \$26.00 and decrease A1220.2 (supervisor capitol) by \$26.00. This is to make all accounts balance.

Ayes 3 Beachard, Burnham, White

Nays 0 Motion carried

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

Ayes – 3 Beachard, Burnham, White

Nays – 0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- COVID we had as of today 99 new cases 20 hospitalized and 141 deaths to date. St Lawrence positivity rate is 6.59% and the state is 3%.
- We have had discussions about removing the home fuel tax if we eliminate it will be a \$4 million loss in sales tax and it will impact towns. I would like feedback from you on this matter. Supervisor White stated he was hoping the state would do away with it because we are in the north country and use excessive amount of fuel to heat with. Superintendent White is the fuel tax that bad for our area per household it is not that substantial. I feel the revenue lost would impact raising taxes to make up the loss. Larry Denesha stated if we do, we will have to spend less somewhere else. If the county loses 8% sales tax so will towns lose 8% sales tax revenue.
- We will have a public hearing on the re-appointing districts. I will gain the Town of Clare.
- The CR27 bridge will be done by the end of the month. Lazy River bridge and Dutton Road bridge are in the design stage.
- For court ordered mental health issues right now are shared 50/50 with county and state but Albany wants the county to do 100% the cost; that means we must take \$506 thousand from the contingency to cover the cost.
- For 2022 DANC will have a \$3.00 increase per ton for waste.
- St. Lawrence County has a survey on the county web site asking people what they would like to see the ARPA funds we will get used on. The county will get 20.9 million over 2 years.
- We passed a resolution opposing closing the Ogdensburg correction facility.
- Good news is the finance committee does not see a budget change so the residents of St. Lawrence County should see a decrease this year of \$8.02 per thousand in their taxes.
- Bobby Knox asked about the potholes on CR 25 and Pink School House Road. Tim already reported it to highway.
- CR 17 was mentioned about being so bad from Russell to Hermon. Larry stated it is caused by the trucks hauling for Michaels (electric upgrade) but it was bad before that, he said the agreement with Michaels is they will fix the roads they damage.

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

Ayes – 3 Beachard, Burnham White

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Bobby Knox

- We are having a chicken BBQ on December 4th \$10.00 a meal until gone and Christmas trees for sale.
- Election dinner went well
- Our kitchen looks great we need to paint yet.

- We have a coffee station now to the side.
- We are getting a new propane furnace through MX Fuels at a cost of around \$20,000.00.

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

Ayes - 3 Beachard, Burnham, White

Nays - 0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 11/16/2021 * Larry White

A lot of our time has been on tree removal on the West, Pestle, Lazy River, Pyrites and Fordham Hill roads.

We have used the county stump grinder and removed stumps from this year's cuttings.

We have graded all gravel roads and will continue as needed until they freeze up.

We have repaired a catch basin on the Forbes Road and installed drainage tile at the intersection of Forbes and Backus roads.

We have shimmed sections of the Forbes Road and paved the intersections of Forbes and Backus roads and Dutton and CR 27.

The men have been using their vacation and hold over time that needs to be used up by the end of November.

I thank the man for a job well done.

The plow is done at the Town Barn and looks good.

We built a steel container tank.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Larry White

- Nothing to report

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Report and Committee Report.

Ayes-3 Beachard, Burnham, White

Nays-0 motion carried

HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORTS: N/A

RESOLUTION # 65 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham
A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to pay the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	231 - 257	\$14,616.60
Highway	209 - 224	\$44,458.43
Capital Improvements	-	.00
Street Lights	11	794.18
Ayes-3 Beachard, Burnham, White		
Nays-0 motion carried		

OLD BUSINESS:

- We need to get a light pole by the new bridge on the Blanchard Hill end.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk