

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
12/21/2021

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Richard Meilleur
Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Russell Lawrence

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

The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Russell Lawrence stated he is interested in being the CEO for Russell when Ike is done, He is CEO for Oswegatchie and Depeyster. I live in Canton. I will take time and work with the people. I have talked with Ike some and he has been slowly retiring from all his jobs because of his health. Tim will call Ike and talk to him. The board thanked Russ for talking to them.

MINUTES ACCEPTANCE:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept the minutes from 11/16/21 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 12/21/2021

November Report:

6 dog licenses	\$ 30.00
Hunting licenses commission	38.49
0 marriage licenses	.00
6 Certified copies	60.00
3 Building permits	75.00
0 Town Hall donation	.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
Fax & copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$203.49</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	8.00
NYS Department of	.00

Decals \$660.51

Total Disbursed \$872.00

I will appoint Danielle Larue as a Deputy Clerk to start 01/01/2022 she is interested in running when I retire so I would like to start training her on my job.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford
Seconded by Councilor Beachard
To accept the clerk Report as presented
Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion carried

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing

SUPERVISOR REORT: 12/21/2021: Timothy White

1. Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- Account balances as of December 21, 2021, for the General Fund, Highway Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and Street Light Fund have been filed with the Town Clerk.
- **RESOLUTION #66 Budget Modifications**
- A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize the following budget modifications
Budget modifications increase SL5182.4 (Russell Street Lights) by \$134.00 and decrease A1990.4 (contingent Account) \$134.00. Increase SL5182.4 (DeGrasse Lights) by \$187.57 and decrease A1990.4 (Contingent Account) by \$187.57. Increase A1910.4 (Unallocated Insurance) by \$473.00 and decrease A1990.4 (Contingent Account) by \$473.00. Increase A5132.4 (Garage & Pit) by \$672.62 and Decrease A1990.4 (Contingent Account) by \$672.62 and Increase A5680.4 (Transportation Safety) by \$348.72 and decrease A1990.4 (Contingent Account) by \$348.72. This is to balance out the accounts.
- As of today, we have \$91,921.83 unexpended monies we are \$47,656.00 over what was budgeted.
Ayes - 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

Motion by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept Supervisor report as presented.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- As of today; 68 new cases, 22 in the hospital and 156 deaths. The County is at 57.8% fully vaccinated. County is still holding clinics, yesterday 68 came to be vaccinated. 18+ year old can now get boosters.
- The 2022 budget passed unanimously, 2021 tax rate per thousand was \$8.19 and 2022 tax rate per thousand will be \$8.02.
- Russell should have gotten Mortgage tax in amount of \$6,472.62
- Our Organizational meeting will be January 3, 2022.
- The bridge on the Dutton Road is being engineered and to be done in 2022 and the Lazy River Road bridge will be done in 2022 with BRIDGENY funds.
- Larry White gave Larry D. a map of ash trees in Russell for the ash borer study.
- Sales tax was up 30% this November over last November.
- Larry White asked why gas is so much higher in St. Lawrence County than other Counties. There was discussion about prices of gas.
- Larry Denesha stated out of his 5 Towns Russell is the only one that gives him a list for ash trees, and he thanks Larry for that.
- With the American Rescue funds, we are using 1 million dollars for removal of all diseased ash trees.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Russell: Bobby Knox

- Asked about the Fire Tax, Tim will check into it he thinks it comes the end of this month.
- We had a Christmas party on 12/04 it went well.

DeGrasse: Nothing

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 12/21/2021 * Larry White

We have been patching roads as needed.

We have touched up all gravel roads and with the last rain we went through some areas again.

The windstorm damage has been mostly cleaned up and we have cut brush on several roads.

The work we did opening the seasonal section of the Blackmer road worked well in the windstorm when a section of CR 27 was closed with downed power lines and traffic was diverted to the Blackmer road for several areas.

The plowing and sanding have gone well with no major issues.

Over the years I have done my best to keep the highway department debt free.

As I leave office after 18 years, the only debt's we have are the ones created by your supervisor and board for the purchase of 2 trucks.

As far as shared services we have a positive balance of approximately \$8000.00.

One thing that will have to be addressed is replacing the meters on the fuel tanks all four of them, 2 for highway and 2 for the fire department. I had requested prices several months ago.

It is my hope that in the future the board will allow the new highway superintendent to determine the needs of the highway department. No one will know better than him of the needs.

I want to thank the voters of Russell for their support over the years and we have enjoyed major improvements on all roads and equipment.

I thank the men for their support and efforts to improve our town. They are a great crew, and the new Superintendent is in good hands.

I have been working with Richard to make a smooth transition.

At the old Barnes place across from Boyd Pond Road has their mailbox to close to the road. I have tried to talk to them but have had no luck hearing back from them. Tim stated he will check the county local law on the issue and send them a letter to have it moved.

With the shared services I use it to cover the cost of blasting with the county, we buy the explosives.

The 4 meters at the barn need to be replaced as soon as possible the Fire Department may help with the cost of their meters. I am waiting on the cost they come from a company out of Clayton.

I told Richard to call me anytime and I will give my opinion whether he takes it or not.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing this month

The Town Board thanks Larry for all the years he put in as Town Highway Superintendent.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Superintendents report and Highway Committee report.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried

HORSE TRAILS & GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT: Nothing

RESOLUTION # 67 Audit of bills

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Whiteford authorizing the payments of the following bills

Audit Committee Report
December 21, 2021
Sandra Burnham
Timothy White

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	258 – 288	\$35,346.62
Highway	225 - 255	\$105,939.51
Capital Highway Improvements	-	\$.00
Fire Protection -		0.00
Street Lights	12	\$ 779.72

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

Supervisor White talked to National grid and they will get some lighting down by the bridge as soon as they can.

Supervisor White received a letter asking the board to do something to honor Agnes Woodrow turning 100 on January 8th.

The Russell Town Board on December 21,2021 set forth this resolution the motion made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr:

RESOLUTION # 68 Agnes Woodrow 100 year birthday

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Russell acknowledges that Agnes Emma Blandin Woodrow is having a monumental birthday on January 8, 2022,
WHEREAS, Agnes will be turning One Hundred (100) years old
WHEREAS, Agnes was born January 8, 1922 to Fredrick Perle Blandin and Ethel Euphemia Baxter Blandin,
WHEREAS, her father was born in 1896 and died 1981 at age 85. Her mother was born 1893 and died 1996 just six weeks short of 103 years.
WHEREAS, Agnes has lived in St. Lawrence County all her life, they ran a farm for many years in Hermon, New York area.
WHEREAS, Agnes ran the Hermon IGA store from 1974 to 1982,
WHEREAS, Agnes was a member of Hermon Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary for 50 plus years,
WHEREAS, Agnes was a mail carrier for many years and retired in 1993,
THEREFORE, The Russell Town Board would like to wish Agnes Emma Blandin Woodrow a very Happy 100th Birthday on January 8, 2022

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS:

The Organizational Meeting will be on January 4, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

Larry White asked if the monthly balance sheet could include all balances for Capital Improvement also. Did the town get funding yet from USDA, Supervisor White stated no because of the late audit being done?

Supervisor White stated the CHIP's money should be here on 1/16/22 and the Town figures matched with the state figures.

Superintendent White stated that Richard went and looked over a used Shoulder cutting machine and he would like it taken out of 2021 budget not the 2022 budget.

RESOLUTION # 69 Used Shoulder cutting machine

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to:

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the purchase of a used Shoulder Cutting Machine with trucking included at the cost of \$14,000.00. out of the equipment fund.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Whiteford, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

Motion by Beachard Seconded by Whiteford to adjourn the meeting at 06:40 PM

Minutes submitted by Tess Eells, Russell Town Clerk

