

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**01/18/2022**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Bobby Knox  
Larry Denesha  
Morris Jeffries  
Fred Backus

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

The Pledge of Allegiance

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** nothing

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr  
Seconded by Councilor Whiteford  
To accept the minutes from 12/21/21 and 1/4/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk  
Ayes-5 Beachard, Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr  
Nays-0 motion carried

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 01/18/2022**

December Report:	
8 dog licenses	44.00
Hunting licenses commission	40.34
0 marriage licenses	.00
4 Certified copies	40.00
0 Building permits	.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$124.34
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	12.00
NYS Department of Health	.00

Decals	<u>3504.66</u>
Total Disbursed	\$3641.00

I have one correction for the 12/21/21 minutes on the Supervisor Report it should read as of today we have \$91,921.83 unexpended monies and we are \$47,656.00 over what was budgeted for revenues.

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

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** Nothing to report

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** 01/18/2022 Timothy White  
Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of January 18, 2022 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

**RESOLUTION** # 25 Budget modifications,

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

increase SL5182.4 Russell street lights by \$702.53 and decrease A1220.4 contractual by \$702.53. Increase SL5182.4 DeGrasse street lights by \$207.53 and decrease A1220.4 contractual by \$207.53. Decrease DA 5142.1 personal services by \$15,954.15 and increase DA5110.1 personal service by \$15,954.15. Decrease DA5142.4 contractual by \$2,127.95 and increase DA5130.4 contractual by \$2,127.95. Decrease DA5110.4 contractual by \$401.28 and increase DA5130.4 contractual by \$401.28. Decrease DA600 highway fund balance by \$21,828.51 and increase DA9060.8 hospital/medical insurance by \$21,828.51. Decrease A1220.4 contractual by 63.25 and increase A1670.4 contractual by \$63.25. Decrease A1220.4 contractual by \$756.78 and increase A5132.4 contractual by \$756.78. this will balance the accts. For 2021.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

-For the end of 2021 the general acct. took in \$497,539.72 and spent \$410,739.48. The highway took in \$871,027.19 and spent \$887,046.16. The extra money spent in highway was the rise in health insurance that I did not budget for, but the revenues the town has taken in still leaves the town in good shape. In the past 4 years the board *and* myself have lowered the tax rate by \$0.21/\$1000, and the county has lowered theirs by \$0.42/\$1000. I look at it as things are moving in the right direction.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr accepting the supervisor's report.

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

Nays-0 Motion carried.

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- COVID: as of today 244, new cases, 31 hospitalizations, 164 deaths. Every home can get 4 COVID test free home tests by going to this website, **COVIDtest.gov** they will be delivered to your residence, and you can only get 1 package per home.
- We had a full board for our organizational meeting on 1/3/22.
- We had a brief presentation on a Bill in the senate S4378A being sponsored by NY City and Long Island they want all fossil fuel fired plants to repower with renewal energy (solar and wind). We will pass a resolution opposing the bill. I will ask the Town Boards to do one also.
- There is talk of a Bill to ban all wood burning heating systems also. I will let you know when I here more.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

**Russell:** nothing to report

**DeGrasse:** nothing to report

**HIGHWAY SUPEINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur

We have spent the majority of our time plowing and sanding winter roads.

We had 1 truck down for 2 weeks and it is fixed and back in service now. As of today, all plow trucks are up and running.

I have ordered 75 tons of salt on January 11<sup>th</sup> as almost all our mixed salt and sand are gone.

We have cleaned up most of the downed trees from the 2 windstorms in December.

We have cut several large dead trees on the Belleville Road and cleaned up the debris.

I have trucking set up with Herb French to pick up the Athey Force Feed Loader we are buying. It should be here within the next week.

I am working on getting quotes on a new outdoor wood boiler. I have 2 quotes that average around \$21,000.00 installed. I will be looking at more options in the next month.

We have had a productive start to the year, and I would like to thank the men and Larry White for a smooth transition.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** no meeting

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**HORSE TRAILS REPORT:** David Whiteford

**GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT:** David Whiteford

- Nothing to report

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept these reports as presented.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 26\*** Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize paying the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	# 2 – 33	\$16,227.74
Highway	# 1 – 13	\$36,594.64
Capital Improvement	# 0	
Street Lights	# 1	<u>\$ 909.91</u>

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 27**

**HOLDING HARMLESS THE COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE  
FOR PROVIDING SERVICE FOR 2022**

By the Town Board of the Town of Russell

Motion made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Russell is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, signage, road stripping, blasting, and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

**WHEREAS, both** the Town of Russell and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and

**WHEREAS**, in this joint cooperative endeavor the Town of Russell and the County of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to the fullest extent permitted by law, The Town of Russell will indemnify and hold harmless the County, their officers, directors, partners, representatives, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, suits, liens, judgments, damages, losses and expenses, including legal fees and all court costs and liability (including statutory liability) arising in whole or in part and in any manner from injury and/or death of person or damage to or loss of any property relating to or arising out of any negligent or intentional acts and/or omissions of the Town of Russell or any of its directors, officers, employees, contractors, representatives, or agents.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows:

General Liability Insurance

On an "Occurrence" basis, with the following limits:

\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence

\$3,000,000 General Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Products Aggregate

\$1,000,000 Personal Injury

\$ 50,000 Fire Damage Legal Liability

\$ 5,000 Medical Payment Expense

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG 2026.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**RESOLUTION** # 28 Automatic Renewals of the Real Property Tax exemptions

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to authorize the following resolution

**Whereas**, on December 26, 2021, the Governor of New York issued Executive Order 11.1, and

**Whereas**, this Executive Order allows for the automatic renewal of the real property tax exemptions afforded in subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of Section 459-C of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of Section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law if the assessing unit adopts a resolution directing the assessor to grant exemptions pursuant to such section on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received that exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, and

**Whereas**, this would allow the Low-Income Senior/Disabled property owner to not have to file an exemption application with the Town of Russell Department of Assessment in order to continue their exemption on the 2022 Assessment Roll, and

**Whereas**, this law also allows the governing body of the assessing unit to put a local option for when the assessor might require a renewal application, now therefore let it be

**Resolved**, that the Town of Russell Legislature, at the recommendation of the Government Operations Committee, allows the Town of Russell Department of Assessment to automatically grant exemptions for RPTL 459-c and RPTL 467 as were received on the 2021 Assessment Roll onto the 2022 Assessment Roll, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Department of Assessment can review the 2022 income for property owner's whose income may have dropped in 2020 to ensure that the largest exemption is granted to the property owner if the income is provided by the federal deadline to submit income taxes with an extension, and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Department of Assessment can require a renewal application to be filed by taxable status date, in instances where the Department has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 Assessment Roll may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner, or died.

**SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-26**

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 29 Agreement to spend Town Highway Funds**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to

**Therefore**, the Highway Superintendent is authorized to spend out of General Repairs the sum of \$243,250.00 to be expended for general repairs upon seventy seven miles of Town Highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

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

All were in favor

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by  
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk