

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
02/15/2022

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Toni Trombly
Larry Denesha

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor White.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION PER DAVID WHITEFORD- HE WILL NOT BE AT THE MEETING BUT HE WANTED THIS IN THE MINUTES:

I want to say Richard Meilleur is doing a great job Cleaning and painting the Town Barn to make it brighter and safer by cleaning up cords and air hoses so no one will trip. This is something we could not get done the last 13 years.

David Whiteford
February 15, 2022

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 01/18/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Burnham, Beachard, White, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

January 2022 Report:

15 dog licenses	\$84.00
Hunting licenses	4.25
0 Marriage licenses	.00
8 Certified copies	80.00
2 Building permits	50.00
0 impoundment fee	.00
0 donations for community room use	.00

Fax and copy Monies	60.00
Revenue to supervisor:	\$278.25
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	23.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
Decals	72.75
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Total Disbursed	\$ 374.00

I have collected 77.37% of the taxes as of 2/7/22. I have paid the supervisor the Town tax levy \$1,041,188.00 and have sent \$250,000.00 down to the county treasurer.

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

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White 02/15/2022
 - Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of February 15, 2022, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

RESOLUTION # 30 Budget modifications

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize the following budget modification:

Therefore, the board approved spending fund balance money last year to improve the ball fields. We still have \$26,000 left we have not spent on the back stops' benches and cooking area. I would like to decrease the fund balance by \$26,000 and increase the rec acct A7140.4 by \$26,000 to continue these improvements.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 31 Prior Plow Truck Purchased in 2021

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize the following:

Therefore, the new highway plow truck purchased last year we were going to bond for was paid out of the fund balance for \$226,210. After looking into this we would have to hire a different attorney to handle this and pay interest on the loan I think we would be better off just paying for the truck out of our fund balance vs taking out debt. I have given all of you the bank statements, and it shows we are more the equipped to pay for it in full and keep the town out of debt.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

-I would like to thank the highway men and the highway super for fixing the steps at the town hall they look much better.

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- COVID: as of today, there are 82 new cases 15 in hospital positivity rate is 6.8% total vaccinated is 60%. We are heading in the right direction.
- Sales tax has been great in 2021 we were over what was budgeted for St. Lawrence County. We asked the County Treasurer what they thought was the reason sales tax is up, they said inflation, the 2 relief checks people got and the extra unemployment money helped because people had extra money to spend.
- We passed a resolution to hire local contractors to build the 3rd county barns and we will use fund balance monies to pay for it.
- We did a resolution with the DEC again to help with properties on back taxes to help clean them up Russell has one Grimshaw's garage. 1 in Massena and 1 in Hammond.
- The county has to cover 100% cost of mental health orders by judges the state use to do ½ but now County does all of cost.

- We passed a resolution opposing the Bill to ban all woodburning stoves.
- We still have no Director of Social Services but we are interviewing 3 candidates that are qualified for the job, we should have one picked by the end of March.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: no report

DeGrasse: no report

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 02/15/2022 * Richard Meilleur

We have spent most of our time maintaining winter roads.

We have also cut several large dead maples on Blanchard Hill Road and Belleville road.

We have cut up all wood from the trees, about 10 cords for next year.

We have removed the transmission in the grader, replaced leaking seals and resealed and tested hydraulic pumps and charge pumps.

Grader is fully serviced and ready for spring.

We have had several small breakdowns with plow trucks, as of today all trucks are up and running with no major issues.

I would like to thank the men for the good job they have been doing maintaining the roads so far this winter.

Councilor Burnham asked about having Town Barn parking lot paved.

Superintendent Meilleur stated he would rather pave main roads but he is planning on doing crushed stone in the spring on the parking lot at the Town Barn.

Superintendent Meilleur stated his men are out on the roads at 3pm and says they do a great job. Toni Trombly stated the school bus drivers are pleased with the Russell roads.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: N/A

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

Ayes – 4 Burnham, White, Whiteford, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HORSE TRAILS REPORT:

- Nothing to report on this currently until spring.

BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORT

RESOLUTION # 32 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to pay the following bills.

Audit Committee Report

February 15, 2022

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	34 - 56	\$14,079.86
Highway	14 - 42	44,973.34
Capital Highway Improvements	1	12,500.00
Fire Protection	0	.00
Street Lights	2	\$930.68

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- What are we doing about the maintenance pick-up we need to get him a better truck before spring work starts and junk the old one? He also stated the new work truck should be next because Edwards got theirs.
- Superintendent Meilleur asked if board would hold off on the plow for the new work truck.
- Superintendent Meilleur stated that Peterbilt will finance for a new plow truck and accept payments for them instead of a BAN.
- The Mack truck needed a wire harness.
- Superintendent Meilleur stated could the new boiler cost be taken out of fund balance instead of garage & pit account so he can do more stuff at town barn that needs doing. The new wood boiler will be around \$22,000.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Superintendent Meilleur stated he needs to find more used oil for the used oil burner it helps with the cost. It works well for the men they are comfortable working with what it is set on.

Motion by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm all were in favor

Respectfully submitted by
Town Clerk – Tess Eells

