

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**05/17/2022**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Larry Denesha  
Bobby Knox  
Larry White  
Jack White  
Morris Jeffries  
Kathy Meilleur

**PLEDGE:**

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- **Morris Jeffries:**
- I see there are a shortage of flags on the poles- We will have Pete check them out some brackets and poles are broke..
- The Kayak dock when will that be put in? It will go in after June 15<sup>th</sup> per DEC because of spawning.
- Parker's station, what is going on with that? They paid up taxes so they can do what they want, we can talk to CEO to see if something can be done.
- There is a rumor a General Dollar may come to Russell. The board stated they heard the rumor also so far it is all it is. Morris stated he doesn't want one in Russell. Larry White stated he thinks it would be good it would help the tax base.
- Is there going to be fireworks a festivity in July? The FD is not planning anything.
- What is going on at the ballfield? The ballfield report is in the supervisor report.
- Supervisor White stated 2 more port-a-pots will be at ballfield for the cornhole tournament on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Larry White:**

- In response to the February 2022 Board meeting; David Whiteford stated that for 13 years they could not get the Town Barn painted and get the air hoses and power cables cleaned up.

While I was Superintendent, we had painted the barn, installed permanent air lines along the back wall and hose reels in the bays where it is most needed as well as reduced the amount of droplights. You could check with your safety officer on my record (PLEASE DO).

In the last inspection by SLC workers Comp, the general fund had approximately 3 times the issues as the HWY Department.

Safety was always my concern and it led to lower cost to the tax [payers for the insurance.

- Larry asked about the lighting at the bridge, I feel it needs to be on intersection of Blanchard Hill Rd. Tess will contact them to get an update.
- I had \$15,000 left after paving last year. I put 300 ton of blacktop. I think the grader worked better than the little paver for shimming. I paid for shimming on Dutton road out of general repairs, so if Richard wants to use the grader leave him alone.
- Did you get a grant for the Peterbilt/ Supervisor White stated it was paid out of Fund Balance.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 04/19/2022 and 04/27/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

### **TOWN CLERK REPORT: 05/17/2022**

April 2022 Report:

8 dog licenses	44.00
Hunting licenses commission	01.66
0 Marriage License Comm.	.00
11 Certified copies	110.00
9 Building permits	225.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community use	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>55.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$435.66
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	12.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>28.34</u>
Total Disbursed	\$476.00

As of 05/9/2021 I have collected 87.47% of taxes.

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: In Supervisor report**

**SUPERVISORS REPORT: 05/17/2022**

- Financial Report

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.

-Account balances as of May 17, 2022, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-The benches are all assembled and down to the pavilion. The backstops have arrived and are at the town barn. The footers are dug at the cuts field, and the field by the old school.

The base of concrete has been poured in them, and ready to set the uprights. The new playground has been ordered and will ship as soon as the check gets there. They told me 5-10 days to arrive when they get the check. I would like to thank Matt Scott for the help with the footer holes, and the highway men for the help with the old playground and posts.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard 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**

- From Friday to Monday , we had 178 new COVID cases. 16 are in the hospital 8 with COVID and 8 with incidental causes. SLC was on high alert and now we are medium.
- ARPA FUNDS: SLC got 20.9 million' I wanted to spend money across the county. At a full board a resolution to allot money to:
  1. 5 million to emergency equipment
  2. 4 million to economic Development
  3. 3 million to Broadband development
  4. 3 million to utilities water/sewer repairs
  5. 5 million to Capital projects
  6. 900 thousand to ash tree restoration

- 7. 200 thousand to childcare training
- 8. 100 thousand to EMT training
- 9. 287 thousand to CDL training
- 10.50 thousand to Cooperative extension
- 11.300 thousand to Clifton Fine hospital
- 12.3 million to the IDA
- We have 190 bridges owned by county and 55 are efficient. We plan to do 1-2 bridges per year at the cost of 7+ million and 3 a year by SLC 1 million will come from the fund balance.
- Blacktop is up 30% this year.
- There is a hazardous waste day May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am to 1pm.

A motion by Councilor Burnham 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:** Bobby Knox

- I will be putting out flags on the Firemen graves.

**Highway Superintendent Report: 05/17/2022 \* Richard Meilleur**

We have graded most of our dirt roads and added gravel where needed.

We have cut brush on the Smith and Spicer roads.

Two BOCES students have been doing their internship; Ethan Cross and Brock Sharlow. They have been a big help and I would like to thank them for their hard work and effort they have put in.

We installed a new culvert at the Town Barn as the old metal pipe rotted out and crushed. We also installed a driveway pipe on the Hill Road.

We have been ditching and peeling shoulders on the Mackin, Stalker and Cook roads., to improve drainage.

We had to replace the power steering unit in the Grader; it is fixed now so we should finish dirt roads within a week or so.

We have fixed one of the dump boxes that needed repairs with new hinges for the side tilt and cleaned and painted it while it was a part to help stop corrosion and make the box last longer.

Brian Burnett picked the box we purchased on Auctions International, I would like to thank him. We will be installing it on the 2009 Mack.

We got about 90 cords of firewood logs and butts from Seaway Timber at no charge. We just had to haul them from Clare. I would like to thank Tim Curran for letting us have the firewood.

I have sent two bills to NYPA for reimbursement of \$2,153.68.

I will have a list of paving projects at the next board meeting. I have spoke to Kevin Burke from SLC paving and we will be paving in August.

I would like to thank the men for another safe and productive month.

We will receive \$248,003.38 for CHIP's, \$65,664.53 for Pave NY, \$56,220.49 for EWR and \$43,776.35 for POP (new this year).

We had a beaver dam blowout on the Forbes rd. We will be working on it each day. There was also a blowout on the Hewlett Road it lifted the pipe right out of the road that one is repaired.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Douglas Beachard

- From Auctions International sale of \$25,633.50: we would like a resolution to:
  1. Put back into the highway fund balance for payment of dump box - \$8,925.00
  2. Put into highway general repairs \$16,708.50 to offset extreme fuel price increase.
- A resolution to spend 7% of ARPA funds from first payment Approximately \$6,000.00 to buy traffic signs and posts, many of our signs are old and non-reflective. And add new signs where needed for public safety, also to buy road cones and barrels. We would also like to install posts with reflectors at several culvert locations to improve safety.
- Fuel price increase: \$56,000.00 was spent in 2021 with current price more than 2x of last year and not seeing a change anytime soon our fuel bill would go from \$56,000.00 to \$112,000.00 in 2022. It is also going to affect how far our CHIPs money will go.
- Richard will get prices from Chemung and M.I.S. It was suggested to check with John Amo at the county.
- There was a discussion on sales tax on gas.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford 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 needs to be secured better this year due to high waters. Tim has cable and clamps for that.

A motion by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept both Horse and Blueway reports as presented.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**RESOLUTION # 44\* AUDIT REORT: 05/17/2022**

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	105 - 126	\$20,206.39
Highway	83 – 105	\$37,448.95
Capital Improvements	-	\$ .00.
Street Lights:	5	740.64

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

Nays-0 Motion Carried

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Supervisor White asked if anyone wants to look at the truck for maintenance.

**RESOLUTION # 45 Ford F-150 pick-up**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham **Therefore**, the town board authorizes the purchase of a Ford F150, 4-wheel drive pickup from Blevins in Gouverneur for no more than \$25,000.00 out of the general fund.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Councilor Burnham showed a log bench to board that would be nice in front of new playset at ballfield.
- Councilor Whiteford asked if DeGrasse FD could put events on the signboard on FD. Yes, they can get a hold of Greg given.
- The parking lot up by field by Balsam cemetery field was discussed. Work will begin on that. Fill can be brought in Tim showed Richard the map of the property in use.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM  
All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk