

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**06/21/2022**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Larry Denesha  
Bobby Knox  
Morris Jeffries

Pledge of allegiance

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by Supervisor White

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Morris Jeffries stated it is after the 15<sup>th</sup> shouldn't the dock go in.
- Superintendent Meilleur stated they are still doing storm cleanup and when they are done, they will get the dock in.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham

Seconded by Councilor Kerr

to accept the minutes from 05/17/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 06/21/2022**

May 2022 Report:

12 dog licenses	60.00
Hunting licenses commission	30.09
0 Marriage License Comm.	.00
3 Certified copies	30.00
8 Building permits	200.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for Pavilion use	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$320.09
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	16.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>514.91</u>

Total Disbursed

\$851.00

As of 06/09/22 I have collected 92.54% of taxes. I have closed out with the County treasurer and sent their check. I will settle with the supervisor after my July bank statements come in.

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford

Seconded by Councilor Beachard

To accept the clerk Report as presented

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT:** In supervisor report

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:** 06/21/2022 \* Timothy White  
Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of June 21, 2022, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-The new playground is up. I would like to thank Pete. Richard, and all the highway men for the help with all the playground work.

**RESOLUTION** # 47 Budget modification

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

-budget modifications Decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$4,325.75 and increase A1910.4 unallocated insurance by \$4,325.75. this will balance the accts.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

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

- COVID from the 17<sup>th</sup> to today 67 new cases, 198 deaths, St. Lawrence County positivity rate is 3.6% and the state rate is 5.2%.
- Russell Mortgage tax will be \$10,760.19. Tim has received the check.
- St. Lawrence Tax collection rates, 2015 88.74%, 2018 90.57%, 2021 92.6% and 2022 should be more.
- You have probably heard all the negative news about St. Lawrence County Social Services, there was a adoption party and 9 children were adopted to 5 different families that have been in the system for 6 years. I thought people should hear some of the good things also.
- There was a 10% increase for asphalt in May, this will reduce aide to 3-4 miles of roads. Don Chambers expects it will be up another 5% for asphalt.
- Edwards Knox school asked for a full-time resource officer and at the 6/6 meeting we unanimously voted to pass a full-time seasoned Deputy Sheriff for Edwards Knox School. The school will pay \$100,000.00.
- We did a resolution opposing 10 different bills at our Services Committee meeting that have legislation to amend the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment, raise the age limit to 21 to purchase guns, we had 13 for the resolution and 2 opposed. I feel if they are doing it to save lives they should look at more statistics like in 2021 there were 48,000 abortions and 800 gun deaths.
- Richard Meilleur asked if Larry heard anything about an Active Shooter class being held at Edwards Knox at the end of this month? Larry said yes he heard they want to help schools with ways to keep schools safer.
- In 2015 a resolution was passed to keep the county fund balance at 15% and we are within \$700,000 of doing that.
- Sales tax may drop this quarter the way things are going.

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:** Bobby Knox

- July 15 the church/library will hold an ice cream social
- July 17 fire department is having a breakfast starting at 9:00 am.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford accepting the Fire department report.

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**Highway Superintendent Report: 06/21/2022 \* Richard Meilleur**

We have mowed all 77 miles of Roadsides, including all seasonal roads.

We also have cut 4.5 miles of shoulders of west road and Bellville rd.

We sent 3 trucks to pave for the town of Hermon for 3 days on shared services.

We are working on cleaning up from the storm last week, we should have most of the downed trees cleaned up this week.

Larry Trombley has given his 2 weeks' notice. I will be looking to hire his replacement by August 1, 2022, so they have time to get familiar with the equipment and trucks before plow season.

Paving projects:

.5 mile 1 ½ top Boyd RD

1.1 miles 1 ½ "shim 1 ½ "Top on West RD from Smith Rd North

.7 miles 1 ½" shim 1 ½" Top on Russell Pyrites RD [remaining sections from last year]

any funds remaining will be used for intersections on dirt roads approx. 50 ft back 2 ½" type 3 Binder 1 ½" type 6 Top

Handed in a check for \$238.00 for a 40' x 12" driveway pipe on the Hill road to Tess.

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

A motion by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the Highway Superintendents report.

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

Nays-0 Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Doug Beachard

- We discussed the heaters for the town barn
- Cost of fuel was discussed
- We discussed the new patch truck they have not even started it yet.
- Highway superintendent Meilleur stated his opinion on the patch truck is he would rather use the money towards up grading the equipment. The town could get a used municipal truck from Auctions International and use money for a new loader. He will get the price of a new loader. This is only my opinion about this.
- Supervisor White stated we will have to check on the purchase agreement if the board moves forward on this issue.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford at accept the Highway Committee report as presented.

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

Nays: 0 Motion carried

**HORSE TRAIL AND GRASSE RIVER BLUEWAY TRAIL REPORTS:**

**BLUEWAY TRAIL:** Canton pulled out of this

**HORSE TRAILS:** Bonnie Howard and David Whiteford are too old to do trails anymore. This will be removed from the agenda.

**RESOLUTION # 48\*** Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	127 – 157	\$75,682.80
Highway	106– 120	\$30,936.16
Capital Improvements	0	\$ .00.
Fire Protection	none	.00
Street Lights	6	\$658.19

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Superintendent Meilleur stated that Tom showed up to look at the town hall steps. He recommends doing cement from landing up the stairs. We will put the job out to bids for precast steps. This cost will come out of ARPA funds as previously stated.

**RESOLUTION # 49** Signage from ARPA Funds

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr

Seconded by Councilor Beachard

**Therefore**, the Russell Town Board authorizes the Highway superintendent to purchase 7% up to \$6,000.00 on signs and posts out of the ARPA funds.

Account # A9902.4.

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

Nays – 0 Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**RESOLUTION # 50** Money from Auction International sales

A motion was made by Councilor Ker and seconded by Councilor Burnham

**THEREFORE**, the Russell Town Board authorizes the supervisor to Put the \$16,708.50 from the sales from Auction International into Machinery Contractual DA5130.4.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

Councilor Kerr stated he got a call from David Smith on the North Woods Road and he got 4 flat tires from the poor road conditions. Can the town replace his tires?

The town needs to talk to town lawyer and insurance company on this issue. Superintendent Meilleur stated he will set up a meeting with the Power Authority to address the road conditions, he suggests the town lawyer, supervisor and a board member be at the meeting.

**RESOLUTION:** 51 ARPA Funds for tires

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to **THEREFORE**, authorize spending ARPA funds on new tires for the backhoe and town trucks account #A9902.4.

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

Supervisor White presented the tentative 3-year Teamsters contract with these changes.

Councilor Whiteford was opposed to adding 2 more holidays.

**RESOLUTION:** # 52 Teamsters Contract

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to therefore accept the Tentative Teamsters contract as presented:

**Tentative Agreement 2022**

1) Duration of contract: 3 years

**2) ARTICLE 3: UNION SECURITY**

The Union agrees to represent all employees in the bargaining unit. **The Union agrees to represent employees in the bargaining unit as required by law. The Union will represent non-members as required by law for the negotiation and enforcement of the contract. Non-members are authorized to file and pursue grievances at their own expense. Non-members are further authorized to obtain individual representation at their own expense in order to pursue matters involving disciplinary interviews, grievances, and arbitration.**

3) Article 24: Wages and Hours:

Increase wages 5% - Year 1, 3% - Year 2, 3% - Year 3

**4) ARTICLE 13: HOLIDAYS**

13.1: Employees shall be paid, as hereinafter provided, for New Year's Day, **Martin Luther King JR. Day, President's Day**, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after thanksgiving and Christmas Day, provided they meet all of the following eligibility rules:

**5) ARTICLE 24: WAGES AND HOURS**

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Boot Allowance: The Town shall give **\$250** each January of the contract toward the purchase of OSHA approved safety shoes. Receipts for these shoes must be presented to the Superintendent before reimbursement will be made. If the cost of the shoes is less than \$ 100.00 that amount will be reimbursed and considered full payment for that contract year.

6) All other articles remain the same.

AYES – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

NAYS – 1 Whiteford

**RESOLUTION:** # 53 Bond Resolution for new plow truck  
BOND RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF RUSSELL ADOPTED JUNE 21, 2022, AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A 2023 INTERNATIONAL PLOW TRUCK, MODEL #HX-520, 6 x 4 CHASSIS, WITH 2022 TENCO PLOW AND EQUIPMENT PACKAGE, AND ELECTRICAL COMPONENT SYSTEM WARRANTY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWN IN THE PRINCIPAL SUM OF \$231,624.00 AND/OR SECURING A LOAN/GRANT THROUGH USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ENTIRE SUM OR A PORTION THEREOF.

**RESOLVED**, this 21st day of June, 2022, by the Town of Russell, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York, at a regular meeting at which Supervisor Timothy White and Councilors Sandra Burnham, Charles Kerr, Edward D. Whiteford, and Douglas Beachard were present, as follows:

Section 1. The expenditure of \$231,624.00 which the Town of Russell requires for the purchase of a 2023 International Plow Truck model #HX-520, 6 x 4 chassis, with 2022 Tenco Plow and equipment package and electrical component system warranty, is hereby

authorized. The total estimated cost of the purchase is approximately \$231,624.00.

Section 2. The plan for financing the said capital improvements consists of the issuance of bond anticipation notes of the Town in the principal sum of \$231,624.00 and/or issuance of a Community Facility Program loan/grant from USDA Rural Development for the entire sum or a portion thereof.

Section 3. Bond anticipation notes in the principal amount of \$231,624.00 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. The period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid purpose for which said bonds are to be issued pursuant to Section 11.28 of the Local Finance Law is hereby determined to be fifteen (15) years.

Section 5. The full faith and credit of said Town of Russell are pledged to the payment of the principal of said bond and interest thereon when due.

Section 6. It is hereby determined that the proposed maturity of the obligation authorized hereby will not be in excess of five years.

Section 7. The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to sell such bond at private sale in accordance with the provisions of Section 63.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 8. The bond shall be in substantially the form set forth in the attached Schedule "A" which is annexed hereto and made a part hereof as if incorporated herein.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was moved by Councilor Edward D Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Charles Kerr and duly put to a vote on roll call, which

resulted as follows:



Ayes: Douglas Beachard, Sandra Burnham, Timothy White, Edward Whiteford,  
Charles Kerr

Nays: 0 The resolution was declared adopted.

### **CERTIFICATION**

**I, Teresa L. Eells**, Town Clerk of the Town of Russell, County of St. Lawrence  
and \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ of  
New York, do HEREBY CERTIFY that the above is a true copy of the Bond Resolution  
passed by the Town Board of the Town of Russell at a regular meeting, at which  
Supervisor Timothy White and Councilors Sandra Burnham, Charles Kerr, Edward D.  
Whiteford, and Douglas Beachard, were present at the Town Office on June 21, 2022,  
and the same was passed by a  
unanimous vote and is in full force and effect and has not been changed or amended.

DATED: June 21, 2022

Teresa L. Eells, Town Clerk

### **RESOLUTION: # 54 New Ballfield well with ARPA Funds**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr:

**THEREFORE**, authorize spending ARPA funds on a new drilled well for the Ball  
field to supply water to the bathrooms and kitchen. Account A9902.4

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

The borad feels this would be better for public safety reasons.

John Casserly would like to play music in the gazebo in center of town for the community to sit and enjoy. He will let us know when.

**MEMORY FLOWER DONATIONS:**

- Carl Hull: In memory of Pete & Jennie Hull and Dennis Hull
- Kevin & Kathy Albern: In memory of Tommy Albern
- Elevene Corbine in memory of Donald Corbine and Burton Bessette

A motion was made by Councilor Whiteford and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM

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

Nays-0 Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted by  
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk