

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm**  
**09/20/2022**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Bobby Knox  
Trudy Hendrickson  
Larry Denesha  
Morris Jeffries  
Fred Whitmarsh

**Pledge:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Supervisor White

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

**MORRIS JEFFRIES:** I came through Edwards and they have nice welcome to Edwards signs and ours look like crap. Can they be taken down and new ones done? Tim stated Tara Jenne was going to redo them. Councilor Burnham stated why don't we get metal ones done like we did for the court and clerk, and they will hold up. Tim will check on signs being done, and they will be paid from Celebration's account.

**TRUDY HENDRICKSON:** I want to thank the Town and Larry Denesha for the sign on the bridge also the paving looks good at the pump house.

**FRED WHITMARSH:** Does the town get Stats from Hermon Rescue? Tim stated yes and he sent it to town lawyer. My concern is when calls for Russell go out Canton has been responding does that mean the paid EMT at Hermon is out on another call. Hermon has 2 ambulances I drive for them when I can, Tim stated the EMT is supposed to be on call 7am to 3pm every day.

Fred Whitmarsh stated he was wondering how our DCO was doing? He called on a dog to both numbers and Dan didn't get back to him, he has all the other times though. The board says he has been doing a good job.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 09/06/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 09/20/2022**

August 2022 Report:

15 dog licenses	120.00
Hunting licenses commission	125.76

8 Certified copies	80.00
5 Bldg Permits	125.00
2 Marriage Licenses	15.00
0 impoundment fees	.00
Fax & copy money	.00
0 donations	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$465.76
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	35.00
NYS Department of Health	45.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>2,206.24</u>
Total Disbursed	\$2,752.00

Our rabies clinic was 9/8/22 we had a great turnout. I want to thank Pete & Sandy Burnham and Sandy Tyo for helping me. We had \$503.00 donated and we paid \$200.00 to the Vet & Tech out of the cash. We have \$303.00 left and what does the board want it to go? We had 100 registered and 94 showed.

Councilor Burnham mentioned donating it to the Theatre and Tess suggested the Russell Food pantry because of cost of food going up.

**RESOLUTION # 63** Donating Rabies extra money to the food pantry  
A motion was made by Supervisor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford:

**Therefore,** The Town Board authorizes donating the \$303.00 left from the 9/8/22 Rabies Clinic to the Russell Food Pantry.

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

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

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE REPORT:** Included in Supervisor report

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Timothy White

1. Financial Report
  - Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the Town Clerk.
  - Account balances as of September 20, 2022 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

- I will be picking the lumber up for the bathrooms, and cooking area on Friday. We have scheduled a work weekend for the ball fields this weekend from 9 to 1 for Saturday and Sunday. The pee-wees and old-timers have been informed and any help will be appreciated.
- I have been in talks with the power authority and they sent us a proposal, Richard and I reviewed it and think it is fair. I would like to pass it with the board and get moving on the repairs to the damaged roads.
- I was hoping to have a rough draft of the 2023 budget for tonight. It is almost finished for everyone to go over and would like to set up a meeting for next Wednesday 9/28 to review it.

Date: September 1, 2022

To: Timothy White  
Supervisor, Town of Russell  
PO Box 628  
Russell, NY 13684

Subject: NYPA Smart Path Transmission Project  
Town of Russell: Lazy River Road and North Woods Road construction traffic damage

Dear Mr. White (Tim),

The New York Power Authority ("Authority") has reviewed the above-mentioned roads for damage due to Smart Path construction related traffic at the request of Richard Meilleur, Town of Russell Highway Superintendent, and yourself. The road segments, as noted by the Town, are as follows:

**Lazy River Road:** an asphalt paved section of road beginning at the Hermon Town Line, heading west for 0.4 miles

**North Woods Road:** a gravel section of road beginning at the intersection of Lazy River Road, heading north for 0.9 miles

An estimated opinion of cost to address the repair of these roads has been prepared using a combination of New York State Department of Transportation ("NYSDOT") published equipment rental rates, St. Lawrence County ("SLC") Annual Materials Bid pricing, and estimated labor rates. Quantification of the damage was established through review of the pre-construction condition, as documented through video recordings, and an in-person evaluation of these roads conducted with yourself on August 26, 2022. A general synopsis of each road condition is as follows:

**Lazy River Road:** pre-construction conditions show signs of severe cracking of the asphalt material, including large longitudinal cracks, alligator cracking, and transverse cracking. Several areas of the road have previously had asphalt shims applied to repair wheel rutting and pavement edge raveling. Current conditions show no change in the asphalt cracking, but it is clear from the video that there has been accelerated wear of the previously applied asphalt patches due to construction.

**North Woods Road:** a comparison of pre-construction condition and post-construction conditions is not possible as this road experienced complete subbase failure from the Smart

Path construction traffic. The Authorities contractor has previously rebuilt the subbase of the road with 6" minus stone and provided a driving surface consisting of 2" minus crushed stone. While the current subbase is far superior to the pre-construction conditions, there are areas of the road where the larger 6" stone is beginning to protrude into the driving surface, creating difficulties for motor grader maintenance.

In both instances the Authority would propose financial reimbursement to the Town to cover the costs of the necessary equipment rental, materials purchase, and labor to repair the damaged asphalt patches on the Lazy River Road and to add fine crushed gravel to the North Woods Road. The Authority has prepared the following opinion of cost associated with a restoration remedy for the damages noted above. These damages are acknowledged as being a result of construction traffic on these portions of roads in the Town.

<b>Lazy River Road:</b>	Equipment & Labor (SLC Paving Crew x 1 day)	\$6,000.00
	Material (100 tons Type 7 asphalt)	<u>\$8,675.00</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,675.00</b>
<b>North Woods Road:</b>	Equipment (grader, dozer, roller x 2 days)	\$2275.20
	Labor (3 people x \$30/hr x 2 days)	\$1440.00
	Material (730 tons fine crushed gravel)	<u>\$10,220.00</u>
	<b>Total.</b>	<b>\$13,935.20</b>

This represents a total restitution/restoration payment to the Town totaling \$28,610.20. It is noted that during our August 26<sup>th</sup> site visit that the Town requested additional gravel for the North Woods Road, to provide more material for ease of maintenance. This additional gravel equates to an additional cost of \$5,110.00, which NYPA supports, bringing the total opinion of cost to \$33,720.20. This proposal recognizes that the Authority has previously provided the Town with approximately 100 tons of crushed stone for maintenance on North Woods Road.

The Authority does need the Town to issue a letter acknowledging both the Authority and its' contractor, Michels has fulfilled its project restoration requirements relative to the joint acknowledgement of damages associated with roads under the jurisdiction of the Town.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself.

Sincerely,

Ian Hazen, P.E.

Resident Construction Manager, NNY

New York Power Authority

**C: Jeff Farrell, Real Estate**  
**Tim Burley, P.E., Director CM**

**Dan Murphy, CM**  
**Jon Furgal, Michels**  
**Dan Murphy, CM**  
**Jon Furgal, Michels**

**RESOLUTION:** #64 NYPA Proposal

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Whiteford: **Therefore**, the board has reviewed the proposal from NYPA and the Supervisor and highway superintendent feel it is a fair proposal so they will accept the proposal from the NYPA Smart Path Transmission Project as presented above for a total amount of \$33,720.20.

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

A motion was made by Supervisor White to advertise for a Tentative Budget meeting for September 28, 2022, at 6:00 Pm at the Russell Town Hall. All were in favor.

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

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

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- Our preliminary budget will be presented at next month meeting. The excess sales tax has helped a lot towards keeping taxes low.
- COVID- PH is doing once a month reporting. August had 1033 new cases. PH thinks all cases are not being reported so there is probably more than that.
- The Public health is offering vaccines for COVID19 boosters they have Pfizer and Moderna.
- St. Lawrence corrections is hiring full time people starting at \$45,000 a year plus benefits. Must be 18 years of age and a high school diploma or GED. There is a urgent need and they will be on a probational period instead of civil service requirements.
- County is using \$900,000 from ARPA Funds for removing ash trees and planting native trees to replace them in County areas.
- Public Health has NARCAM available if anyone wants them for free.
- We did a resolution opposing the recent law enacted for conceal and carry. The 5-year renewal for pistol permits will go to 3-year renewals.
- We passed a resolution opposing the banning of fossil fuels.
- Tim White stated he went to buy ammunition and had to fill out a form to get it.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

RUSSELL FD: Bobby

- We are having a election Day dinner serving turkey.
- On December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will sell Christmas trees and have a Chicken BBQ.
- Trudy stated candy will be handed out for Halloween.
- FD Banquet will be the second week in December

DEGRASSE FD: N/A

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the FD report as presented

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 09/20/2022 \* Richard Meilleur**

The \$16,900.00 from Auction International has not been put into the machinery account yet, it needs to get done. Tim stated it is all done.

We have finished mowing roadsides for the second time this year.

All the sand we need for winter is screened and we have mixed remaining salt from last spring, we have enough sand/salt mix for the first few storms. I will be ordering 1 load of salt this month.

We have also been busy cutting brush and dead trees on the West Rd, Cassidy Rd and Dana Hill Rds.

All the dirt rds. have been graded and we have cut shoulders on Donnerville and Mackin roads.

We have installed the used box we bought, it is in good shape for a dump box but the live bottom and side tilt for sanding is bad. Cost of repairs would be well over \$10,000 with that said I can buy a brand-new insert spreader that costs \$9,288.00 and it can be used in any of our trucks in the future and would be something we would have for a spare for years to come. We have one now that is similar, we used it all last winter and it works well.

I would like to use ARPA Funds to purchase the harder insert spreader at the cost of \$9,288.00.

Also, NYPA agreed to reimburse us \$33,720.20 for damage to the North Woods and Lazy River roads during the power line project. That will give us enough money to cap 9 tenths of a mile with 3" of fine crushed gravel on the North Woods Road and pave approximately 500 feet on the Lazy River Road.

I would like to thank Larry Denesha for helping with the process and setting up meetings.

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

I handed in checks to Tess for Fire Department fuel & Gas reimbursement for \$1,213.80 and A check from Henry Mast for 3-20'x12" culverts on the Hill Road in the amount of \$360.00.

We will use leftover CHIP's monies on the lazy River Road. Kevin Burke said it would 2-3 weeks before they can do it.

**RESOLUTION: # 65** Harder Spreader Model E144

A motion was made by Supervisor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr to: Therefore, authorize buying a Harder Spreader Model E144 with Harder Carbon Steel Coal Door Kit from TENCO, address Lakeville, NY 14480 for \$9,288.00 out of **ARPA FUNDS** A9902.4.

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

**RESOLUTION: # 66** Leftover CHIP's funds

A motion was made by Supervisor White and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to:

**Therefore**, authorize the Highway Superintendent to spend the excess CHIP's Funds on the Lazy River Road on pave/shim.

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

Councilor Burnham asked highway Superintendent Meilleur if he heard anything on town hall steps. Richard stated he calls every week, and the engineer is busy but will do what he can. It looks like they may not get done until spring now. Richard stated maybe we can put them out for bids early spring and get on the project list. A temporary fix can be done on them for the winter. Richard stated he picked up 2 gallons of white paint for the corner gazebo.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Doug Beachard

- Talked about the test holes on the town 50-acre property behind town barn.
- Talked about the Spreader insert.

- Cleaned up around town barn and put gravel down.
- Talked about a crusher with other towns that way it may be feasible.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Whiteford to accept the HWY Superintendent and HWY Committee reports.

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

**RESOLUTION # 67\*** Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	207 - 233	\$16,906.00
Highway	153 - 167	\$32,864.05
Capital Improvements	1 - 6	\$372,584.02
Streetlights	9	\$816.84

Ayes-5 Beachard, Burnham, White Whiteford, Kerr  
 Nays-0 motion carried

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Supervisor White talked with Russell Lawrence CEO about raising the permit cost to \$200.00 for a commercial business. What does the board think?

**RESOLUTION:** # 68 Increasing Permit cost for Commercial businesses

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard: **Therefore**, the Russell Town Board authorizes to keep residential permit costs at \$25.00 and change the cost for Commercial Business from \$25.00 to \$200.00.

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

Councilor Beachard asked about the waterline and cement other half of pavilion at the Ball field will be marked. Tim stated yes.

Fred Whitmarsh asked about a solar group going around talking to people on Pyrites Russell Road has the board heard anything on it. He said he heard some property owners are signing a lease agreement. The Town gets involved when the Solar Companies need a permit and if it is a large solar farm then we have St. Lawrence County IDA get involved. They must



come to the board and present the presentation of a solar farm to the board. If property owners are signing something than that is between them, and the solar company does not have to do with the board yet.

A motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn at 6:54 PM.  
all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk