

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
11/15/2022

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries
Barry Whiteford
John Stransky

The Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor White @ 6:00 pm

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- **Barry Whiteford:** Stated he lives in Canton but owns property on the Donnerville road and he keeps it plowed the best he can. He lets Girl and boy scouts use his camp for winter survival training. He was wondering if the town highway department could plow an extra 1000 feet past where they do plow to and turn around to help keep it clear from when the trail groomer pushes up the snow in front of his gate. He can give the highway department a key to his gate if they need it. Richard stated it would not need plowing daily just now and then to keep it open more. The board sees no issue with the highway helping.
- Barry also mentioned that Julius Palmer has a cabinet that is restored nice with a lot of Deeds in it for sale for \$2500.00 if the town would be interested in it for the museum, also a ladderback chair from 1870 for sale.
- **John Stransky:** Stated he got an email about the solar farm going in at 1040 CR 21 wondering why a meeting was not set up with town lawyer, supervisor, and Russell Lawrence to discuss the Pilot. Supervisor White stated they had the St. Lawrence IDA helping with that. He said he will check with Lawyer to see when they can meet to discuss the pilot negotiations. John stated the company is ready to build.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 10/18/2022 and 11/01/2022 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 11/15/2022

October Report:

7 dog licenses	\$28.00
Hunting licenses commission	125.50
0 marriage license commission	0.00
13 Certified copies	130.00
3 Building permits	250.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 Donation of community room	.00
Fax & copy money	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$533.50
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	7.00
NYS Department of	0.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>\$2,202.50</u>

Total Disbursed \$2,743.00

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

BALL FIELD REPORT: Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White 11/15/22

- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of November 15, 2022 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-I have received the fourth quarter sales tax check in the amount of \$133,612.52. It came in about \$90,000 over what I had budgeted.

-The new town F 450 is in and I would like to use \$20,000 of the ARPA money towards it to keep the equipment funds up for next year if the board will agree.

RESOLUTION # 74 ARPA FUNDS FOR NEW 2022 TRUCK

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

THEREFORE, the town board authorizes the spending of \$20,000.00 from ARPA FUNDS to help pay for the new 2022 Ford F450 Truck CCAB purchased from Belvin's in Gouverneur, NY the rest of the cost will be paid out of H5130.3 capital machinery account in the amount of \$37,461.00 total cost of truck \$57,461.00.

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

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- We had our 2023 Tentative budget meeting in October, there were no changes made to it, there will be a 5.2% decrease in town taxes.
- Barry Whiteford asked why? Larry stated the Fund Balance and sales tax helps keep them lower. Out of the last 6 years we have had a tax reduction in 5 of those years.
- Out of the Fund Balance we did 2 of the new Highway Building Sites and bonded for one.
- We had success with opposing the Conceal Carry laws trying to be forced on us. The courts shot down 4 of them. Our county attorney played a big part in it.
- I thank everyone that voted for me to another 4-year term.

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Bobby Knox

- Our Election Day dinner went well we sold out.
- Our tree sale and BBQ will be December 3rd.
- Our annual Christmas Dinner is December 10th.

JOHN STRANSKY: stated that he has had calls saying Russell is contracting with Canton Rescue and he talked to Mike Morgan and he said they don't contract that Russell is under the Certificate of need. Supervisor White stated they budgeted money to donate to Canton to help with fuel etc. we did not contract with them.

John stated that as of 01/01/23 we do not cover Russell anymore and Supervisor White stated yes that is right, Canton will cover Russell.

Sandy Burnham thanked the highway men for helping put the Christmas decorations up.

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

Ayes - 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays - 0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 11/15/2022* Richard Meilleur

All the paperwork has been submitted to the DOT for CHIP's. We should be getting our reimbursement check on the December 20th.

We have spent the majority of our time cutting brush and dead roadside trees on several roads.

We have installed new signs and posts on several roads including Russell-Pyrites, Pestle, Maiden Lane and others.

We have cut shoulders on the Marshville Road.

We picked up the new Ford truck today, we will be ordering and installing a new hitch for it and also some extra flashing lights for more visibility (safety).

We replaced a culvert on the Mackin road and have done some ditching for better drainage.

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

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Nothing to report

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Report and Committee Report.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried

RESOLUTION # 75 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham
A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to pay the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	261 - 279	\$10,751.83
Highway	185 - 198	\$30,754.25
Capital Improvements	8	3,370.39
Street Lights	11	889.58

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Morris Jeffries asked if the new signs for Russell are being done. Tim said not yet.

Richard asked if the town would get the men each a new T-shirt and hoody this year. Yes, take it out of safety account.

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor White stated that in the 2021 financial reports on page 3 under general Revenue we had \$591,033 and under Expenditures it is \$416,468 for a total excess of \$174,565. And on page 5 under highway revenue it is \$1,290,562 and expenditures was \$1,255,978 for excess of \$34,584. This helps with keeping taxes down.

Supervisor White stated here is the resignation letter from Councilor Whiteford:

Nov. 5, 2022

Town of Russell

Town Board,

This letter is to inform the Town of Russell that I Edward (Dave) Whiteford hereby resign my position as Town Councilman. It's been a pleasure serving the people of this town and the board members I have worked with.

Respectfully,

Edward Whiteford (Dave Whiteford)

Councilor Beachard stated people have been going in the Town Pit and not sure why they are in there, so we need to put up a couple camera's and call the sheriff to have them patrol the pit. We need to put up no dumping signs also because someone leaves trash. Richard feels the pit should be re-posted again so people know where the town lines are.

Barry Whiteford stated he found jugs with acid and called to report it and he was told by the drug task force that drug dealers leave graffiti to mark meth drop off areas.

Motion by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk