

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
01/16/2024

PRESENT:

Supervisor Matthews

Councilor Burnham

Councilor Beachard (Absent)

Town Clerk – Darcie Cross

Councilor Kerr

Councilor Rowe

Highway Superintendent Meilleur (Absent)

GUESTS:

Robert Knox

Larry Denesha

Morris Jeffries

Trudy Hendrickson

Peggy Mousaw

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Matthews

The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Peggy Mousaw came to discuss SAMS and ARPA funds. Peggy stated

- She helps with ARPA grants, files grants for municipalities.
- She has a contract with us until 2027, to call her with any questions.
- Our town is listed as inactive.
- That our SAMS needs to be active to receive USDA grants. If not, any application we send will be on hold.
- She is asking permission for the town supervisor to send a letter on town's letterhead, notarized, and send certified with return receipt to get us active again.
- We will need ARPA funds committed by the end of this year, we have until March 2024 to give details what it is committed for and until 2026 to spend the funds.
- She will come back to meeting if needed.
- Need a resolution to commit, board resolution to pass. Resolution needs to say it is being paid by ARPA money.
- Make a resolution next meeting with what we have already spent and what we are spending it on.

Supervisor Matthews will look into.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham Seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the minutes from 12/19/23 and 1/2/2024 as presented by the Town Clerk

Ayes - 4 Burnham, Matthews, Rowe, Kerr

Nays - 0 Motion carried

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 01/16/2024

December 2023 Report:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 7 dog licenses | 40.00 |
| Hunting licenses commission | 7.21 |
| 0 marriage licenses | .00 |
| 0 Certified copies | .00 |
| 3 Building permits | 75.00 |
| 0 Impoundment fee | .00 |
| 0 donation for community room | .00 |
| Fax and copy money | .00 |
| <u>Revenue to supervisor:</u> | <u>\$122.21</u> |
| <u>Disbursed amounts:</u> | |
| Ag & Market (spay, neuter program) | 11.00 |
| NYS Department of Health | .00 |
| Decals | <u>427.79</u> |
| Total Disbursed | <u>\$561.00</u> |

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr
Seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Clerk Report as presented.

Ayes - 4 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr

Nays - 0 motion carried.

- Councilor Burnham inquired about building permits.
- Trudy asked if the building they have for used items would be taxed.
- Peggy mentioned if the building is there more than 6 months it can be taxed but up to assessor.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 01/16/2024 Dereck Matthews
Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of December 19, 2023 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

One check to highway fund for \$15,103.76

Six checks in general fund \$1,358.21

2023 highway bills \$13,855.20

2024 highway bills \$16,609.90

Total \$30,465.10

2023 general fund \$11,491.11

2024 general fund \$9,547.94

Total \$21,039.05

RESOLUTION # 20 Purchasing backup power for Town Hall Basement

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

Dereck said that we currently have a 4½ amp sump pump that only runs for 5 minutes at a time for the Town Hall basement but when the power goes out we cannot use it. He would like to purchase a sump pump that is battery operated for backup. He has found one to purchase that is 7½ amp runs for 2 hours straight battery operated that will last 3-4 days at a time for \$179.99, with a 8 hour charge time. Will be looking into a generator for the Town Hall in the future.

Ayes – 4 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Burnham accepting the supervisor's report.

Ayes - 4 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr

Nays - 0 Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Organizational meeting Forsythe elected chair and Perkins elected vice chair.
- Discussed Windstorm of January 9th and the Ice Storm of 1998 25th anniversary.
- Was thankful of the Fire Departments, Towns, etc. for the help they provided to everyone.
- He will email the Town Supervisor and Town Clerk if he has anything to share with the board members to keep us up to date.
- Said this was probably the shortest legislature report he has ever done.
- Councilor Burnham asked him if he had heard anything about COVID tests being sent to the towns in which he had not. Did say they were available at Public Health Building.

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

Ayes - 4 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr
 Nays - 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell:

- Bobby was talking about maybe a fish dinner in April. Trudy said it will probably be more of a jamboree with music & raffles.
- Councilor Burnham said the Fire Department is looking into a new generator as the one they presently have was from 1943 or 1944. Supervisor Matthews suggested maybe using ARPA funds for it. They are getting a quote for one. In the spring they are supposed to be getting and AC. As the fire station is considered a second shelter.

DeGrasse: nothing to report

HIGHWAY SUPEINTENDENT REPORT: none

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: none

- Councilor Rowe mentioned the roads have been bad on her road and there had been a bus off the road recently. Sand spread out far apart on roadway.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept both reports as presented.

Ayes – 4 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr
 Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 21 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize paying the following bills.

| Fund | Vouchers | Total |
|---------------------|----------|------------------|
| General | # 2 – 32 | \$21,039.05 |
| Highway | # 1 – 20 | \$30,465.10 |
| Capital Improvement | # 0 | .00 |
| Street Lights | # 1 | <u>\$ 936.83</u> |

Ayes - 4 Burnham, Rowe, Matthews, Kerr
Nays - 0 motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing to report

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 22 Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Russell and the Town of Canton for the North Woods Road.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the Memorandum.

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes Supervisor Matthews to sign the memorandum of understanding between the Town of Canton and the Town of Russell in regard to the North Woods Road.

Ayes - 4 Burnham, Rowe, Matthews, Kerr
Nays - 0 Motion carried

Trudy invited everyone to the ribbon ceremony of the building by the library. Also mentioned they want to have a community garden.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 6:58 pm
All were in favor
Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk