

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
02/20/2024**

PRESENT:

Supervisor Matthews

Councilor Burnham
Councilor Beachard
Town Clerk – Darcie Cross
Councilor Kerr
Councilor Rowe
Highway Superintendent Meilleur

GUESTS:

Robert Knox
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries
Rick Towne
Arlena Dafoe

The Pledge of Allegiance

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Arlena Dafoe wanted to thank the DeGrasse, Russell and the 5 other Fire Departments for their work on her daughter's housefire. They saved as much as they could save and she wanted to acknowledge them for that.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 1/2/24 and 1/16/2024 as presented by the Town Clerk

Ayes - 5 Burnham, Matthews, Rowe, Kerr, Beachard

Nays - 0 Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 2/20/2024

January 2024 Report:

9 dog licenses	60.00
Hunting licenses commission	7.27
0 marriage licenses	.00
0 Certified copies	.00
2 Building permits	50.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community room	.00

2/20/24

Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$117.27
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	17.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
Decals	<u>552.73</u>
Total Disbursed	\$687.00

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

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard

Nays - 0 motion carried.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

SUPERVISORS REPORT: 2/20/2024 Dereck Matthews

Financial Report

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of February 20, 2024, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

RESOLUTION: #23 Budget Modifications

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

Budget modifications Increase A1420.4 law by \$1,831.85 and decrease A1620.4 operation of bldgs. By \$1,831.85. Increase A1670.4 central print and mail by \$278.98

and decrease A1620.4 operation of bldgs. By \$278.98. Increase A5142.4 garage and pit by \$354.51 and decrease A1620.4 operation of bldgs. By \$354.51. Increase DA9060.8

Health & Hospital by \$916.47 and decrease DA5110.4 General repair by \$916.47. Increase A5132.4 garage and pit by \$4503.48 and decrease A1620.4 operations of

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buildings by \$4503.48. Increase A1320.4 contractual expenditures by \$3000, and decrease A5010.1 highway administration by \$3000.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard
Nays - 0 Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Resolution passed modified 2023 Budget for Treasurers Office for Sales Tax was \$3,025,000.00 more.
- Introduced a resolution opposing "Safe Harmless Claus", schools will get no less money than previous year. Clifton-Fine, for example, would have a 24% cut in State Aid, almost \$1,000,000.00.
- Work on the Emergency Services Building has begun.
- Proposal presented and passed Monday evening want to establish Satellite DSS Office. Ogdensburg, Massena and Star Lake already have. It is better to serve the public as some people have a hard time getting to the Canton office.
- There will be a meeting 2/21/24 for school resource officers. Larry is representing Edwards-Knox to keep what we have.
- Asked Dereck, the Town Board and community for their support on the Resolution that was presented to them in the Urging of Governor Hochul to Double the amount of Funding for Critically Needed Aging Services for the 2024-2025 NYS Budget so that Older Adults May Age Safely in Place.
- Highway Resolution Modified 2024 budget 44.34 more miles of paving to be done. Because there is a healthy fund balance 19%, they want to give back to public in form of more paving, 79.23 miles this year.

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

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard
Nays - 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell:

- Bobby said they will be having a fish dinner May 11th 4pm-7pm.
- New generator will be installed this Friday February 23rd.

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- Dereck said FEMA has some grants that they can look into.

DeGrasse:

- Rick Towne had read over the contract and there were some discrepancies that need to be looked at before signing, address, fuel, area coverage, etc.
- Dereck is going to look at prior contract.

HIGHWAY SUPEINTENDENT REPORT:

We have spent most of our time maintaining winter roads. We have also cut brush and about 20 large trees that were dead or dying and in danger of ending up in the road.

We have been using the boom mower on the Hill Road. All the roadsides were also cut back on the Hill Road.

Our new plow truck was sent to Syracuse for repair of a bad set of front springs. It was only gone 4 days and they added heavier set of front springs. There was no charge as it was under warranty.

I am hoping to start the Dana Hill Road culvert replacement within the next 2-3 weeks depending on the weather. We need to clean about 600 feet of ditch before we can put the culvert in due to 30 inches of water where we need to install the new culvert.

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

Richard Meilleur

- Richard passed "Agreement to Spend Town Highway Funds" for signatures from board to spend money on general repairs.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Doug discussed equipment, looking into a grader. They have one priced at \$75,000.00, saving half as they are usually priced at \$150,000.00 new.
- Richard is getting quotes on loaders and backhoes. He will bring numbers for the equipment to the next meeting to discuss as they are starting to make plans on purchases for replacing the older equipment, a 5 year plan.
- Dereck suggested possibly using rentals.

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

Ayes – 5 Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard
 Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 24 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize paying the following bills.

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	# 34 – 60	\$31,809.75
Highway	# 21 – 38	\$45,766.33
Capital Improvement	# 0	.00
Fire Protection	# 0	.00
Street Lights	# 2	<u>\$1028.69</u>

Ayes - 5 Burnham, Rowe, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard
Nays - 0 motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Sandy mentioned that the gutters were not working properly as there was water pouring down in front of the community room and by the back door at the post office. They were supposed to be checked last year but it was never done.
- Dereck is going to look into it. Maybe look at renting a lift.
- Charlie will look into maybe using a bucket truck.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 25 Authorization from Town Board to set a date & time for a Public Hearing to change term limits for Highway Superintendent & Town Clerk.

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

Therefore, The Town Board is authorizing to hold a Public Hearing on March 19th 2024 at 5:30pm before our regular meeting for change of term limits for Highway Superintendent & Town Clerk.

Ayes - 5 Burnham, Rowe, Matthews, Kerr, Beachard
Nays - 0 Motion carried

Contracts for Russell, DeGrasse, Clare Fire Department and Russell Fire Department Contracts were tabled.

Resolution: #26 Re-appointment of Richard Harmer 5-year term as Board of Assessment Review Member.

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

Therefore, The Russell Town Board will re-appoint Richard Harmer to a 5-year term as Board of Assessment Review Member. Term will be 10/01/2023 to 09/30/2028.

Ayes - 5 Beachard, Burnham, Rowe, Matthews, Kerr
Nays - 0

Resolution: # 27 Barry Pit/Sand & Gravel Mine

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes Town Supervisor to sign the Lead Agency Determination request for the Barry Pit Sand & Gravel Mine permit application # 6-4078-00016/00001; Mined Land ID 60238.

Ayes - 5 Beachard, Rowe, Burnham, Matthews, Kerr
Nays - 0

Resolution: # 28 Urging Governor Hochul to Double the amount of Funding for Critically Needed Aging Services for the 2024-2025 NYS Budget so that older adults may age safely in place

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham.

Therefore, The Board supports the Resolution as presented to the Board by Legislature Larry Denesha

Ayes - 5 Beachard, Burnham, Rowe, Kerr, Matthews
Nays - 0 Motion carried.

Bid Opening for Stairs

- Only 1 bid was received for the stairs from NTC for \$55,000.00.
- It was \$4,500.00 less than the first bid that was sent in.
- Board suggested putting bid back out for spring and want the bids back before our next board meeting.
- Bid was declined/rejected.
- Richard suggested North Country Builders Exchange.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham.

Ayes - 0

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Nays - 5 Beachard, Burnham, Matthews, Rowe, Kerr

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 7:09 pm

All were in favor

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted by

Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk

**RUSSELL
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
BID**

The Town of Russell is taking sealed bids on replacing the Town Hall Entrance Steps. We offer prevailing wages.

Engineered plans are available at request from the Town Clerk 315-347-2358

russellnyclerk@gmail.com

. The town will do the demolition and disposal of the existing steps and railings. The completion date should be June 30, 2024. Sealed bids are to be in by March 15, 2024 and will be opened at the March 19, 2024 board meeting. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Town Office at PO Box 628, 4 Pestle Street Russell, NY 13684. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 9am to 4 PM. Submittals shall be placed on a clean sheet of paper with the amount of bid legibly and clearly written or typed along with contact information including name, address, and phone number for said bidder. A 10% bid bond and proof of certificate of liability is needed. Place the bid in a sealed envelope with the project name on the front. The Town of Russell has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

**RUSSELL
LOCAL LAW**

Public Hearing

Advertisement:

The Town of Russell will hold a Public Hearing on March 19, 2024 @ 5:30 pm at the Russell Town Hall for Local Law #1 & #2 of 2024 to extend the term of office for the Town Clerk and Town Highway Superintendent from a 2-year term to a 4-year term. Providing a four-year term for the elective office of the Town Highway Superintendent of the Town of Russell and providing a four-year term for the elective office of Town Clerk of the Town of Russell.

All interested parties may attend to hear for or against these local laws.

Darcie Cross Town Clerk