

**Town of Russell Public Hearing 3/19/2024
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 5:30pm**

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Jack White
Robert Knox
Richard Knox

The Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda:

Public Hearing was called to order @ 5:30pm By Supervisor Matthews

1. Local Law #1 Changing term for Highway Superintendent
2. Local Law #2 Changing term for Town Clerk

Public discussed pros and cons with the board.

Adjourned @ 5:51pm

discuss further the monitoring of the dump trailer so that additional garbage would not be dumped.

4. They would like the Town to donate a plot of land 50'x75' for a community garden. They asked about the space behind the church by the solar panels. It was brought up that there could be possible damage to the solar panels. Dereck will look into and will have an answer for next meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 2/20/24 as presented by the Town Clerk

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 3/19/2024

February 2024 Report:

7 dog licenses	34.00
Hunting licenses commission	7.27
2 marriage licenses	15.00
6 Certified copies	60.00
2 Building permits	225.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$341.27
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	9.00
NYS Department of Health	45.00
Decals	<u>552.73</u>
Total Disbursed	\$948.00

County Taxes collected as of 3/19/24 is 80.01%

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Clerk Report as presented.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Robert Knox

- They had Ellen Meilleur's jamboree.
- They are ordering 3 new light pole Christmas decorations.
- On May 11th they are having a fish fry.
- The oldest member of their Fire Department, Carl Hull, has passed away.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

DeGrasse: Rick Towne

- They had a vintage snowmobile show in February.
- FEMA grant, purchased thermal imaging camera.
- DEC grant.
- Call volume has increased for medical. Went from around 6 calls to 30. They have 2 EMT's.
- DeGrasse allowing a fundraiser at the firehall to benefit the Jeannettes on April 6th.

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the DeGrasse Fire Department report as presented.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

I would like to thank the St. Lawrence County Highway Department and Eric Colton for the use of their excavator and for helping install the 5-foot culvert on Danna Hill Rd. We had some nice weather at the beginning of the month which allowed us to grade most of our dirt roads. We have also been putting down 2" crushed stone on the dirt roads where it gets soft every year. As soon as they dry out again we will touch up the rest of them.

I would like to sell the following surplus equipment on Auctions International and use the money from the auction towards the purchase of a new pickup truck with plow:

1. 2009 Mack 10-wheel dump truck with plow and wing
2. 2012 Ford pickup truck with plow (has an engine problem).

3. Deisel generator (old, does not work)

I would like to get a Resolution to move \$5,103.76 into acct DA5120.4 (Bridges Contractual) out of the \$15,103.76 Shared Services check we received from the county. This will help cover the cost of the 5-foot culvert we got from the county (\$5,610.00) and still leave enough money to buy culverts out of the regular budgeted allowance for our other projects this summer.

I have gotten 3 quotes below on new loaders:

1. John Deere 544P \$144,508.28 with trade
2. CAT 930 \$120,231.00 with trade
3. Hitachi ZW160 \$107,541.00 with trade

I would like to get a Resolution to purchase a CAT 930 Wheel Loader for \$120,231.00 with trade in of our Loader. The price is guaranteed after we sign the purchase offer (contract). Loader delivery is 8-10 months from signing purchase agreement.

Dereck will have to sign purchase agreement.

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

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept both report as presented.

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

Resolution: #29 To Move Money in the amount of \$5,103.76 to acct DA5120.4
Bridges Contractual

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

Therefore, The Russell Town Board authorizes to move the amount of \$5,103.76 to acct DA5120.4 to cover the cost of the 5' culvert pipe from the county.

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

Resolution: #30 To Purchase a CAT 930 Wheel Loader for \$120,231.00 with trade in

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

Therefore, The Russell Town Board authorizes to the purchase for the CAT 930 Wheel Loader for \$120,231.00 with trade in.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

Resolution: #31 Contract for Russell Volunteer Fire Department

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

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign contract with Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

Resolution: #32 Contract for DeGrasse, Clare & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Contract.

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign contract with DeGrasse, Clare & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Doug Beachard

- Discussed septic tank and leach field at the Ballfield should start within the next month.

- Backstop needs to be done.
- Ballfield committee needs to get together to finish bathrooms.
- Tim is supposed to be getting Dereck list of supplies needed to finish work. Dereck is going to see what is needed.
- Concession stand needs to be finished.
- May need a bench ordered.

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

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

RESOLUTION: #33 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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

Audit Committee Report
 March 19, 2024
 audit

Dereck C Matthews
 Sandra Burnham

Vouchers Total

General	61-79	\$11,304.40
Highway	39-55	\$33726.31
Capital Improvement	1	\$6323.97
Fire Protection		\$0
Street Lights	03	\$915.54

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Local Law #1 Changing term for Highway Superintendent

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Contract.

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to Change Term limit for Highway Superintendent from 2 years to 4 years.

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

Motion carried.

Local Law #2 Changing term for Town Clerk

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

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to Change Term limit for Town Clerk from 2 years to 4 years.

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

Motion carried.

Resolution: #34 NTC Chimney Repointing payments

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

Therefore, The Russell Town Board authorizes the first payment of 50% of the contract price (\$29,750.00) by the end of April-May 1st, 45% (\$26,775.00) 30 days later & the final 5% (\$2,975.00) upon completion.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution: #35 Christmas Decorations

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

Therefore, the Russell Town Board will order 3 6' pole decorations from Display Sales for \$1,735.00 and the Russell Fire Department will reimburse half the cost.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

- Renee Patterson is having a sign dedication and was inviting anyone who wants to go on June 21st per her email.

Resolution: # Canton Rescue

A motion was made by Councilor and seconded by Councilor

Therefore, The Russell Town Board authorizes the amount of \$15,000.00 for the cost of fuel, gas & rescue services to The Canton Rescue for the Town of Russell,

Ayes -

Nays -

Tabled

The Board agreed to table the Resolution for Canton Rescue.

- John Stransky was questioning why Canton was getting funds and Hermon Fire Dept wasn't. He said that we needed to have a contract with Hermon Fire due to DeGrasse having medical, certificate of need. He stated last year the town board agreed not to sign a contract with Hermon Fire. They had asked for a \$3,000.00 increase last year.

Bid opening:

- No bids were received for Stairs. Board wants bids sent out again.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to adjourn the meeting @ 7:24 pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk

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@ The Russell Town Hall @ 5:30pm**

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

GUESTS:

Jack White
Robert Knox
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The Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda:

Public Hearing was called to order @ 5:30pm By Supervisor Matthews

1. Local Law #1 Changing term for Highway Superintendent
2. Local Law #2 Changing term for Town Clerk

Public discussed pros and cons with the board.

Adjourned @ 5:51pm

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
03/19/2024

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Jack White
Robert Knox
Richard Knox
Arlena Dafoe
Morris Jeffries
Rick Towne
Larry Danesha
John Stransky
Connie Bessette
Anthony Cross

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Morris Jeffries asked about fireworks for Russell Fest, Sandy responded that the Fire Dept does not have the funds for fireworks.
- Connie Bessette & Arlena Dafoe was there to represent the Enrichment group.
 1. Just there to ask for the Town's support for events they have planned for the Russell Fest. and they have discussed the events with the Fire Department. They handed us a flyer of the events.
 2. They questioned if the "No Donations" sign on the library could be removed as it's causing confusion with their Enrichment building. The Board mentioned that the library is not meant for that, it is a mess in there, there should be another place for donations for their building. If items are blocking electric panels etc. it can cause safety hazards. Connie & Arlena said the church is letting them store items there and are looking into a building a donation box on the side of their building. They put on a "Prom Bomb" up at the E-K school that was a success with 120 girls that benefited from all their donated dresses, shoes, purses etc. They inquired about possible storage space provided by the Town. Dereck will look into.
 3. They are planning a community cleanup day for roadsides in April and would like the town to provide them with a garbage drop off location, bin and pay for the tipping fees. It was brought up that gloves should be worn for precaution. Councilor Kerr stated he would donate his dump trailer. They would have to

discuss further the monitoring of the dump trailer so that additional garbage would not be dumped.

4. They would like the Town to donate a plot of land 50'x75' for a community garden. They asked about the space behind the church by the solar panels. It was brought up that there could be possible damage to the solar panels. Dereck will look into and will have an answer for next meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

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Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 3/19/2024

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County Taxes collected as of 3/19/24 is 80.01%

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Clerk Report as presented.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

Supervisor's Report
March 19, 2024

1- Financial Report

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
-Account balances as of March 19, 2024 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-Change of minutes from February 19, 2024 supervisor report from decrease A5010.1 highway administration by \$3000, to decrease A3510.4 control of dogs by \$3000 to balance accounts. (Supervisor stated didn't affect the money, increased highway administration with the control of dogs, when he pulled the \$3,000.00 back out to make up the one budget he had pulled it out of the wrong acct so he went back and changed it right after)

-I have got our NYS Office of the comptroller access re-set, due to new changes with the sit, and CPA access granted. I am working to get the library finished and set up.

-I working on the sam.gov registration, I have had to remove the town due to Inactive Registration, to be able to re-register with a new ID.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- They have passed a resolution that authorized a purchase of a new patrol vehicle for the Sheriffs dept for \$44,108.00 that was damaged during a larceny that had occurred at 7-11 and could not be repaired.
- St Lawrence County was awarded grant from NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for a backup generator for Human Services Center on County Route 310.
- Passed a resolution authorizing St Lawrence County Highway Department to enter into an agreement with Franklin County for road salt, have been doing so for about 10 years now, cheaper than we can get from the state, \$500,000.00 saved per year.
- Passed a resolution for Governor Hochul to restore CHIPS highway funding. Governor was proposing a \$100 million reduction, \$500,000.00 St Lawrence County would lose and other towns as well. They don't think there will be a reduction.
- Program called AIM, towns have been getting for about 10 years. Proposal to increase by \$150 million. Dereck asked if he had to ask for information, Larry said Dereck would be notified, would not have to request information or sign up.
- The Governor has put \$2.4 billion is in the budget to support efforts in NYC and elsewhere to manage asylum seekers.
- 7.6 million people in NYS are covered by Medicaid, 39% states population.
- United Helpers, Medicaid reimbursement have not increased, costs keep going up, more than half of the residents in there are on Medicaid. State requires certain staffing level, if they don't have it they are fined. Not sustainable.
- Rich asked Larry about the Lazy River bridge work start date. Larry said early summer.
- DEC doesn't want any new construction or repairs done in the water; freestanding span proposed. For freshwater mussel survey they need certified divers that is also certified for counting mussels. If repairs need to be done, they would have to relocate mussels or piers where there wasn't any.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Robert Knox

- They had Ellen Meilleur's jamboree.
- They are ordering 3 new light pole Christmas decorations.
- On May 11th they are having a fish fry.
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HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

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Resolution: #31 Contract for Russell Volunteer Fire Department

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

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign contract with Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

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- Backstop needs to be done.
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- Concession stand needs to be finished.
- May need a bench ordered.

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 Motion carried.

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Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk