

4/16/2024

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm  
04/16/2024**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Trudy Henderickson  
Robert Knox  
Connie Bessette  
Larry Denesha  
Greg Given  
Morris Jeffries  
Penny Griffin

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Connie, on behalf of the Enrichment Group, asked about having fireworks for Russell Fest. They will be paid for by their group, \$100 a minute for 15 minutes and person has own insurance. They wanted permission to use the ballfield for spectators. Ballfield will not be used to set off fireworks, they need permission from the people that own the field behind it. They have the Fire Department is on board with them and will be there.
- Dereck informed the Enrichment Group that he had sent the letter for their parade and that they would have to ask permission from the church on their community garden, as the church owns the land they wanted to use.
- Connie asked if they could use the land behind the library for raised bed garden if they couldn't use behind the church. Will be discussed more after they talk to the church.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 3/19/24 as presented by the Town Clerk

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

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 4/16/2024**

4/16/2024

March 2024 Report:

17 dog licenses	80.00
Hunting licenses commission	1.38
0 marriage licenses	.00
1 Certified copies	10.00
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>\$166.38</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	21.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
Decals	<u>23.62</u>
Total Disbursed	\$211.00

County Taxes collected as of 4/16/24 is 84.59%

ARPA funds need to be spent before the end of December 2024, we are suggesting possible back-up generator for Town Hall if no bids were received or accepted.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** Dereck Matthews

Dereck has an online cart for Lowe's with supply list that is needed around \$3,200.00 for electrical, plumbing, doors, sinks, toilets, could be less as he is waiting on Lowe's for a percentage off maybe 15% less. He spoke to Andy Wood, he is looking at doing the steel for the bathrooms maybe \$1,000.00. He will give the list to Pete to double check. Lowe's will deliver to the Town Barn. Richard for septic. Looking to have functional by mid-May. May be around \$5,500.00 total.

- Sandy mentioned that funds weren't previously moved for the ballfield. Dereck will make a modification to move funds when total amount is figured and given to the board. Some of previous ballfield items were paid out of Childrens Rec fund, per board members request items were taken out of ARPA funds, that's why the \$30,000.00 wasn't moved to Childrens Rec.
- They will also be looking at auctions and such for items needed to finish the work at the ballfield.

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A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Ball Field Report.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

Supervisor's Report  
April 16, 2024

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of April 16, 2024 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

On March 27, I met with Peggy to work on the [Sam.gov](http://Sam.gov) for grants, and received confirmation on the 28<sup>th</sup> that the town is good to go for USDA loans and grants.

I met with Doug, Andy, Richard, and Pete at the ballfield to discuss bathroom project, I have created a cart at Lowes to be sent out to corporate for pricing, I will have delivery shipped of all supplies to town barn upon purchase.

I went to real property and got a survey map, in the area from the rear of the church to the solar panels, closer to the church would be best bet for a community garden, with stipulations of no use after day light hours.

I wrote a letter to Don Chambers SLC Highway, for permission of use of county rt 24 for a parade on 7-21-2024.

Dereck C Matthews  
Town Supervisor

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

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

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Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- On March 18<sup>th</sup> 2 officers from the St Lawrence County Drug Task Force made a presentation to the board in which they gave totals for felony arrests, drug seized, overdose totals revived and deaths, illegal guns seized, and money seized.
- Lazy River Bridge is now closed until November 1, 2024.
- Sales Tax Revenue is down from 2023.
- Hermon Town Board can do business again. They had around 40 people at their board meeting.
- Don Chambers is looking into a guard post for our Pit.
- Discussed filing cabinets and other office furniture. Fire Dept was inquiring on double door cabinets and Larry said they could send letter to County Administrator requesting to set aside for them if they had any they were discarding. Dereck will send a letter inquiring about cabinets for the Fire Department and may request other items also.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham 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:** Greg Given

- Installed new generator 26KW Generac on demand is hooked up and they are now a shelter.
- Started cleaning out the cook shack and replaced a wall.
- Thursday is the Legacy K Spaghetti Dinner
- Their engine is out of commission; it went to get work done on it at Rt 11 Trucking for fuel pump and now there is something else wrong with it, looks like it was hit, they do not know when it will be fixed. Insurance company has opened a claim as the damage was done at the repairer. They are borrowing Edwards truck until they have a working one.
- In March they had responded to 12 first responder rescue calls and 4 fire calls.
- Fish dinner for May is cancelled as the cook shack needs a lot of work yet.

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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:** none

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur

Highway Report

We have been busy doing spring cleanup. We have swept all the roads and intersections. I signed the contract for the new CAT Loader, it should be delivered in 8-10 months.

We have also taken down several large dead trees on the Forbes Rd, Hewlett Rd and Dutton Rd. We have cut brush on the Grandy and Northwoods Rds.

We dug the holes for the backstop at the ballfield today. We will pour the concrete tomorrow for the posts. We should have the backstop done by next week.

I would like to bid on a 21 Ton Tag Trailer on Auctions International, \$7,000.00 would be my max bid. We could use some of the money from our auction proceeds to cover the cost.

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

Highway Superintendent  
Richard Meilleur

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

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

**RESOLUTION: #36** Tag Trailer Bid on Auctions International

Motion by Burnham seconded by Kerr to authorize the Highway Superintendent to place a bid on a 21 Ton Tag Trailer on Auctions International with a max bid of \$7,000.00. He suggested using funds from our items that we placed on Auctions International to cover cost.

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

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Nays – 0  
Motion carried.

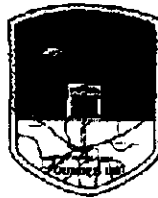
- Richard spoke about getting together with Dereck on USDA Grants for equipment since we now have our SAM #.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** none

**RESOLUTION: #37** Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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

Town of Russell  
P.O. Box 628 \* Russell N.Y. 13684  
Phone# (315) 347-2358 \* Fax # (315) 347-4244



Audit Committee Report  
April 16, 2024  
audit

Dereck C Matthews  
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	80-106	\$42,756.58
Highway	56-72	\$29,755.09
Capital Improvement	2	\$6,526.40
Fire Protection	1-3	\$91,975
Street Lights	04	\$865.54

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

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Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Dereck spoke to Matt Denner about paying Hermon. We do not need to pay Hermon for services. DeGrasse does not need Hermon Fire Station to operate. They may need to write a letter for the issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Fourth Coast Inc proposal for solar panel repair work and maintenance is on hold per town insurance. -- Tabled

**RESOLUTION: #38** To close Pestle St from intersection to Peter Vaughn's for Russell Fest Block Party July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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

Therefore, The Town Board is authorizing to close off Pestle Street from County Route 24, Pyrites-Russell Rd intersection to Peter Vaughn's for Russell Fest Block Party July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 4pm-3am July 21<sup>st</sup> give or take half an hour.

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

- Town Hall Entrance Stair Bids: 1<sup>st</sup> sealed bid was received by Mr. Grant Contr. Inc for \$81,528.49 and was declined by the board. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bid was by Northern Tier Contracting Inc for \$55,500.00 and was accepted by the board.

**RESOLUTION: #39** Town Hall Entrance Stairs

A motion made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe.

Whereas the Town received 2 sealed bids for the work on the Town Hall Entrance Stairs so,

Therefore, the Town Board accepted the proposal from Northern Tier Contracting out of Gouverneur New York for \$55,500.00. A contract will be drawn up by the Town Lawyer. This will be paid with ARPA Funds acct A9902.4.

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

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Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 7:02 pm

All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk