

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm  
07/16/2024**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Anthony Cross  
Larry Denesha  
Robert Knox  
Arlena Dafoe  
John Whitmarsh  
Tom Robinson  
Penny Griffin  
Brad Griffin  
Connie Bessette  
Kay Amo  
Chelsea Reynolds  
Dan Moyer

**Absent:**

Councilor Kerr

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Tom Robinson came to discuss the 3 dogs on Pestle Street Road that were chasing people and had bit people while walking for the past 4-5 months. The property where the dogs are located is also trashed, he would like Code Enforcer to go check it out. Kay Amo stated that nobody wants to walk the road anymore due to fear of the dogs. She also wanted to bring to attention that there is a 1-3-mile walk planned this weekend that brings people right by the house.
- John Whitmarsh stated that there were dogs running up by his house at 2:00-3:00 in the morning.
- There are dogs that have been repeatedly loose and running around town that belong to the people that live next to the Town Barn.
- Dan Moyer, Dog Control, was there to answer questions and concerns. He explained the importance of filing a report when bit by a dog. If a report isn't filed, he is not notified to respond. He also stated to call him if dogs are out running loose or if someone is bitten. He will be leaving the meeting and going down Pestle Street Road to see if the dogs are out or if he can speak to the owner of the dogs. If he doesn't see them today, he will try again the following day.

- Chelsea Reynolds spoke of concerns about ATV's and UTV's speeding by her house on the dead end Mackin Road all hours of the day & night. She has children that could be harmed and large trucks that they could possibly hit and harm themselves. The Board informed her that there is nothing the town can do, it would be NYS DOT. The Board suggested contacting law enforcement and/or put-up cameras with a sign letting them know they are on being recorded.
- There is also a culvert by Chelsea's house that may need to be fixed. Richard will check to see if it is plugged and needs to be cleaned out.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 6/18/24 as presented by the Town Clerk

Ayes - 4            Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham  
 Nays - 0  
 Motion carried.

### **TOWN CLERK REPORT: 7-16-2024**

#### June 2024 Report:

8 dog licenses	38.00
Hunting licenses commission	30.95
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
5 Certified copies	50.00
2 Building Permits	50.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
<b>Total Revenue to Supervisor</b>	<b>\$168.95</b>

#### Disbursed amounts:

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	10.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	834.05
<b>Total Disbursed</b>	<b>\$1,013.00</b>

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

Ayes - 4            Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham

Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** None

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

Supervisor's Report  
July 16, 2024

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.  
-Account balances as of June 18, 2024, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

**RESOLUTION: #47**                      Budget Modifications

Budget modification; move \$1,325.48 from A199W4 contingent account, to A7550.4 celebrations account.

Budget modification; move \$227.63 from A1990.4 contingent account, to A7140.4 Playgrounds and ballfield.

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

Ayes - 4                      Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

I met with Pete at the ballfield to go over Lowe's supplies, I am in contact with Lowe's on missing supplies for ballfield, doors, toilets, sinks, & pex. If they do not have in stock, we will go to another vendor, as so to get this project done.

The town dock was lost during the high water, I have found it in Pyrites, it is in the spill way behind Jessica and John Friot's home, yes it went over the damn. I talked with Jess, after the water settles, we can access it from their property. We will need to disassemble it and bring out in sections.

I went to town library, and community room, I was informed that the community room is assigned to be used for Russell fest weekend and to be cleaned of all items after event.

Dereck C Matthews  
Town Supervisor

- Supervisor Matthews is going to contact Lowe's on returning items that have been delivered since we have not received the remaining items and purchase all items elsewhere.
- It was mentioned that there was a complaint that the community room at the library had a bad smell. Arlena Dafoe, from the Enrichment Group, stated that they have not smelled anything in the room but this Thursday and throughout the weekend the items will be set out on tables for people to take what they need/want. The items will not be returning into the community room.

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

Ayes - 4            Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- Two events coming up. The Senior Picnic August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Gouverneur Community Center. There will be bingo, lunch served and musical entertainment and the Senior Rama July 22 at the Mohawk Bingo Palace in Hogansburg.
- They have passed a resolution for the Sheriff's Office to purchase an Inception Whole Body Contraband Detection Scanner for St Lawrence County Correction Facility. It detects metallic and non-metallic items (drugs, weapons, cell phones, swallowed balloons, etc.) for people being brought in.
- Passed a resolution modifying the 2024 budget for the Sheriff's Office prescription for costs at the St Lawrence County Correction Facility. They have added an additional \$200,000.00 to get through to the end of the year. Once a person is incarcerated, if they are on Medicaid, Medicaid no longer covers the individual and the County must pick up the cost.
- The 2025 budget team has begun the Tuesday July 9<sup>th</sup> and continues until Thursday August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Tentative 2025 budget will be presented to the finance committee Monday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Budget reviews will be held October 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. Public Hearing on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The Tooley Pond Road is still closed due to flood damage.

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

Ayes - 4            Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

**Russell:** Robert Knox

- Festival, bands, vendors, hot dogs and hamburgers, raffles all day Saturday starting at 12:00pm.

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

Ayes - 4     Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**DeGrasse:** None

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur

**Highway Report**

We had quite a bit of damage from the recent storms. I have been in contact with Don Chambers, and we are hoping to get some help from the state with the cost of storm damage. We have got all our roads back open as of Monday afternoon. We worked overtime on Friday to get all the roads passible.

The bridge on Silver Hill Road sustained some damage, mostly gravel washed out around the wing wall. We have replaced the gravel and checked the rest of the structure, and it looks okay. McCarthy Road bridge also sustained some damage to the approach and is still open. The County is assessing the damage as it is their bridge.

The bridge to the pit had some damage and is closed until we can get it fixed. We are working on it today and hope to have concrete poured by next week. We have also been cutting shoulders and cutting brush. We are working with other towns on shared service paving projects.

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

Richard Meilleur  
Highway Superintendent

- They are forming bridge back up, may need \$15-\$20 thousand to spend on repairs. Larry Denesha suggested contacting Kelly Smith.
- Railings for the new stairs at the Town Hall are done. They will be installed next week.

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

Ayes – 4     Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham

Nays – 0

Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** None

**RESOLUTION: #48**     Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

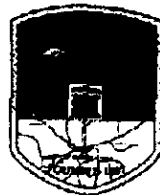
A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize paying the following bills.

Ayes - 4     Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

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



Audit Committee Report  
July 16, 2024  
audit

Dereck C Matthews  
Sandra Burnham

Voucher

Total

General	162-186	\$40,810.76
Highway	109-121	\$23,237.53
Capital Improvement	6,7	\$4,378.64
Streetlights	07	\$747.13

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Board questioned if we had heard anything on ATV roads that were to be added. Supervisor Matthews said he has not heard back from lawyer.
- Building permit fees paperwork has been received back from the lawyer. It will be tabled until we find out if we need to have a public hearing. If we do need a public hearing, we will make it for 5:30pm day of our next board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- We were contacted to see if we would be interested in purchasing AEDs for the town. The Board wants to purchase 3 AED's, one for the Town Hall, one for the Town Barn and one for the library. I will inquire if there is any further discount for purchasing 3.

**RESOLUTION: #49**

AEDs for the Town Hall, Town Barn &amp; Library

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize the purchase of 3 HeartSine Samaritan PAD 350P AEDs quoted @ \$1,412.58 each (1 Town Barn, 1 Town Hall & 1 Library).

Ayes - 4    Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

- Arlena Dafoe stated that the roof on the carport of the library may need to be looked at as it has been leaking when it rains. The Board spoke of getting a quote for a new roof.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to adjourn the meeting @ 7:29 pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk