

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
11/19/2024

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Morris Jeffries
 Larry Denesha
 Scott Cardinell
 Connie Bessette

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 10/15/24 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 11-19-2024

October 2024 Report:

10 dog licenses	58.00
Hunting license commission	133.30
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
11 Certified copies	110.00
6 Building Permits	500.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$801.30

Disbursed amounts:

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	16.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	<u>2,284.70</u>
	2,300.70

Total Disbursed	\$3,102.00
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A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Clerk Report as presented.

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 November 19, 2024**

1- Financial Report

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

I went to Lowes and used remaining ARPA money to purchase new tables for the community room. Filed 2024 & 2025 budgets with the comptroller. In communication with FEMA on July storm and a conference call slated for 20th on the August storm.

Dereck C Matthews
 Town Supervisor

- Supervisor explained the negative numbers on the financial statements for the insurance. He will be changing next month to straighten out.
- Councilor Beachard questioned where we were at with the fraudulent transactions that were on one of the Town accounts. Supervisor Matthews informed the Board that he had spoken to the Sheriff's today, it is still under investigation. That he hasn't heard from the bank; he will be meeting with them this week. He looked at other options we had for local banks that we could switch to. We cannot use Federal Credit Unions. He will know more by the end of the week. Councilor Beachard said he had spoke with the bank and they informed him that everything has been taken care of, that the money has been returned to the account. The Supervisor confirmed it had been returned. Councilor Beachard questioned why the Board had not been informed. The Supervisor questioned why the whole town of Russell thinks himself and his daughter had something to do with the it. He believes that it had come from within the room. He doesn't know exactly where or who so he can't say who is saying it but said it is all over social media. The Board said they hadn't heard that, they just want to be informed. Councilor Beachard said there shouldn't be secrets, he shouldn't have had to call the bank to ask, the Supervisor should have told the Board if he was aware of the new information. The Supervisor then said Councilor Beachard was finally doing his Deputy Supervisor job. The Board said there needs to be better communication. The Supervisor said there weren't any secrets, and he was going to have everything including bank statements at the next board meeting after he had all the information and documents. He said every dollar has been replaced and the investigation is still ongoing.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed bridges.
- Discussed J & L Property. County had taken it over. Buildings have been torn down and a new company is taking over the site, Astro Aggregates.
- They had reviewed the 2025 Tentative Budget. If nothing changes, the tax rate per 1,000 will go down to \$6.97. A decrease of 2.4% and a 16.7% reduction over a 5-year period.
- 2025 will be the final implementation for FMAP. Losing 3.1 million dollars.
- Discussed accomplishments; Completion of Highway Capital Project, In progress is the Public Safety Complex & Social Services Suite Renovation.

- Public Hearing is Monday December 2nd at 5:45pm for 2025 Budget.

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Scott Cardinell

- Discussed getting truck 104 back 3 weeks ago, pumped for 2 hrs. during a recent fire and is now down again. Transmission & seal problems. Back at Jerome Fire to look at.
- Discussed truck E93 still out of service at Northern Fire. Still borrowing Edwards engine.
- December 7th Chicken BBQ with Christmas Tree Sale & December 14th Santa Day.
- Councilor Burnham asked Larry if there were any programs for a new truck.

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

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

DeGrasse: None

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

Highway Report **11/19/2024**

We have been busy getting our trucks harnessed up and serviced for the winter season. All trucks and equipment are in good shape and ready for winter. We have also been cutting brush and several hazard-dead trees. All the wood has been blocked up and ready to split for the Town Barn, about 25 cords.

We have hired Kyle Gravit to replace Ryan Miller at the Highway Department. Kyle has a Class A CDL and has several years of experience plowing snow.

We have a phone call meeting with FEMA tomorrow for the first step of the process of the August storm. We are also progressing on the damage to the Pit Bridge from the July storm. The Engineer should have the report by next week to submit to FEMA.

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

I have submitted all the paperwork for the CHIPS reimbursement. We should receive a check for \$307,197.95 on December 18, 2024.

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

- Discussed the Lazy River Bridge reopening. Larry had heard it would be after Thanksgiving.

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

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

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Doug Beachard

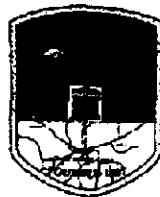
- Boom Mower needs a new head.
- Switching shifts next week.
- Wood stove/furnace needed updating but will look at again budget time next year.
- Discussed future budgeting for equipment/projects and USDA grants.

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

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

AUDIT REPORT:

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



Audit Committee Report
November 19, 2024
audit

Dereck C Matthews
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	256-281	\$11,884.71
Highway	167-185	\$37,753.20
Street Lights	11	\$935.16
Storm Damage	279&281	(\$21,528.33)

RESOLUTION: #62 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Resolution for Fire Departments Summer Festival.
- Contracts for both Fire Departments were given to sign.
- Discussed ballfield. They will work with what they have on hand for now and then continue next year. The storms that came through this year has put a hold on any work that was planned.

- Discussed the progress of the audit. We have not heard if there is any more progress.
- Discussed Veteran banners, flags, flowers and Veterans Wall. The Board wants to cut back on flowers, usually about 27 maybe down to 20, and flags for the poles. Connie questioned the Veteran's line in the budget. Supervisor Matthews will look into what it was used for.

RESOLUTION: #63 Summer Festival Aide

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and Seconded by Councilor Rowe:

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes that the Town will appropriate \$2,000.00 from account A7550.4 (Celebrations) to help with food and band for a 2025 Summer Festival being planned by the Fire Department.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

None

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr 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