

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
02/21/2023

PRESENT:

Supervisor White
Councilor Burnham
Councilor Beachard
Tess Eells – Town Clerk
Councilor Kerr
Councilor -vacant
Highway Superintendent Meilleur

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Rick Engle
Michael McCar ?

The Pledge of Allegiance

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor White.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: Rick Engle

- I am running for St. Lawrence County Sheriff, and I want to tell you a little of myself and what I will offer to the position.
- I have been in law enforcement for 22 years.
- If elected I would like to address and improve the school safety issue by budgeting to have a school safety officer in all schools.
- Add additional personnel to the drug task force.
- Develop a relationship with public services (First Responders etc.)
- Create open sharing with multiple organizations involving sex crimes/ child molestation cases.
- Assign more detectives/deputies to arson cases.
- I feel we need to have less wait time for pistol permit applicants.
- Supervisor White asked about the semi-automatic issue on the permits.
- Legislature Denesha asked him how he felt about bail reform. Rick stated he thinks numbers should be done on bail cases and presented to congress/senate, so they understand it is not working as is.

The Town Board thanked him for coming.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 01/17/2023 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

January 2023 Report:

3 dog licenses	18.00
Hunting licenses	11.36
1 Marriage licenses	7.50
3 Certified copies	30.00
3 Building permits	75.00
0 impoundment fee	.00
0 donations for community room use	.00
Fax and copy Monies	<u>.00</u>
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	\$141.86
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	5.00
NYS Department of Health	22.50
<u>Decals</u>	<u>498.64</u>

Total Disbursed \$ 668.00

I have collected 76.32% of the taxes as of 2/9/23. I have paid the supervisor the Town tax levy.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham
Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Clerk Report as presented
Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion carried

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE: Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White 02/21/2023

Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of February 21, 2023 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-I will write up a letter for Tess to put in the paper for bids to install the fence and backstops at the ball fields this week. Pete also mentioned that a couple bricks come loose off the chimney. I will also advertise for bids on fixing and re pointing the town hall. I have pictures of a couple ideas for the new welcome to Russell signs. If the board can approve one, I will get them made. We have received all the property tax money, and the first qtr. sales tax check for \$122,559.95. It is about \$22,000 over my estimate. I would also like to sign a contract with Peggy Mousaw to file

our ARPA report again for the year. She handled it for us last year and knows the programs.

Timothy White
Town Supervisor.

Supervisor White showed samples of town signs to the board they chose the Green/Black colors and would like a deer added if possible. Councilor Kerr asked if a couple could be done for DeGrasse also.

RESOLUTION # 26 Hiring Peggy Mousaw to do ARPA Filing

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

THEREFORE, the Town Board authorizes the supervisor to sign a contract with Peggy Mousaw DBA Consult-Inc to file the ARPA filing with the state her services beginning February 1st 2023 and ending April 30th 2027. Estimated cost of \$300.00 to file.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

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

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays-0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Tim already touched on the sales tax the town received.
- We [passed a resolution for grant application to Green Energy Holdings for Fort Drum CHIP plant. We have support in congress to keep the plant open. It will hurt more jobs like logging, truckers etc.
- We passed a resolution urging state leaders to remove permanent mandates which contributes to the rise in property tax increases. One of the biggest mandates is in social services in Medicaid costs.

- In the proposed budget the state wants the money from Blight properties that go up for taxes to be anything over the cost of back taxes go to owner and if owner is deceased it will go to the state.
- The ATV bridge is now on Lafaver Road.
- Bobby Knox asked when the Lazy River bridge will be done, Larry said he thinks in 2024.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Bobby stated they will have a chicken BBQ on May 6, 2023 and they will be raffling off 2 kayaks and fishing tackle.

Superintendent Meilleur asked if the FD discussed having some loads of paving put in parking lot where it sags and holds water. Sandy stated not yet.

DeGrasse: no report

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 02/21/2023 * Richard Meilleur

We have spent the majority of our time maintaining winter roads.

Also, we have cut and chipped low hanging limbs on the Nolan and McCarthy roads.

We have had the grader out several times to scrape hard pack off the roads. With the amount of freezing and thawing this winter it has been a challenge to keep our dirt roads in good condition.

It is also harder on our black top roads creating more potholes and larger cracks. I am looking into doing some crack sealing this summer and using \$35,000 to \$40,000 from CHIP's to add 4"-6" of crushed limestone to some of the problem areas on our dirt roads. That is about 10% of our CHIP's money.

The new International Plow Truck is now in production and should be delivered in May or June of this year.

I would like to bid on a John Deere Boom Mower on Auctions International and go to \$65,000 on it.

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

RESOLUTION # 27 Bid for Tractor Boom Mower

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to: **Therefore**, authorize the Highway Superintendent to bid up to \$65,000 on a 2006 Boom Mower on Auction International.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Meilleur stated he wants to get upgrading machinery on a 5 year plan.

He also asked about taking the red pick-up maintenance uses to Blevins and get an estimate on fixing rusty areas to make it last longer. The board was good with that.

Town Hall Steps: Superintendent Meilleur said he has not heard from Tom Paler on cost so he stated if the board wants, he and Jesse will put together a cost to do it themselves and get it done before July shut down. He will get the prices of pre-cast steps from Jeffers Concrete and check with County for anchors for the center slab and railings. I want to put a drainage pipe down to the manhole at base of steps. The board is fine with them doing it as long as we get them done. This will be paid out of ARPA funds.

He asked if Tim had heard from NYPA yet with check, Tim stated not yet. I would like to put an ad in the papers to hire a new highway man. If no one from Russell qualifies we can go out of town. I would like a pool of applicants to pick from.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Discussed above

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Highway and Highway Committee reports as presented.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 28 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

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

Audit Committee Report
February 21, 2023

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	32 - 58	\$18050.050
Highway	20 - 37	38583.52
Capital Highway Improvements	0	.00

Fire Protection	1-3	88,460.00
Street Lights	2	1,000.46

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham Kerr
 Nays-0 motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Burnham asked if the maintenance man can get quotes on a new small zero turn lawn mower to use in the cemeteries. We can put the old one out for bids. He is to get 3 quotes.
- Councilor Beachard asked if the old pickup can be put out to bid also. They can both go on Auctions International.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Councilor Burnham stated the FD has 3 picnic tables not being used she suggested having one put at the town park.

Motion by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm all were in favor

Respectfully submitted by
 Town Clerk – Tess Eells