

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ the Russell Town Hall 04/18/2023 @ 6:00 pm

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Sean Lennon
Sean O'Brien
Morris Jeffries
Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha

Pledge

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Sean O'Brien: St. Lawrence County Undersheriff:

- I came to introduce myself and let you know I am running for St. Lawrence County Sheriff in the election this year.
- I am a family man and small business owner.
- I graduated from Ogdensburg.
- I have worked 20 years in the sheriff's office.
- I was put on a task force in Massena too do homicides, sex crimes, etc.
- In 2020 I became undersheriff and have seen a lot of changes good and bad.
- A bail reform, pistol permit laws, and we deal with drug issues and Mental health issues with crimes.
- I support the second amendment.
- The first priority for me is the carry/conceal improvement for applications. Second will be adding a team of 10-12 officers to be able to take charge when a hostage situation or other situation from here to take charge sooner.
- Supervisor Tim stated when he applied for his carry/conceal permit local authorities were quick the federal side took 8 months to approve it.

Morris Jeffries:

- Asked the board why they have not appointed someone to the vacant board member seat. Supervisor White stated no one showed interest so it is up for election this year. If no one runs we could fill it if someone shows interest.
- I saw the new signs I feel they could have been more colorful.
- Morris asked when does the dock go in? Supervisor White stated we could not put it in April because the water was too high per the DEC. The next time to put it in is June 15th after the spawn per the DEC.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 03/21/2023 and 04/07/2023 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 04/18/2023

March 2023 Report:

15 dog licenses	96.00
Hunting licenses commission	.00
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
0 Certified copies	.00
4 Building permits	450.00
0 Town Hall Donation	.00
0 impoundment fee	.00
<u>Copy & fax money</u>	<u>.00</u>
Revenue to supervisor:	\$546.00
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	27.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>.00</u>
Total Disbursed	\$573.00

As of 04/12/23 I have collected 85.38% of the taxes.

The ARPA reporting has been completed by Peggy Mousaw and filed with the state. A copy was given to the board.

I will be attending the Clerk conference in Syracuse April 23-26.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard

Seconded by Councilor Kerr

To accept the Clerk Report as presented

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays-0 carried

BALL FIELD REPORT: In supervisor report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Supervisor White

- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of April 18, 2023 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-The fence and backstop work are coming along good. I would like to thank Pete, Bobby, Richard, and the highway men for the help. It is looking like it will be playable within the next couple weeks. I have measured, and it will take 21 yds of concrete to finish the rest of the pavilion. I am hoping to get that formed in and set up a date to pour this weekend. We have got a lot done down there in the last couple weeks, and I hope spring continues to let that happen.

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

- Supervisor White asked Richard if he got more ties for the fence. Richard stated yes but we will need more.
- Supervisor White stated there is no reason Tee ball can not use the fields now. We will do more work on Thursday and Friday this week.

A motion was made by Council Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Supervisor report as presented by Supervisor White. Read by Supervisor White.

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- We passed a resolution in support of Ogdensburg asking for the state to pay taxes on land owned by them in Ogdensburg. 50% of property in Ogdensburg is owned by the state and tax exempt.
- We do the MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) now at a cost of \$50,000 a month. IT is offered (state mandated) to inmates that come in on Opioid, etc. addiction. There is no money in state budget for help with this cost so the County will have to fund it all. Our budget was already done budgeting \$120,000 and it will cost triple that probably.
- There are 116 inmates now and 60% of them are eligible for this program. 75% of inmates in the jail are drug related.
- Remember when we did a survey for DANC for broadband. We are using \$3 million of ARPA funds towards broadband to help areas that can not get internet service. 611 households were identified in need of this. We spent \$203,345.00 towards it now.
- There was a discussion about internet lines being placed in areas that they should not be put. The County and Towns should have some input to where they lay it through. Larry was not aware of this so he will address it.
- Councilmember Burnham asked about the trash that is along roadsides. She was wondering what can be done about it.

A motion by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Legislature report as presented.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Russell: Bobby and Sandy

- May 6th is a Chicken BBQ at #12.00 a meal.
- The Kayak raffle is on hold for now they will have to go to Watertown to pick one up.
- Highway Superintendent Meilleur stated he and Kevin Burke talked about the paving in the parking lot by FD. They feel paving from the corner past the Court and around the town hall down to the town barn should make draining issue much better. He will get figures for the cost and breakdown the cost for the FD area.
- Richard stated he plans on paving the Smith Road, finish the Lazy River Road, and the Belleville Road with CHIP's funds. He will do write ups on the projects soon.
- Sandy mentioned the hose that blew when HWY was using it.

DeGrasse:

- A 2022 annual report was sent and given to the board.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 04/18/2022 * Richard Meilleur

We have finished sweeping all the roads and cleaned up the village from the winter sanding.

We used the County bucket truck to take down several large dead maple trees; also, we have used the new boom mower a few days and it works really well.

We have been busy cleaning up limbs and trees on all our roadsides that came down over the winter.

We have cut and split about 20 cords of wood from our cleanup on the roadsides, we also have about 50 cords of logs to cut up lefty over from last year.

All of our trucks have been unharnessed and cleaned up and serviced and are ready for summer.

All dirt roads have been graded and rolled except for a few seasonal roads which we will be working on in the next couple of weeks.

I would like to use \$9,000.00 from highway fund balance for crushed stone for dirt roads. That is the amount we got from trucking last year from CHIP's. We

should also be receiving \$33,720.20 from Michel's that should be going into highway fund balance.

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

RESOLUTION # 33 Purchase of crushed stone

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham: **Therefore**, the Town Board authorizing the transfer of \$9,000.00 from the Highway Fund Balance for the purchasing of Crushed gravel for use on seasonal roads. It should purchase around 1000 ton of crusher run.

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

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

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

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: N/A

RESOLUTION #34 * Audit

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize the payment of the following bills.

Audit Committee Report
April 18, 2023
Sandy Burnham
Timothy White

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	84 - 110	\$12,922.55
Highway	53 – 69	\$67,571.82
Capital Improvements		\$.00
Street Lights	4	\$ 834.26

Ayes-4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr
Nays-0 Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Beachard stated there is a hole in the big steps going up to the Theatre.
- Supervisor White stated he is contacting Richard Anson to see if they can do the work on the Town Hall. Superintendent Meilleur stated he has the

name and number of someone also to contact. We got no interest when we advertised.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Superintendent Meilleur stated that Jefferson Concrete is not on state bid so he needs to get 3 quotes per procurement policy.
- Supervisor White stated when the steps get done we will have to seal them.

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted by
Town Clerk – Tess Eells