

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 PM
10/17/2023

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Trudy Hendrickson
Derek Matthews
Morris Jeffries
Larry Denesha
Ryan Raudenbush
Rick Towne
Darcie Cross

The pledge

The meeting was called to order at 5:56 Pm by Supervisor White

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Morris Jeffries asked what re-pointing? Supervisor White stated we are doing bids to fix chimney and re-pointing of Town Hall. Opening later in meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 09/19/23 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes- 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays- 0 Motion carried

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 10/17/2023

September Report:

14 dog licenses	62.00
Hunting licenses commission	390.74
1 Marriage License Comm.	7.50
16 Certified copies	160.00
3 Building permits	75.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community use	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$695.24</u>

Disbursed amounts:

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	16.00
NYS Department of Health	22.50
Decals	9455.26
<hr/> Total Disbursed	<hr/> \$10,189.00

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham
Seconded by Councilor Kerr
To accept the clerk Report as presented
Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

- Financial Report
 - Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
 - Account balances as of October 17, 2023, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.
- I would like to thank everyone for the help at the bull fields. The concrete came out nice it will make parties and games a lot nicer down there. I am glad things *are* starting to come around. We finally got some bids on the town hall work we will discuss later. I hope everyone had a chance to look at the tentative budget. It was an increase of 1.96% total from last year and will keep taxes about the same from the past six years. We have worked hard to keep taxes from changing and I hope that can keep happening.
Timothy White
Town Supervisor

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept Supervisor Report as Presented.
Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE: above in Supervisor report

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Our Preliminary Budget will be reviewed on October 30, 2023.
- FMAT: all counties receive funding bur the Governor in her budget wants to keep it and not pass it along over the next 2 years; that means a increase of 3 million for St Lawrence County for medical costs.
- Lewis County has a double digit decrease this year.

- The Lazy River Bridge is on the 2024 bridge schedule; bids on the job will be done this month. 95% federal and 5% county cost. The work will start in the spring.
- We proclaimed October as St. Lawrence County History Month. All local historians were honored.
- We passed a resolution to support Bills 1466. If someone was transported by ambulance Etc. they submit cost to insurance company and they cut a check to provider. This resolution will require insurance to remit money to the provider.
- We passed a resolution for NYS Governor to draft education for voters asking to enact to show ID to vote. This was passed 14 to 1 at the meeting.
- Remember when I told you that St. Lawrence County was on sanctuary list it is now removed from that list.
- Morris Jeffries asked where does all the money come from that the Governor wants? Larry stated your back pocket (Tax payers).

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Russell – Bobby Knox

- The heating system is done.
- We are having a turkey dinner on Election Day 11/7/2023
- December we will have a chicken BBQ starting and trees will be for sale if we can get them.
- FD will hand out Halloween candy

DeGrasse – Rick Towne

- When will we get the Fire Tax money from Russell? By law we are supposed to have it by July 1st.
- Tim gave Rick the list of Fire Tax amounts from 2021 to 2023. They use to come in a check and now they are direct deposited and he did not see it. We had the bookkeeper look and this is what she found. Russell FD will get \$3,220.52 and Degrassse FD will get \$3,220.51 to catch up all Fire Tax to date. Supervisor White stated we have never got the Fire Tax by July 1st.

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

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: 10/17/2023 * Richard Meilleur
LIST OF SEASONAL ROADS FOR 2023-2024

Backus: 0.7 miles from Forbes road to end
Blackmer: Lake George to 0.5 miles
Cole: 0.7 miles from Nolan road to end
Colton: County Route 25 to the end
Cook: 0.8 miles from Silver Hill to the end
Donnerville: 1.3 miles from County Route 24 to the Clare line
Forbes: 0.4 miles from Boyd Pond road to 1.3 miles
Mackin: 0.5 miles from County Route 17 to the end
McCarthy: 0.9 miles from County Route 17 to the end
Ritz: Full Length
Silver Hill: Cook road 1.35 miles toward Curtis road
Silver Hill: 0.2 miles from Curtis Road to Spicer Road
Thurstan: Full length
Webb: Full Length

We have completed our paving projects for the season. We paved Smith Road 1.2 miles, The Town Line Road 1.02 miles, and Belleville Road 1.8 miles. We finished shoulders on all our paving projects on Monday.

We have about one day of screening left to do and our sand will be put up for winter.

We have also cut brush on the Lazy River Road and Pyrites Russell Road.

We installed the pump and water line at the pavilion and helped with the concrete pour. We also poured concrete and mounted the benches on the ball field by the old school.

The parking lot is finished also by the ball field at the old school.

We harnessed one truck for snow removal and will be getting all trucks ready within the next couple of weeks.

I talked to Glen Plaisted on our new truck, it is in the shop now and should be done within a month or so.

I am going down to TENCO SHOP tomorrow to see the progress.

We received a check for \$3,805.00 from Auctions International; I would like that amount put into the machinery account DA5130.4.

Joe Zachary did a safety inspection on 9/19/23 and found no safety concerns.

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

RESOLUTION # 50 Modification of funds

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

THEREFORE: the Town Board authorized decreasing the Highway Fund Balance by \$3,805.00 and increasing DA5130.4 Machinery account by \$3,805.00 from Auction International sales.

Ayes – 4 Burnham, Beachard, White, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: nothing

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Superintendents reports.

Ayes - 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Ayes – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 51 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	251 – 279	\$ 14,958.10
Highway	149 – 158	\$ 31,907.33
Capital Improvements	8-11	\$404,456.04
Street	10	\$810.47

Ayes- 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays -0 Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to enter into executive session to discuss personnel at 6:20 Pm

A motion by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to exit executive session and presume regular meetings at 6:33 PM

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bobby Knox asked about the extra \$1500.00 for the DCO that the state is mandating for the kennel. Supervisor White stated it will be paid at the beginning of new year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review of Tentative Budget. It is under tax cap with a 1.96% increase change from 2023 of \$20,591.00. If the board is happy, we will accept it as the preliminary budget for 2024.

RESOLUTION # 52 accepting the tentative budget as the 2024 Preliminary Budget and hold a Public Hearing

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

Whereas The Russell town board reviewed the Tentative budget for 2024 and, **Therefore**, the Russell Town Board hold a Preliminary Budget Public Hearing on November 8, 2023, at 5:30 Pm at the Russell Town Hall to hear for or against the 2024 budget from the public.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, Burnham, White, Kerr

Nays - 0 Motion carried.

Opening the bids for Town hall steps and Chimney/Re-pointing of Town Hall:

1. Charles T Driscoll Masonry Restoration Co. Inc from Skaneateles Falls Ny bid on Project # 2 Chimney Repair and repointing of Town Hall Building in the amount of \$51,500.00
2. Northern Tier Contracting Inc out of Gouverneur, NY put a bid on Project # 1 Town Hall entrance Steps of \$59,500.00 and Project # 2 Chimney Repair and repointing of Town Hall Building in the amount of \$59,000.00

The Town Board went with the higher bid of \$59,500.00 from Northern Tier Contracting because they were taking the chimney down to the roof line to repair it and the board feels it would be a better quality of repair going to the roof line.

RESOLUTION: # 53 Accepting Bid for Chimney and Re-Pointing of Town Hall

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

Whereas the Town Board received bids to do the town Hall steps and Chimney/Re-Pointing on Town Hall. After reviewing the bids presented **Therefore**, the town Board will accept the bid from Northern Tier Contracting out of Gouverneur, NY for Project # 2 repair Chimney and Re-Pointing of the town Hall in the amount of \$59,500.00. The Money will be used from **ARPA FUNDS** to pay this.

Ayes – 4 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

The Board felt Northern Tier Contracting put to high of a bid in for replacing the steps so they will re-bid them out again.

RESOLUTION: # 54 Paying the pavilion cement and water pump and lines from ARPA FUNDS

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

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the payment of \$3,813.38 (cement for pavilion) and \$75.00 for Power trowel to do cement work on pavilion. Also \$1,632.63 for water pump and lines all at the ball field. To be paid out of **ARPA FUNDS**.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM all were in favor

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk