

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
11/21/2023

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Morris Jeffries
Darcie Cross
Derek Matthews

The Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor White @ 6:00 pm

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 10/17/2023 and 11/08/2023 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes-5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 11/21/2023

October 2023 Report:

5 dog licenses	\$22.00
Hunting licenses commission	123.51
1 marriage license commission	7.50
1 Certified copies	10.00
4 Building permits	100.00
0 Impoundment fee	.00
0 Donation of community room	.00
Fax & copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$263.01</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	6.00
NYS Department of health	22.50
<u>Decals</u>	<u>\$2,090.49</u>

Total Disbursed \$2,382.00

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard
Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Clerk Report as presented
Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr
Nays – 0 Motion carried

BALL FIELD REPORT: Nothing to report

SUPERVISOR REPORT: Timothy White 11/21/23

1- Financial Report

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
-Account balances as of November 21, 2023 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-4th qtr sales tax check came in at \$125,773.67 that was \$90,841.57 more than what was budgeted. We also have underspent by about \$130,000 what was budgeted at this time. If the spending stays the way it has we will run around \$150,000 to the good.

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

Tim went over the cost for new propane furnace for courthouse from Adners HVAC/Kevin Adner out of Ogdensburg. It is needed now so it is an emergency, so we do not need 3 quotes.

Councilor Burnham stated he inspected all furnaces for the town. She also stated some of the windows are in need of repairs.

RESOLUTION # 57 New Propane furnace for courthouse.

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

Therefore, The Town Board authorizes the purchase of a new 2 stage high efficiency gas furnace to be installed in the courthouse by Adners HVAC/

Kevin Adner with the town removing the old furnace and fuel oil tank at the cost of \$6,810.00. Will be taken out of Fund balance account A600.

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 motion carried

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

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- We had our 2023 Preliminary budget meeting on October 30th, there were no changes made to it, there will be a 6% decrease in town property taxes.
- In 2015 we had a negative fund balance now we have a 15.9 million fund balance.
- We paved an extra 10 miles of roads this year. The sales tax helps a lot with this. We have 3 outstanding bonds, but interest rates are at 2% right now.
- We have done some renovations to the Human Resource building, AC update, reception area and office space at cost so far \$523,000.00.
- We passed a resolution to do the Lazy River bridge in the spring at cost of 3 million nine hundred twenty-seven thousand four hundred thirty- two dollars.
- We passed a resolution honoring Morristown, Huevelton and Lisbon fire departments for hauling water to Watertown when they had water issues.
- We passed a resolution to have the Adirondack Park Agency policy updated for emergency telecommunications.
- I am asking if the board will lower the flag half-staff in honor of Landen Hall, a decorated veteran on Friday who recently passed.

RESOLUTION # 58 Half-staff flag honoring Landen Hall.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr **Therefore**, the Town Board orders the flag to be lowered to half-staff on Friday the 24th to honor a decorated veteran Landen Hall.

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

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

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Bobby Knox

- Our floors are all done.
- Our tree sale and BBQ will be December 2nd starts at noon.
- Our annual Christmas Dinner is December 9th. Board members and supervisor are invited to attend.
- The town helped put up pole decorations.

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

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

Nays - 0 Motion carried

Highway Superintendent Report: 11/21/2023* Richard Meilleur

We have been busy cutting brush by hand and with the Boom Mower.

We have also cleaned ditches at several locations.

The new Plow Truck is completed and will be getting delivered next week. I talked with Allegiance today and they are retorquing and doing final check over this week.

We have touched up most of our dirt roads with the grader and they are in pretty good shape.

I am still waiting on quotes for the Heaters.

Upstate Doors is getting me a quote on new door seals for the truck bays. They should be able to install them within the next couple of weeks.

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

RESOLUTION # 59 Budget modifications.

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

Therefore, authorize the budget modifications to be done, for floor seals for the bay doors at town barn the cost of \$2500.00 could they be paid out of Fund Balance A600. And a to decrease the Highway Fund Balance DA600 by \$3805.05 from auction international sales to be put in the machinery account DA5130.4.

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Doug Beachard

- Went over the bay door seals
- Talked about heaters for in the bays
- Discussed replacing the old pickup, will get quotes in the spring
- The new Plow truck is done they will honor the original quote they gave us. It should be here next week.

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

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

Nays-0 motion carried

RESOLUTION # 60 * Audit Report-Timothy White & Sandra Burnham

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

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	280 - 305	\$11,343.66
Highway	159 - 176	\$39,386.60
Capital Improvements	-	.00
Street Lights	11	826.94

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

Nays-0 motion carried

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Beachard asked if Town Hall steps will be put back out to bid for spring. Yes, will have Tess advertise to be in by February 13, 2024. The advertisement was read and accepted as is by the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION # 61 Historical sign installation

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to: **Therefore**, the town board authorizes the Town highway men to install a historical marker sign for Hiram Bartlett just outside of the cemetery fence on the right hand side when it is delivered.

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 0 Motion carried

RESOLUTION # 62 executive session

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to enter executive session at 6:30 pm to discuss personnel.

All were in favor. ➤

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to exit executive session at 6:40pm.

Ayes – 5 Beachard, Rowe, White, Burnham, Kerr

Nays – 4 motions carried

Superintendent Meilleur stated that Joe Zackary will be retiring, and the town will need to find someone to do the MSHA training. We can check with the county.

Motion by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Tess Eells-Russell Town Clerk

Town Hall Steps Bid

The Town of Russell is taking sealed bids on replacing the Town Hall Entrance Steps. We offer prevailing wages. Engineered plans are available at request from the Town Clerk 315-347-2350 or russellnyclerk@gmail.com. The town will do the demolition and disposal of the existing steps and railings. The completion date should be June 30, 2024. Sealed bids are to be in by February 13, 2024 and will be opened at the February 20, 2024 board meeting. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Town Office at PO Box 628, 4 Pestle Street Russell, NY 13684. Office hours are Monday thru Friday 9am to 4 PM. Submittals shall be placed on a clean sheet of paper with the amount of bid legibly and clearly written or typed along with contact information including name, address, and phone number for said bidder. A 10% bid bond and proof of certificate of liability is needed. Place the bid in a sealed envelope with the project name on the front. The Town of Russell has the right to accept or reject any or all bids.