

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm
12/19/2023

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Tammy Brosowsky
Morris Jeffries
Bobby Knox
Larry Denesha
Dereck Matthews
Darcie Cross

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

The Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Tammy Brosowsky praised the Russell Highway for the road she lives on, Pleasant St, is wonderful. She voiced her complaint about TDS services. Stating that they "Hold her hostage" with her service. Her service is spotty and not reliable, she has tried to acquire other services but was told they do not cover her area. The supervisor suggested she contact a local TDS employee.

Morris Jeffries also made a comment to the Supervisor that he had done a good job while in term.

MINUTES ACCEPTANCE:

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 11/21/23 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays-0 motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 12/20/2022

November Report:

12 dog licenses	\$ 62.00
Hunting licenses commission	53.75
0 marriage licenses	.00
2 Certified copies	20.00
0 Building permits	.00
0 Town Hall donation	.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
Fax & copy money	.00
<u>Revenue to supervisor:</u>	<u>\$135.75</u>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	17.00

NYS Department of	.00
<u>Decals</u>	<u>\$905.25</u>

Total Disbursed \$1058.00

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

BALLFIELD COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing

SUPERVISOR REPORT: 12/19/2023: Timothy White

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of December 19, 2023 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

-The new plow truck is in and in use and I would like to make a resolution to spend \$81,624.00 out of the general fund balance to have it paid off. The rest of it was paid out of the new truck account.

Resolution: #63 Payment for New Plow Truck

Motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded Councilor Beachard to authorize the Supervisor to spend \$81,624.00 out of the General Fund Balance to have the truck paid off and the rest paid out of the New Truck Account.

Ayes – 5 Beachard, White, Burnham, Kerr, Rowe
Nays – 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: #64 Budget Modification

Motion made by Counselor Kerr and seconded by Burnham to authorize the Supervisor to make budget modifications below:

Budget modifications, increase A1620.1 operation of plants by \$1,900.76, and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$1,900.76. Increase A1910.4 insurance by \$8,262.23 and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$8,262.23. Increase A5132.4 garage and pit by \$226.14 and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$226.14. Increase A5680.4 safety by \$892.75 and decrease A1990.4 contingent \$892.75. Increase A9060.8 health by \$926.70 and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$926.70 Increase A1670.4 print and mail by \$190.39 and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$190.39. Increase DA9060.8 health by \$11,406.36 and decrease DA9010.8 retirement by \$11,406.36. Increase DA9060.8 health by \$1,097.79 and decrease DA9030.8 social security by \$1,097.79. Increase 5L5182.4 Russell streetlights by \$382.07 and decrease A1990.4 contingent by \$382.07. This will balance the accounts.

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

-I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a *Happy* new year and thank everyone for all the hard work they have put in all year.

Timothy White
Town Supervisor

Motion by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept Supervisor report as presented.

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Tentative Budget passed.
- 5.9% reduction for 2024, rate per thousand was 7.15, this year 7.60 for 2024 increase.
- Mortgage \$6,816.58 town of Russell share.
- Discussed 3 satellite posts.
- Passed a Resolution to relocate Highway Center to Canton Potsdam site.
- Community Colleges check for town of Russell was \$7112.00 for chargebacks on taxes. The clerk will check the list.
- Sales tax 8% higher than last year.
- Ogdensburg sales tax revenue is down.
- Bruce Green (Real Property Director) re-levies Ogdensburg water/sewer, county is going to pay unpaid taxes \$321,965.00 to recoup.

- Emergency Services Building contractors picked. All contractors are St Lawrence County contractors. Construction to begin late spring 2024. It is a 7-million-dollar project, 5 million ARPA & 2 million from Fund Balance.

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

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

Nays – 0 Motion carried

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Nothing

Highway Superintendent Report: 12/19/2023 Richard Meilleur

The new Plow Truck is in and working well. All the plow trucks are up and running with no major issues. All equipment is running with no major issues at this time.

We have been busy cutting brush at Silver Hill and Stalker roads. We have also cut and split about 10 cords of firewood from logs that were left from last year.

We had some minor flooding yesterday and I have checked all of the big culverts for problems; they are all in pretty good shape and the water is starting to go down today.

With the major breakdowns and engine rebuilds we did this year we still have money left in our accounts; because we did almost all the repairs and rebuilds ourselves.

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

I would also like to thank Tess & Tim for their service.

- Councilor Beachard asked about the sealing of the garage doors at the Town Barn. Highway Superintendent Meilleur stated there were 2 doors that were sealed, they had to come back for the remainder as they did not have all that they needed. Estimated cost still at \$2,500.00.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Superintendents report and Highway Committee report.

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

Nays - 0 motion carried

RESOLUTION: # 65 Audit of bills

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Kerr authorizing the payments of the following bills

Audit Committee Report
December 19, 2023
Sandra Burnham
Timothy White

Fund	Vouchers	Total
General	306 - 332	\$114,298.42
Highway	177 - 196	\$226,398.89
Capital Highway Improvements	0	\$0.00
Fire Protection -	0	\$0.00
Streetlights	12	\$905.78

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

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Burnham would like to do a Resolution for Highway Superintendent & Town Clerk for 4 year terms on the ballot. Under Referendum.

Resolution: #66 Changing of term limits for Highway Superintendent & Town Clerk

Motion by Councilor Burnham Seconded by Supervisor White

Whereas the Russell Highway Superintendent & Town Clerk are a 2 year term now, and **Therefore**, the town board authorizes putting the Town Highway Superintendent and Town Clerk to have a 4 year term on the ballot under Referendum for the public to vote on.

Ayes – Beachard Yes, Rowe Yes, Kerr Yes, White Yes, Burnham Yes
Nays – 0 Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: # 67 Contract with NTC for Chimney Repair/Re-pointing

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded Councilor Rowe

Whereas the Russell Town Board authorizes signing the contract between the Town of Russell and Northern Tier Contracting for the Chimney Repair/Re-pointing work on the Town Hall. The work will begin in the spring of 2024 and completed by June 1, 2024.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes to pay \$59,500.00 for total project out of **ARPA FUNDS acct #A9902.4**.

Ayes – 5 Rowe, Beachard, Kerr, Burnham, White
Nays – 0 Carried

Morris Jeffries asked if the Town Hall Entrance steps were out for bid again. Yes Supervisor White stated they were to be in by February 13, 2024. The Board will open the bids at February 20, 2024 Board Meeting.

Superintendent Meilleur mentioned the retirement party for Tess at the Firehall in Russell on December 30, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Larry Denesha praised Tess and Tim for a great job for work during their terms and looking forward to the new.

The Russell Town Board will hold the Organizational Meeting January 2, 2024 @ 5:30pm @ Russell Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 06:38 PM by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr.

Minutes submitted by Tess Eells, Russell Town Clerk

Darcie Cross (incoming Town Clerk)

**RUSSELL
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
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.

**SAINT LAWRENCE
COUNTY
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

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**SAIN'T LAWRENCE
COUNTY**

NOTICE OF MEETING

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will hold the Organizational
Meeting January 2, 2024 @
5:30 pm @ Russell Town
Hall.