

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
10/15/2024**

PRESENT:

Supervisor Matthews
Councilor Burnham
Councilor Beachard
Councilor Rowe
Councilor Kerr
Highway Superintendent Meilleur
Town Clerk Darcie Cross

GUESTS:

Morris Jeffries
Anthony Cross
Bradley Griffin
Connie Bessette
Trudy Hendrickson
Scott Cardinell
Tess Eells
Gregory Given
Larry Denesha

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Connie requested, for the enRichment Group, the use of the Town lawn for a display on Veteran’s Day for “Field of Flags” from the 10th-14th. The Town Board approved. EnRichment Group is starting a community newsletter that they will be sending out if anyone would like to add events or happenings. Also asked about displaying on the message board about the “Field of Flags”. She had a question about the minutes from last month.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 9/17/24 as presented by the Town Clerk. With an amendment request from Connie Bessette stating there Was a lengthy conversation between the Supervisor and Highway Superintendent about town accounts that was omitted from the minutes.

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 10-15-2024

September 2024 Report:	
10 dog licenses	52.00
Hunting license commission	300.85
Marriage License Comm	.00
1 One Day Marriage Officiant	25.00

6 Certified copies	60.00
3 Building Permits	75.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$512.85
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	14.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	<u>5,458.15</u>
	5,472.15
 Total Disbursed	 \$5,985.00

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

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 October 15, 2024**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of October 15, 2024 for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

RESOLUTION: #57 **Budget Modification**

Motion made by Councilor Kerr seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize the Supervisor to do the following Budget Modification:

Budget modification, move \$6,000 from A5232.1 garage and Pit, to A1620.1 operation of buildings.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham accepting the supervisor's report.

Ayes – 5 Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Kerr
Nays – 0

On September 19th I transferred \$251,681.11 from A600 to capital improvement for chips bills.

On September 27th I transferred \$20,739.49 from A600 to capital improvement for remainder of chips billing.

On October 2, 2024, Darcie and I met with the attorney in Gouverneur, to finalize bond, for money spent on storm damage, out of towns reserve funds, in July 2024. In the amount of \$250,000. I took paperwork from attorney to the bank and money was directly deposited into the Town General Fund account.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe accepting the supervisor's report.

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Looking at the Preliminary Budget.
- In contract negotiations.
- Sales Tax Revenue as of today, close to what was budgeted.

- Passed Resolution authorizing the chair to sign contract renewal with JJ Keller and Associates for Entry Level Driver Training Certification Program. This was started in 2022. Since then, 28 County employees have successfully completed the course. Out of 28, 23 are still employed with them.
- Passed a Resolution adopting Local Law G of 2024 and amending Local Law 1 for 2023 allowing 12–13-year-old licensed hunters to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow during hunting season with supervision of adult licensed hunters. Only at county level and trying to pass for State level. As of now, they will only allow at county level if the county passes a local law.
- Two resolutions passed modifying the 2024 budget for department of highways for temporary emergency road repairs. One for \$650,000.00 and another for \$125,000.00. Could be 2-3 years before we see any money.
- Emergency Services building renovations on schedule & under budget. Mid December should be operational. Open house to take tour when open.
- Was a press conference on courthouse steps on our northern border crisis. Assemblyman Gray, Assemblyman Blankenbush, Senator Stec, Sheriff Engel, Jefferson County Sheriff, Clinton County Sheriff, Franklin County Sheriff were there about the border crisis. Normally see 1,500-2,000 encounters. The past year there has been almost 22,000 encounters. Swanton sector has highest of any northern border in the U.S. Border Patrol is prohibited from sharing information of criminal background/history with law enforcement.
- Wants to again thank all the towns for helping each other and working together during our recent storms.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Russell Fire Department report as presented.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Greg Given

- Election Day dinner, chicken & biscuits
 - Had a question if money was put in the budget for the Russell Fest for 2025.
 - Contracts needed for November to sign.
 - May need a new fire truck.
 - Discussed both Fire Departments raise 2%.
- Connie had questions on budget.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Russell Fire Department report as presented.

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

DeGrasse: None

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

Highway Report

10/15/2024

We have spent most of our time working on fixing damage from the August storm. Most of the major damage has been repaired with exception of the Pit bridge and Blanchard Hill bridge. Washouts have been dug out, compacted and repaved and we are putting shoulders on those areas this week. St Lawrence County paving crew paved 3 of the major washout areas for us. I would like to thank Kevin Burke and his crew for their help.

Ryan Miller resigned 2 weeks ago for a new job. I will be putting an ad in the paper for the open position.

We have started screening sand for the winter and hope to be done in a couple of weeks. We still have a good amount of sand left over from last winter. I would like to thank the men for another safe and productive month.

We have been in contact with FEMA and an engineer. We have an in-person meeting scheduled for the end of the month and I met with the engineer today.

Thank you,
Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

- Discussed the Pit Bridge.

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

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

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: None

AUDIT REPORT:

Town of Russell
P.O. Box 628 * Russell N.Y. 13684
Phone# (315) 347-2358 * Fax # (315) 347-4244



Audit Committee Report
October 15, 2024
audit

Dereck C Matthews
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	236-255	\$31,214.08
Highway	154-166	\$19,906.19
Capital Improvement	12	\$20,739.49
Streetlights	10	\$871.77
Storm Damage	252-254	(\$20,031.87)

RESOLUTION: #58 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- There were no bids received for work at the Ballfield. Supervisor Matthews is going to ask Pete if he will work on electrical.
- Discussed size of current flags. Sarah Farr refurbishes them for Veterans, and she would take them. She would take the old, decommissioned flags.
- Flower's have already been ordered for the spring baskets.
- Discussed banners and memorial wall, like the one that is in Pierrepont.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed the answering machine at the Town Court. Two board members have received calls from people trying to get a hold of someone at the court. They were unable to leave a message. Supervisor Matthews will contact both to let them know.
- Tables for community room. Had 8 and down to 5. Would like to buy 8 new, lighter tables. If the Town would purchase 4 the Quilting Club would purchase 4. If purchasing 8ft long tables we would only need 6, if 6ft we would need 8. The board approved to purchase new tables.

RESOLUTION: #59 To Purchase New Tables for the Community Room

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize the purchase of 4 new tables for the Community Room.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

- Councilor Burnham asked if the Board Members could get copies of bank statements.
- Discussed the Deputy Supervisor being added to the accounts.
- Discussed Tentative Budget and Court Revenue. Supervisor Matthews is going to make the changes and we will continue the discussion and adjustments at the Tentative Budget Meeting on October 22, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 7:27 pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk