

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm  
12/17/2024**

**PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Morris Jeffries  
Larry Denesha  
Robert Knox  
Connie Bessette  
Arlena Dafoe  
Roxanne Vaughan  
Penny Griffin  
Bradley Griffin

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Discussed sidewalks. Roxanne asked if homeowners are responsible or the Town for the sidewalks. There are tree roots upheaving the sidewalk and they would like to remove them out but wanted to make sure it was okay before they did any work. Richard said sidewalks had been abandoned years ago and the homeowners could take them out if they wanted to.
- Arlena discussed the enRiched Group had given over 900 items at their Christmas Shop for parents and children. It was a huge success.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 11/19/24 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 12-17-2024**

November 2024 Report:	
10 dog licenses	46.00
Hunting license commission	43.13
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00

5 Certified copies	50.00
4 Building Permits	100.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue to Supervisor</b>	<b>\$239.13</b>
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	12.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	<u>1,043.87</u>
	<b>1,055.87</b>
 <b>Total Disbursed</b>	 <b>\$1,295.00</b>

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Beachard 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  
 December 17, 2024**

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of December 17, 2024, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and street light fund have been filed with the town clerk.

I would ask the board that when the chips money is deposited that, the current bond against July storm be paid off.

**RESOLUTION: #64            Pay Off Current BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) for the July storm with CHIPS money.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Supervisor to pay off the current BAN for the July storm with the CHIPS money when it is received.

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

**RESOLUTION: #65            Budget Modification to increase Law & decrease  
Municipal Court.**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and Seconded by Councilor Burnham.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Budget modification to increase A1420.4 Law by \$3,085.20 and decrease A1110.4 Municipal Court by \$3,085.20.

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

**RESOLUTION: #66            Budget Modification to increase Unallocated Insurance  
& decrease Operations of Buildings.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Budget modification to increase A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance by \$8,773.00 and decrease A1620.4 Operations of Buildings by \$8,773.00.

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

**RESOLUTION: #67            Budget Modification to increase Playgrounds &  
Recreations Centers and decrease Operations of Buildings.**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and Seconded by Councilor Rowe.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Budget modification to increase A7140.4 Playgrounds and Recreations Centers by \$2,595.67 and decrease A1620.4 Operations of Buildings by \$2,595.67.

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

The NYS Teamsters check was paid out of this year's highway budget, prepaid for Jan-25, I will have to adjust this after the first of the year, as to not mess up highway for remainder of 2024.

Dereck C Matthews  
Town Supervisor

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

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

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- 2025 Budget Public Hearing that was held December 2<sup>nd</sup> passed. Tax rate is \$6.97 a thousand.
- Organizational Meeting is 1<sup>st</sup> business day of the year, Thursday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, at 6:00pm.
- Board meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was good news. CSEA Local 1,000 ratified the new labor agreement.
- Discussed towns having their updated Health & Safety Policy Manuals.
- Discussed towns Code of Ethics. If we would like to see how Canton's is done to check out their website.
- Resolution Adopting Mortgage Tax Report, the Town should've been received a check. The Supervisor did receive a check.
- There was an Active Shooter Drill last Friday at the Courthouse. It was recorded and all went well. They will do another drill in the future with changes.
- Passed Resolution requesting NYS Legislature & Governor to Adopt Legislation to permit St Lawrence County Home Rule for sales tax from 3% to 4%. It was passed unanimously.
- Wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

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

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Russell:** Robert Knox

- Dinner Saturday.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham 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**

**12/17/2024**

We have spent most of our time maintaining winter roads. We have also been cutting brush & wood when we are not plowing and sanding.

We have had a couple of small breakdowns on our plow trucks but nothing major. All trucks are up and running at this time.

We have made it through the year and stayed within our budget once again. By doing most of our repairs in house and keeping our heating cost low with the firewood we get from dead and dying roadside trees.

We have enough money left in this year's budget to purchase a new cutter head for the boom mower.

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

Richard Meilleur  
Highway Superintendent

**RESOLUTION: #68            To Purchase a Complete Boom Mower Head**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the purchase of a complete boom mower head for \$15,241.00 from Stephenson Equipment NYSOGS contract PC69840.

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

Nays – 0  
Motion carried.

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

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

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Doug Beachard

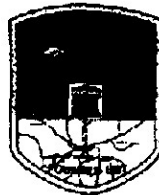
- Discussed Boom Mower head & plowing.

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

**AUDIT REPORT:**

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



Audit Committee Report  
December 17, 2024  
audit

Dereck C Matthews  
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	282-307	\$32,188.07
Highway	186-202	\$80,889.49
Streetlights	12	\$1,046.40

**RESOLUTION: #69            Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- The Town Clerk contacted Witherbee & Whalen. They were not able to work on the monument at the cemetery this year due to weather, but it is still on the docket and will be done next year.

**RESOLUTION: #70            Contract for Russell Volunteer Fire Department**

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Contract.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a contract with the Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

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

**RESOLUTION: #71            Contract for DeGrasse, Clare & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and Seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Contract.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a contract with the DeGrasse, Clare & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**