

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**4/15/2025**

**BOARD:**

Supervisor Matthews - Present  
 Councilor Burnham - Present  
 Councilor Kerr - Absent  
 Councilor Beachard – Present  
 Councilor Rowe – Present @ 6:04pm  
 Highway Superintendent Meilleur - Present  
 Town Clerk Darcie Cross – Present

**GUESTS:**

Trudy Hendrickson  
 Larry Denesha  
 Robert Knox  
 Morris Jeffries  
 Connie Bessett  
 Katherine Meilleur  
 Arlena Dafoe

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Arlena from the Enrichment Group said the Prom Bomb gave out 282 prom dresses and 350 other items. Their Easter egg hunt at the school had 140 kids signed in. Both were big successes.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 3/18/25 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 3                 Matthews, Burnham, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 4-15-2025****March 2025 Report:**

8 dog licenses	38.00
Hunting license commission	.00
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
23 Certified copies	234.00
8 Building Permits	200.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
<b>Total Revenue to Supervisor</b>	<b>\$472.00</b>

**Disbursed amounts:**

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	10.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	.00
	<u>10.00</u>

**Total Disbursed** **\$482.00**

I have collected 86.24% of taxes as of 4/14/25.

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

Ayes - 3                Matthews, Burnham, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** None

- Supervisor Matthews & Hwy Superintendent Meilleur discussed working on the ballfield. Work should hopefully start the first week of May.
- Councilor Burnham had a question about the ballfield money that was previously available back in 2022. Supervisor Matthews said it usually is put back into the reserve. When the audit is back, we will be able to see what we have for funds. We are still waiting for our auditor, which now has everything to finish. Supervisor Matthews will contact him at the end of the week.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

**Supervisor's Report  
April 15, 2025**

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of April 15, 2025, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

I would like to temporarily move the new truck money from DA5130.3 in the amount of \$100,000 to Capital Improvement fund H5112.4, towards the use of CHIPS money, to be replaced back into DA5130.3 at the end of the year, upon the return of reimbursement of CHIPS.

- Supervisor Matthews is moving an additional \$50,000.00 from DA5130.2 will also be moved to account H5112.4.

**RESOLUTION: # 33      Budget Modification to Temporarily Move Funds of \$150,000.00 to Capital Improvement Fund H5112.4.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Burnham for Supervisor Matthews to temporarily move the new truck money from DA5130.3 in the amount of \$100,000 & \$50,000.00 from DA1530.2 for a total of \$150,000.00 to Capital Improvement fund H5112.4, towards the use of CHIPS money, to be replaced back into DA5130.3 at the end of the year, upon the return of reimbursement of CHIPS.

Therefore, the Town Board agrees to allow Supervisor Matthews to temporarily move the new truck money from DA5130.3 in the amount of \$100,000 & \$50,000.00 from DA5130.2 Equipment for a total of \$150,000.00 to Capital Improvement Fund H5112.4, towards the use of CHIPS money, to be replaced back into DA5130.3 & DA5130.2 at the end of the year, upon the return of reimbursement of CHIPS.

Ayes - 4                  Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

I consulted with code, and was informed that we would need an engineered plan to be legal on septic for the ball field to be safe.

I consulted with code on an outdoor wood furnace and, as of April 15, 2011, all outdoor wood boilers must be certified by DEC for NYS use.

- Hwy Superintendent believes they are grandfathered with the wood furnace they have now if they don't change the size. They will check into.

Dereck C Matthews  
Town Supervisor

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

Ayes - 4                  Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- Discussed gas prices in St. Lawrence County. They had a finance committee meeting and the Vice President of Fuels from Stewarts was there, nobody from Mountain Mart responded. They discussed the prices in Philadelphia and Gouverneur. The Vice President explained Philadelphia has competition with their neighboring station. Their price is \$3.19 a gallon and making 1.5 cents profit per gallon. So then at \$3.49 they would be making 31.5 cents a gallon, but the Vice President told him that wasn't the way it worked. They then went on to discuss other costs, crude oil, refining, taxes and distribution marketing.
- Gouverneur Transfer Station is closed on April 14<sup>th</sup> and reopen on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Empire Mines in Fowler discovered a significant amount of graphite shale. This is used for computer chips, batteries and a lot of electronics. 90% of the world's graphite comes from China. They found a 6,600 ft open pit. Once they start it should employ about 35-40 people, it is the only shale graphite mine in the U.S.
- Emergency Services Director resigned his post. They are looking for someone to fill the vacancy. It should be advertised in another week or so.
- Sprinkles will be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May.

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

Ayes - 4                Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
 Nays - 0  
 Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Russell:** None

**DeGrasse:** None

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur**Highway Report**

**4/15/2025**

We have had a busy month. We've cut, split and stacked about 35 cords of firewood from roadside trees that we had to take down. That is about ½ of our firewood for next winter. We have also been sweeping roads and cleaning up brush and downed limbs on all roads.

We have started screening sand for next winter as we went through more sand than normal. We also went through more salt. Our snow removal budget still looks okay for fall if fuel price stays where it is now.

We have been servicing trucks and equipment to get ready for summer. All trucks and equipment are in pretty good shape right now with only a few minor issues that we will fix this month.

We have also touched up some of the dirt roads that are dry enough and will be working on them for the next 2-3 weeks depending on the weather. We are going to sweep the village starting next week.

This is a list of our paving projects for the year. The State budget has not passed yet, so I am using last year's for reference.

- Stated he needs to know what he will have available at the next meeting.
- Darcie & I have been working on submitting FEMA projects and meetings. Will have to set up a separate account when funds come in.

Thank you,  
Richard Meilleur

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Superintendent Report as presented.

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: # 34            Asking for The Town Board to Approve the 2025 CHIPS Projected Paving Projects.**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and Seconded by Councilor Rowe to approve 2025 CHIPS Projected Paving Projects 1-8 as presented by the Highway Superintendent at projected cost of \$652,718.50 with possible future changes with confirmed CHIPS amount from State.

Therefore, the Town Board agrees to approve the 2025 Projected Paving Projects with what the Highway Superintendent has projected as of now.

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Doug Beachard

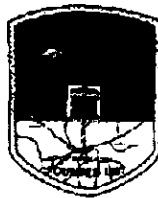
- Discussed different options for Hale Road and a few other roads.

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

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
 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  
 April 18, 2025  
 Audit

Dereck C Matthews  
 Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	80-109	525,546.92
Highway	60-80	\$36,567.62
Street Lights	04	\$1,036.00
Capital Improvement	01	\$16,138.49

**RESOLUTION: # 35**  
**Burnham**

**Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra**

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

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Rowe  
 Nays - 0  
 Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussed the Veteran's wall. They had their first meeting have found the place they would like to build; it is on the corner by the gazebo. The Board agrees on the location of the monument. They would like to start advertising & fundraising. Supervisor Matthews is looking into a grant right now. Councilor Beachard said it will cost about \$1,000.00 for the wall itself. They have been working on a list of Veterans that have property and alumni from the school. They have almost 600 names and 263 are Civil War Veterans and 1 Revolutionary War Veteran. Should be able to have names on both sides of the wall. They will need an account for the fundraising. There is a Veterans account we could use.
- Discussed the light at the flagpole is out, will need to be fixed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- There is a Fireman's Exemption that the State will be ending. If the town wants to continue with the exemption, we will have to adopt a new Local Law.
- Discussed collecting a \$25.00 deposit for the community room. They will get their deposit back if the room is cleaned up. If there is a mess left or they do not show up, we keep the deposit. The Board agreed to the deposit effective immediately.
- Discussed looking for summer help for maintenance.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to adjourn the meeting @ 7.18 pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk