

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
2/18/2025**

PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Trudy Hendrickson
Larry Denesha
Tess Eells
Connie Bessette
Scott Cardinell
Mike Morgan
Anthony Cross

ABSENT:

Councilor Rowe
Councilor Beachard

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: None

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr Seconded by Councilor Burnham to accept the minutes from 1/21/25 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 2-18-2025

January 2025 Report:

3 dog licenses	18.00
Hunting license commission	1.66
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
11 Certified copies	110.00
0 Building Permits	.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 donation for community room	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$129.66

Disbursed amounts:

Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	5.00
NYS Department of Health	.00
DECALS (Sweep)	<u>28.34</u>
	33.34

Total Disbursed **\$163.00**

I have collected 76.65% of taxes as of 2/18/25.

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

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
 Nays - 0
 Motion carried.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 February 18, 2025**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of February 18, 2025, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

I checked in with Brenda in library roof, and am looking to try and get an estimate on a rough idea of replacement cost, and looking for grant ideas, looking towards steel roof?

Streetlights are currently going to exceed allotted money at current rate. They are up \$172.87 in January and \$273.05 this month.

Dereck C Matthews
 Town Supervisor

- Has compared last years and this year's National Grid bills and usage has not changed.
- Was notified by Board of Elections that Martin Dumoulin will not be running for Town Justice.

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Public Safety Building renovations are still happening. Should have a certificate of occupancy in 2-3 weeks, then they will schedule open houses.
- Discussed a passed Resolution for a number of errors on some 2025 tax bills. Undercharges in the amount of \$198,856.82 that cannot be recouped. County will end up eating. Overcharged amount of \$151,735.08. People overcharged will be given credit on tax bills.
- Passed a Resolution authorizing the Chair to sign contract with Barton & Loguidice for engineering services to repair the Silver Hill Road bridge \$79,300.00.
- Passed a Resolution modifying the 2024 budget for SLC Treasurers Office distribute additional sales tax. Municipalities will be beneficiary of that money.
- Discussed DMV. Counties are mandated by state to have DMV. Any transactions done in St Lawrence County used to get 12.7 cents on the dollar. Now it is 10.5 cents on the dollar. Encourages St Lawrence County residents to mail in to our local DMV in Canton or go to our local DMV's as we are losing money by sending to Albany. If you send to Albany, the county receives nothing.

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

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Scott Cardinell

- Last month the fire truck was sent out to be fixed, came back and still has issues. It is now being sent to be fixed elsewhere.
- It has been brought to his attention that town board members have received phone calls that the Fire Department cannot provide the community like they are supposed to. He wants the community to know they can provide the community as they have an engine from Edwards that they are using and a tanker, everything that they need. Edwards has sold the truck that they are borrowing. He has found a truck to purchase. A 2002 Spartan Gladiator, 39,000 miles, 150 pump, 1,000-gallon tank, everything that they need in a truck and it will fit in their bay. It is in Nicholville and they have made an offer. It was brought to our attention that their payment had been overlooked and they had not received their

check yet. We will be issuing the Equipment check this week so they can make the purchase. Either the bookkeeper will cut the check if she is back this week or if she is out for the entire week the Supervisor will go to the bank for a check and give it to the Fire Department Treasurer. Board wants to pay prior the \$17,315.00 for Equipment.

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

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

DeGrasse: None

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

Highway Report
2/18/2025

We have spent just about all our time maintaining winter roads. Kept trucks and plows going. We went through more salt and fuel. There is a salt shortage, but we have a little left and we can still get some if needed.

I have been questioned as to why we have been plowing the ballfield. We do this for the Life Flight helicopter.

Paving projects, hopefully March we will have CHIPS numbers.

Our equipment is in pretty good shape. We will be spending the next couple of days pushing back snowbanks.

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

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

Ayes – 3 Matthews, 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
 February 18, 2025
 audit

Dereck C Matthews
 Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	36-58	\$12,601.74
Highway	27-43	\$43,573.87
Street Lights	02	\$1,301.74

RESOLUTION: # 29
Burnham

Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra

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

Ayes – 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr
 Nays - 0
 Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed the solar panels.

- Mike Morgan from Canton Rescue Squad came to present an agreement to the Board for ambulance services. Tess suggested possibly using the extra sales tax funds we may receive from the County. We will send the agreement to the Town Attorney. This will be tabled until our next board meeting.

RESOLUTION: # 30 Appoint Jack White to a 5-year term as a Board of Assessment Review Member

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and Seconded by Councilor Kerr to appoint Jack White to a 5-year term as a Board of Assessment Review Member.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the approval of Jack White to a 5-year term as a Board of Assessment Review Member with term 10/1/2024 to 09/30/2029.

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Burnham, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 6:47 pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk