

**Tow of Russell Public Hearing 6/17/2025
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 5:30**

BOARD:

Supervisor Matthews - Present
Councilor Burnham - Present
Councilor Kerr - Present
Councilor Beachard – Present
Councilor Rowe – Absent
Highway Superintendent Meilleur - Present
Town Clerk Darcie Cross – Present

GUESTS:

Trudy Hendrickson
Larry Denesha
Robert Knox
Deb Christy
Connie Bessette
Roxanne Vaughn
Arlena Dafoe
Rick Engle
Matilda Larson
Morris Jeffries
Lawrence Rowe Jr
Dan Moyer
Maria Moyer

The Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing was called to order @ 5:30pm By Supervisor Matthews

Segments of roads to be opened:

- Dana Hill Road – Ct Rt 17 to A and B Hunting Club: 2.5 miles
- Given Road – Bullock Property to Edwards Line: .8 miles

- No questions or comments.

RESOLUTION: # 45 Amendment to Local Law 1 of the year 2024 to open two additional segments of road as part of the multi-use trail system.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr for the amendment of Local Law 1 of the year 2024.

Therefore, the Town Board has passed Local Law 1 of the year 2025 to amend Local Law 1 of 2024 to open two additional segments of road as part of the multi-use trails in Russell.

The following segments of Town roads, or indicated portions thereof, are hereby designated to be open to travel by ATVs:

- Dana Hill Road – Ct Rt 17 to A and B Hunting Club: 2.5 miles
- Given Road – Bullock Property to Edwards Line: .8 miles

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Beachard, Burnham, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

- Deb Christy would like a copy.

Public Hearing adjourned @ 6:00pm.

**Regular Town of Russell Board Meeting 6/17/2025
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**

Regular Meeting was called to order @ 6:00pm By Supervisor Matthews

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Matilda Larson presented an overview of the County’s septic repair and replacement program near designated areas of water. She left information with the board and with the Town Clerk for the public to access in the clerk’s office. She can be reached at 315-379-2292.
- Roxanne Vaughn had a question about blocking off her yard again for Russell Summer Fest. Councilor Burnham said she will discuss it with the Fire Dept. but it will probably be done the same as it was last year.
- Discussed the dog issue in town and raising fees. Dogs running loose is an ongoing problem. The Dog Warden was in attendance. He said there had been 19 dogs within the year, 5 of the dogs nobody has claimed and there were repeat offenders. If there is footage of dogs chasing deer, the DEC will be involved and is usually a \$300.00 fine. The Board would like to raise fees. Supervisor Matthews will look at the laws in place now, talk to the Town Justice about increase and adjust/increase our fees.
- Sheriff Rick Engel was present and asked if the community had any questions or concerns and to contact him if any come up. Reminded the community to keep fire arms, camps, sheds & houses locked up due to recent thefts.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 5/20/25 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 6-17-2025

May 2025 Report:	
Hunting license commission	18.36
2 Marriage License Comm	15.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00

6 Certified copies	60.00
8 dog licenses	44.00
7 Building Permits	175.00
0 Impoundment fees	.00
0 Community room fee	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$312.36
<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	12.00
NYS Department of Health	45.00
DECALS (Sweep)	<u>1,046.64</u>
	\$1,103.64
 Total Disbursed	 \$1,416.00

I have collected 93.93% of taxes as of 6/12/25.

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

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 June 17, 2025**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of June 17, 2025, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

I contacted the auditor and attorney and was informed that we can set up an "agency and Trust account" titled "Veterans Wall Fund" and this would allow the town to accept and pay out monies directly involved with the project.

Can I get a motion to create and set up the account?

I went to Edwards Knox School and set in on the summer rec program meeting. They submitted a bill for funds and will submit final cost after event, for records.

I contacted Don Chambers, and he has granted permission for use of Cty Rt 25 on July 20,2025 from 12:00 P.M. — 12:30 P.M. with the use of fire dept. traffic control.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

RESOLUTION: # 46 To Create an Agency & Trust Account Titled “Veterans Wall Fund for Monies Involved with the Veteran’s Wall Project.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize Supervisor Matthews to create an Agency & Trust Account titled “Veteran’s Wall Fund” for monies involved with the Veteran’s Wall Project. This would allow the town to accept and pay out monies directly involved with the project

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

RESOLUTION: # 47 Budget Modification to move \$20.00 from Veterans Services acct A6510.4 to the new Veteran’s Wall Fund acct.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize moving \$20.00 out of Veterans Service acct A6510.4 to the new Veteran’s Wall Fund acct for purchase of checks.

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

RESOLUTION: # 48 To Pay Edwards-Knox Summer Rec Program 2025

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr to approve payment of \$9,095.00 to Edwards-Knox Summer Rec Program for the year 2025.

Therefore, The Town Board is authorizing Supervisor Matthews to pay \$9,095.00 towards the Edwards-Knox Summer Rec Program for the year 2025.

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

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed the State-Ready Inmates, someone sentenced that the state is supposed to take them from the county facility to the state facility, and they are given 10 days to move. There are currently 23 state-ready inmates that the state has not moved. The current cost a day to house an inmate is approximately \$220.00, and New York State only reimburses St. Lawrence County \$100.00, which is the same rate in 1998. It is \$2,300.00 a day for \$69,000.00 a month.
- Passed a Resolution claiming June as Dairy month in St. Lawrence County.
- Discussed Mortgage Tax Resolution. The Town of Russell will receive a check, if haven't already, for \$2,281.61.
- Passed a Resolution to authorize Chair to sign an agreement for CNS Engineers for St. Lawrence County Highway Administration & Maintenance Facility.
- Passed a Resolution authorizing for Chair to sign a memorandum on an agreement for St Lawrence County to participate in Municipal Police Agencies to join the Tri County Special Response Team with Clinton, Franklin & Essex Counties.
- Discussed budget season which started June 10th.

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: None

- Trudy said there had been a donation from Eagle of a pallet of drinking water to the Fire Department.

DeGrasse: None

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

Highway Report

6/17/2025

We have spent most of our time getting our paving projects ready to pave. Cutting ditches and shoulders and hauling stone and gravel.

We have also been helping Dekalb and Fowler with their paving projects. They will be helping us for the next few weeks with our paving projects. We also have been mowing roadsides. We are about 80% done with our first pass and should have all roads mowed before the 4th of July shutdown. Edwards, Fine, Dekalb, Fowler and Hermon will all be trucking asphalt for us on our shared service agreement. This is a huge savings for us on trucking. That gives us about 16-18 trucks hauling asphalt for our paving projects.

Suite-Kote started paving Hill Road today with binder and hope to be done tomorrow.

The County Paving Crew should be here next week to pave Lazy River Road and Dutton Road. Hill Road has to cure for a 21 day minimum and then we can top it with Type 6 Hot Mix with the County Paving Crew.

We have received a check from FEMA for \$9,906.75. It is a good start; we are still working on getting a substantial amount more as we file more paperwork. The next FEMA project reimbursement should be close to \$100,000.00. I would like to thank Darcie for all her help with the FEMA projects paperwork.

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

Thank you,

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

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

Ayes - 4 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
June 17, 2025
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	141-171	\$81,211.48
Highway	93-104	\$29,224.21
Streetlights	06	\$817.92
Capital Improvement	03-04	\$25,139.82

RESOLUTION: # 49 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussed working on the ballfield. Also, the fence at upper ballfield by the school needs to be fixed/tightened.
- Discussed Veterans Wall. They asked permission from the Board if it was okay to move a memorial stone and board agreed. As for when they can start breaking ground, Richard will be unavailable for the next 3 weeks but hopefully when he is available, they can start. If anyone needs help with the Honorable

Discharge forms needed for proof of service, they can contact the County Clerks Office or a VA Representative can help.

- Discussed when the roof on the gazebo on the corner can be checked and fixed. It was brought up if the Town could have volunteers do the work. Supervisor Matthews will check with the Town Lawyer to see if we can have volunteer work done on it and he is still working on the library roof.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Connie asked about adding a tab on the Town website for information and links for the Veterans Wall. The Clerk will check with the webmaster.

RESOLUTION: # 50 To Pay Russell Volunteer Fire Department \$2,000.00 for the 2025 Russell Summer Festival

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

Therefore, The Town Board approves Supervisor Matthews paying \$2,000.00 to the Russell Volunteer Fire Department for the 2025 Russell Summer Festival to help with the cost of food and bands.

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

RESOLUTION: # 51 To Close Road for 2025 Russell Summer Fest from Ct Rt 24 intersection at Pestle Street down to Peter Vaughn’s property.

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

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes to close off Pestle Street from Ct Rt 24, Pyrites-Russell Rd intersection down to Peter Vaughn’s property for Russell Summer Fest July 19th, 2025 from 4pm-3am July 21st, 2025, give or take a half hour.

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

RESOLUTION: # 52 Send Payment to Selective Insurance Company of America for Our Premium in the amount of \$44,316.88

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

Therefore, the Town Board agrees to pay Selective Insurance Company of America \$44,316.88 for our annual premium for insurance policy's S1322938 \$4,619.00& S1546361 \$39,697.88 5/27/25-5/27/26.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham to adjourn the meeting @ 7:28pm

All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk