

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm  
10/21/2025**

**BOARD:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Trudy Hendrickson  
Larry Denesha  
Robert Knox  
Margie LaPoint  
Connie Bessette  
Arlena Dafoe  
Jack White  
Larry White  
Dan Moyer

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Margie LaPoint would like to ask the Board's permission to place a 1'x2' bronze plaque of acknowledgement of the flagpole and tablet that her family had donated to the town in 1948 and was placed on the Town Hall lawn. The plaque will be placed on the back of the tablet. The Board members were all in favor and agreed to give permission of the placement of the plaque.
- Discussed impound fees for dogs. Jack White was questioning the \$10.00 impound fees. Dog Warden, Dan Moyer, was present and able to answer some of his questions. There is an agreement between himself, Dan, and the Board how the fees were used for housing, food & care for the dogs. This keeps the costs down. Instead of the taxpayers paying the money, the people whose dogs are causing the problems are paying. He does keep track of the fees on the DL18 forms. On the back of the form, when the State inspects him, the Town gets a list of how many dogs were picked up. Supervisor Matthews will look into the local laws and contact Henry.
- Dan Moyer, the Dog Warden, informed us that the puppy he had picked up a few weeks ago that had needed veterinary care has been picked up by the owner. The veterinary bill that the Town was billed for has been paid by the owner. The Town does not need to pay the bill. We will pull the bill from the vouchers and void.
- Discussed people failing to appear to court for dog tickets, therefore not paying for the tickets that are given by the Dog Warden.
- Discussed what's left in the Veteran's Wall account. Supervisor Matthews will have to check.
- Connie Bessette would like to thank the Highway guys for helping with the Veteran's Wall.



**Supervisor's Report  
October 21, 2025**

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of October 21, 2025, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

Transfer \$38,811.44 from General fund account to Capital Improvement fund for CHIPS projects.

**RESOLUTION: # 65      Budget Modification**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize Supervisor Matthews to transfer \$38,811.44 from General Fund to Capital Improvement Fund for CHIPS projects.

Ayes - 4                  Matthews, Burnham, Beachard, Rowe

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

Transfer \$16,138.49 from A600 General to DA600 Highway. This was the first chips check, voucher one, sent out and now reimbursed.

**RESOLUTION: # 66      Budget Modification**

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize Supervisor Matthews to transfer \$16,138.49 from A600 General to DA600 Highway.

Ayes - 4                  Matthews, Burnham, Beachard, Rowe

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

We received our FEMA/State reimbursement of \$899,010.00 for pit bridge replacement.

Transfer \$899,010.00 from general to Capitol Improvement, for pit bridge project only.

**RESOLUTION: # 67      Budget Modification**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Burnham to authorize Supervisor Matthews to transfer \$899,010.00 from General to Capitol Improvement for Pit Bridge Project.

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

Dereck C Matthews  
 Town Supervisor

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

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

**LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha**

- Discussed background checks on ammunition. It went to the Court of Appeals in New York State and we lost. It will likely go to the Supreme Court.
- Discussed the all-electric mandate for new housing construction. They are going to introduce legislation to give counties Home Rule. It makes no sense for rural areas to not be able to buy use woodstoves in your house or fuel oil. They are going to put a resolution in at County level. The problem is we have no rural representation.
- Discussed the new Emergency Services Director Rick Rousaw. He had been doing a great job while filling in since the last director.
- Discussed the 2026 Tentative Budget will be presented to the Board on Monday evening the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussed Emerald Ash Bores. They did an inventory and set aside money to get rid of them. Modified 2025 Budget for removal of hazardous trees. Will see activity in our area. There are 4,197 trees that are going to be taken down between Jan & April and will be done by Putney Tree Service. Supervisor Matthews asked if they could have the cut trees.
- Discussed the 92 parcels that were in the tax sale.
- Discussed the Adirondack Park Agency. They named a new chairman, Mark Hall.

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

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Russell:** Robert Knox

- Election Day Spaghetti Dinner November 4<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-7pm.

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

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

**DeGrasse:** NONE

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur

**Highway Report**

**10/21/2025**

We have finished screening sand for the year. We used most of our sand stockpile last year so we had to put up extra sand this year. Our screener got through the year but is going to need quite a bit of work for next year.

We have been cutting brush with the boom mower and by hand. We have also been cutting shoulders on LaFaver and Hatch Road and a few other locations as needed. We are putting crushed stone and gravel on Silver Hill Road (Fine end) as it is sandy and needs a base, so our snowplows don't bite in.

I have gotten several complaints on Dutton Road being used as a detour because of the culvert being out on CR 25. We graded it 2 weeks ago and put calcium on but it is not meant for that much extra traffic. The County has no detour signs for the Ct Rt 25 road closure. So our roads are taking all the extra traffic. We are running low on machinery parts budget DA5130.4 so I would like to move my excess bridges money DA5120.4 (\$6,720.00) to Machinery DA5130.4.

We also need a resolution to retain Barton & Loguidice for the remainder of the Gravel Pit Bridge Project for a maximum fee of \$75,000.00. This includes final bridge

design, all permits, geotechnical boring inspections and bid processes as well as paperwork needed to submit to FEMA.

We should have received approximately \$900,000.00 from FEMA this week. We will need Barton & Loguidice to file an extension as FEMA only gives 1 year to complete the project. We should be able to get a 24-month extension. The permits and final design will probably take at least 8-12 months.

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

Thank you,

Richard Meilleur  
Highway Superintendent

**RESOLUTION: # 68      Budget Modification to Move \$6,720.00 from Bridges Contractual DA5120.4 to Machinery Contractual DA5130.4**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$6,720.00 from Bridges Contractual DA5120.4 to Machinery Contractual DA5130.4

Therefore, the board has authorized the transfer of \$6,720.00.

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

**RESOLUTION: # 69      To Retain Barton & Loguidice for the remainder of the FEMA Gravel Pit Bridge Project for a maximum fee of \$75,000.00**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize to retain Barton & Loguidice for the remainder of the FEMA Gravel Pit Bridge Project for a maximum fee of \$75,000.00. This includes final bridge design, all permits, geotechnical boring inspections and bid processes as well as paperwork needed to submit to FEMA.

Therefore, the board has authorized to retain Barton & Loguidice.

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

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

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Burnham, Beachard, Rowe  
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 21, 2025  
Audit

Dereck C Matthews  
Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	237-262	\$14,418.89
Highway	146-164	\$34,153.86
Street Lights	10	\$1,011.22
Capital Improvement	12	\$38,811.44

- We will be voiding the veterinary bill out of the general vouchers, voucher #250 in the amount of \$269.19.

**RESOLUTION: # 70            Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussed volunteers being able to work on gazebo roof. Supervisor Matthews said we can accept volunteer work. Maybe in the spring.
- Discussed revised Fireman's & Emergency worker's exemption and set Public Hearing date was set for November 18, 2025, at 5:30pm.
- Set public hearing for Wednesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm to accept the 2026 Preliminary Budget as the 2026 Adopted Budget.
- Discussed the septic at the ballfield, that it needs an engineer and there is a balance of \$3,000.00 in account A7140.4.
- Discussed the new wording on the use of facility application and changing locks to the doors. The bathroom has been left a mess quite a few times after events and from people coming in just to use the bathroom.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussed changing our web page to .gov and the added expense for maintenance for 2 webpages for a few months. Right now, we cannot change to a .gov due to the government shutdown. They are not processing any new requests.
- Dan Moyer, Dog Warden, says this coming week he is meeting with Ag & Market representatives, some Town Supervisors and Town Clerks at Cooperative Extension in Canton to discuss new state kennel & shelter regulations.

**RESOLUTION: # 71            Additional Web Page Maintenance Charges Due to State Mandate to Change Town Website to .GOV**

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Kerr to authorize the additional web page charges that will be incurred for the state mandated move to the .gov website. This will be for the website we have now, forwarding information to our new .gov website and maintenance for our new .gov website.

Therefore, the board has authorized the additional web page charges for the .gov website move.

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

**RESOLUTION: # 72      **Standard Workday & Reporting for Elected & Appointed Officials.****

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to accept the Standard Workday & Reporting for Elected & Appointed Officials.

Therefore, the board has accepted the Standard Workday & Reporting for Elected & Appointed Officials. It will be displayed in the Town Clerk's office for 30 days.

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Burnham, Beachard, Rowe

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Burnham and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting @7:36pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk



North Country This Week  
PO Box 975  
4 Clarkson Ave.  
Potsdam, NY 13676  
[help.column.us](http://help.column.us)

Receipt number  
Invoice number OKBLVWIY-0001  
Notice ID ok4JHlnxjX3tXaE38hkL  
Publisher North Country This Week  
Date paid Oct 31, 2025  
Payment method Marked as paid

Paid by  
Town of Russell Town Clerk (NYPA)

Description	Qty	Unit price	Amount
09/26/2025: Public Notice - No Affidavit Notice	1	6.78	6.78
=== Notes === Notice Name: Tentative Budget Workshop Meeting		Net Subtotal	\$6.78
		Tax	0.00
		Processing Fee	1.02
		Amount paid	\$6.78

# **RUSSELL NOTICE OF MEETING**

**The Russell Town  
Board will be holding  
a Tentative Budget  
Workshop on October  
7, 2025 at 5:00pm at  
the Russell Town Hall.**

# LEGAL NOTICE

## RESOLUTION

Whereas Ray and Margie French Russell, New York, have requested permission from this Town Board to erect a flag pole and a tablet on the Town Hall lawn as a memorial to their son, Harold Gregory French, and the other boys of the Town of Russell who gave their lives in World War I and II, and

Whereas, The Town Board deems such a gift a suitable memorial and a generous offer,

Therefore Be It Resolved: That the Town Board approve placing this gift, and

Therefore Be It Further Resolved: That the Town Board express to Mr. and Mrs. French the appreciation of the people of the Town of Russell for their generous gift, and

Therefore, Be It Further Resolved: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting as a permanent record, a copy sent to Mr. and Mrs. French and a copy published in the St. Lawrence Plaindealer and Watertown Times.

Floyd E. Dana, Supervisor  
Hattie S. Jones, Town Clerk  
William C. Poole, J. P.  
Arthur Manning, J. P.  
H. C. Miller, Councilman  
Eli McCready, Councilman  
Town Board, Russell, N. Y.

Dated June 21, 1948

1948

Client:	100120	TOWN OF RUSSELL	Phone:	
Address:	TESS EELLS PO BOX 628 RUSSELL, NY 13684 Tel: 315 347-2358			
Ad #:	19507			
Sales Rep.:	W220	Angel Spencer	Phone:	315-661-2457
			Fax:	(315) 661-2521
Class.:				
Publications:	Watertown Daily Times			
Class.:	ANNOUNCEMENTS --> Announcements			
Publications:	Watertown Daily Times			
Start Date:	10/28/2025		End Date:	10/28/2025
P.O. #:				
Paid Amount:				
Total Price:	<b>\$ 114.06</b>			

### PREVIEW

#### LEGAL NOTICE:

Notice is hereby given, that the Town Board, Town of Russell has completed the Preliminary Budget for the year 2026, beginning the first day of January 2026 and that it is on file in the Town Clerks Office at Russell, where it is available for inspection Monday thru Friday from 9:00am – 4:00pm.

Further notice is hereby given, that the Town Board, Town of Russell will meet, and review said Preliminary Budget and hold a public hearing there on November 5, 2025, at the Russell Town Hall @ 6:00 pm and that at such a hearing, any person may be heard in favor or against any item there it contained.

Pursuant to section 113 of the Town Law the proposed salaries of the following Town Officials are hereby specified as follows:

Supervisor:	\$ 11,875.00
Clerk / Tax Collector:	\$ 33,076.00
Highway Superintendent:	\$ 58,572.00
Municipal Judge:	\$ 12,308.00
Board Member (each):	\$ 2,126.00
Committee Chair: (each):	\$ .00
Committee Member (each):	\$ .00

The Town Board will meet at 6:00 pm and vote at 6:30 pm to finalize the proposed Preliminary Budget for the year 2026.

Darcie Cross  
Russell Town Clerk

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Darcie Cross  
Russell Town Clerk

# **RUSSELL LOCAL LAW**

The Town of Russell  
will be holding a Public  
Hearing at the Russell  
Town Hall at 5:30pm  
November 18, 2025  
for Local Law #2 of  
2025 Providing For a  
Volunteer Firefighter &  
Volunteer Ambulance  
Workers Real Property  
Tax Exemption.  
Regular Board Meeting  
follows at 6:00pm.