

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**12/16/2025**

**BOARD:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Marty Dumoulin  
Larry Denesha  
Robert Knox  
Arlena Dafoe  
Connie Bessette  
Morris Jeffries  
Karen LaPoint

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Arlena wanted to report they had given out over 1,100 items at their Enrichment Group’s Christmas shop. They had used the Russell Museum for storage when it wasn’t in use.
- Marty wanted to bring to the Town’s attention the Fire Department has free access to the Court House, which they should not have. There is some kind of water issue for their need to have access. There are 4 people that should have keys, one of those 4 people should be contacted for access and nobody else. He also thinks the Court Clerk should be making at least \$20.00 an hour for the job that she does, not minimum wage. He discussed the dog issues we’ve been having and gave an option as to how to deal with them. Maybe adding to the law allowing the Dog Warden to keep the dogs until their court date as there are several people that owe money for dog fines.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 11/18/25 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**TOWN CLERK REPORT:** 12-16-2025

November 2025 Report:

Hunting license commission	41.63
2 Marriage License Comm	15.00
8 Certified copies	80.00

0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
3 dog licenses	12.00
2 Building Permits	50.00
0 Community room fee	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue to Supervisor</b>	<b>\$198.63</b>

Disbursed amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	1,018.37
NYS Department of Health	45.00
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	<u>3.00</u>
<b>Total To State</b>	<b>\$1,066.37</b>

**Total Disbursed** **\$1,265.00**

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

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
 Nays - 0  
 Motion carried.

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** None

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

**Supervisor's Report  
 December 16, 2025**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of December 16, 2025, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

We received our chips reimbursement of \$266,972.63; I am doing a transfer of \$150,000 from general to highway, which are the truck and equipment funds used towards CHIPS projects.

**RESOLUTION: #77      Budget Modifications**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize the Supervisor to make budget modifications below.

Budget Modifications

Transfer of \$150,000 from General to Highway, which are the truck and equipment funds used towards CHIPS projects.

\$.17 From DA5110.4 General Repairs to DA5130.4 Machinery.

\$1,796.00 From DA5110.1 General Repairs to DA5140.1 Misc. (Brush & Weeds).

\$973.24 From A1990.4 Contingency to A5132.4 Garage and Pit.

\$40.00 From A1990.4 Contingency to A7510.4 Historian.

\$173.05 From A5132.1 Garage and Pit to A1620.1 Operations of Buildings.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, 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 - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- Discussed the Climate Leadership and the Community Protection Act banning natural gas and other fossil fuels that was supposed to take effect in 2026, it has been put on hold. There had been a huge outcry across the state in rural areas.
- There is a new Director of Real Property, Emily Wilson. She was the Deputy St. Lawrence County Treasurer.
- They passed a Resolution for mortgage tax distribution. The Town of Russell should receive a check, if we haven't already, for \$8,207.21.
- Discussed that if you are eligible, you can now apply for HEAP.
- Discussed last month's discussion on childcare and how much we were behind. Last month we were at \$1.3 million on the hole, this month \$1.65 million.
- Discussed 2026 Budget, did settle on \$2 million instead of \$5 million. Tax rate for 2026 will be \$6.90 per thousand. Total 2026 Budget is \$334,182,391.00, tax levy \$60,109,000.00.
- Town Clerk, Hope Dolan, from Fine retired and Tamika Provo is taking her place.

- The 2026 Organizational Meeting for the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators will be held Friday January 2,2026 at 6:00pm, the first business day of the year. Dave Forsythe is Chair, will be the Chair next year, & Larry will still be Vice Chair.
- Discussed the penny and tax payments.

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

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Russell:** Robert Knox

- This Saturday is their Christmas Party starts at 6:00pm.

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

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**DeGrasse:** NONE

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:** Richard Meilleur

**Highway Report**

**12/16/2025**

We have spent most of our time plowing and sanding winter roads. We have used a good amount of salt and sand already this winter. We also have been using the Boom Mower on Lafavor Road until the snow got deep.

We have had some issues with the wood boiler system at the Town Barn. Replaced 3 pumps and 1 heat exchanger at a cost of almost \$2,900.00. It is working for now, hoping to get through the winter with it.

I have got quotes on 3 different new plow trucks.

1. International 2027 HV615 cab + chassis only \$179,372.00.
2. International 2027 HX520 \$177,059.00 cab and chassis only.
3. Freightliner 114SDPlus 2027 \$155,435.00 cab and chassis only.

Quotes on plow package for new truck:

- Tenco \$126,839.00 + tariffs
- Viking \$114,784.30 no tariffs price is guaranteed

I would like a Resolution to purchase the 2027 Freightliner 114SDPlus cab and chassis for \$155,435.00. This price includes an enhanced ultimate coverage warranty. Also to purchase the Viking Plow and sander package for \$114,784.30 for a total of \$270,219.30. The truck cab and chassis will be paid for separately complete in 4-6 months, \$155,435.00. The plow package will be paid after it is installed 2+ years after truck is delivered to Viking.

- Discussed trucks, plows, warranties and pricing. Right now, they have two 2009's & one 2002. Richard spoke to the Viking & Freightliner this morning, verified timelines, they will not be delivered early.

**RESOLUTION: #78 To Purchase a 2027 Freightliner 114SDPlus Cab & Chassis for \$155,435.00.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize spending Highway Funds to purchase the 2027 Freightliner 114SDPlus Cab & Chassis for \$155,435.00.

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: #79 To Order a Viking Plow & Sander Package with Pay Date of January 1, 2028 for \$114,784.30.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize spending Highway Funds to order a Viking Plow & Sander Package with payd date of January 1, 2028, for \$114,784.30.

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

Richard Meilleur  
Highway Superintendent

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

Ayes - 3 Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0  
Motion carried.

**HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Doug Beachard

- Discussed the trucks and specs on them.
- They had gone out and looked at the heat system at the Town Barn. They want to add overhead heaters & possibly spray foam the ceilings. They will get pricing on what they will need. Highway Superintendent Meilleur would like to keep wood as it would save on cost by using wood off the roadsides during the year, maybe have propane back up. He would like to have someone come out to look at the building and see what size heating system they would need.

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

Ayes - 3                      Matthews, Beachard, 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  
 December 16, 2025  
 Audit

Dereck C Matthews  
 Sandra Burnham

	Vouchers	Total
General	288-308	\$31,104.65
Highway	185-201	\$84,596.81
Street Lights	12	\$1,210.57
Capital Improvement		\$0.00

**RESOLUTION: #80      Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Sandra Burnham**

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

Ayes - 3              Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
 Nays - 0  
 Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Arlena said the Veteran's Wall solar light is not working. Highway Superintendent Meilleur said he would go over and check it out.
- Arlena would like to know how much is left in the Veteran's Fund as they still have things to do for the wall. Supervisor Matthews said he believes there is around \$2,500.00 in the one account but he'll have to check.
- Councilor Beachard asked about changing the locks. Highway Superintendent Meilleur said he's still waiting for Barkley's to go down to the Town Barn; when they do, they are also supposed to stop and check out the doors at this building. He will give them a call. Supervisor Matthews said he will call too. They will also talk to Barkley's about changing the locks at Town Court.
- Morris asked about the dock that was lost during the 2024 storms. Supervisor Matthews explained again that it was found down river in Pyrites in a hard spot to get to, but when he went to get to the dock, it was gone. They will look into maybe purchasing another one or building one.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussed Fire Department Contracts.
- Organizational Meeting is set for Tuesday January 6, 2026, at 5:30pm.
- Arlena asked about the Audit. We have not had any work done yet on the Audit as the Auditor said he would be able to come after November 17<sup>th</sup> and has been trying to contact Brenda for the paperwork.
- Highway Superintendent Meilleur said the pickup truck that was purchased should be in the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

**RESOLUTION: #81      Russell Volunteer Fire Department Contract for 2026 to pay \$55,040.00 for Operational Aid & \$17,315.00 for Equipment Aid.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize Supervisor Matthews to sign the Contract for the 2026 Russell Volunteer Fire Department to pay \$55,040.00 for Operational Aid & \$17,315.00 for Equipment Aid.

Ayes - 3              Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
 Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: #82 DeGrasse, Clare & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department Contract for 2026 to pay the amount of \$23,460.00 for Operating Expenses.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize Supervisor Matthews to sign the Contract for the 2026 DeGrasse, Clarie & South Russell Volunteer Fire Department.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: #83 Agreement with Canton Rescue Squad to provide services for the Town of Russell and all hamlets within the Township within, effective for the period of 1/1/2026 to 12/31/26, at \$1,000.00 per month, with one payment of \$12,000.00.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Rowe for Supervisor Matthews to sign the agreement with Canton Rescue Squad.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the agreement with Canton Rescue Squad for services to the town of Russell and all hamlets within the Township effective for the period of 1/1/2026 to 12/31/26 at \$12,000.00 for a 1-year period unless renewed in writing.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: #84 Pay Case & Leader LLP \$3,039.82 for Their Professional Services for 2025.**

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize Supervisor Matthews to pay Case & Leader LLP for Professional Services for 2025 in the amount of \$3,039.82.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION: #85      To Reappoint Karen LaPoint as Historian for 2026.**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize Supervisor Matthews to appoint Karen LaPoint as Historian for 2026.

Ayes - 3            Matthews, Beachard, Rowe  
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting @7:01pm

All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk