

Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
1/20/2026

BOARD:

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

GUESTS:

Karen LaPoint
Larry Denesha
Robert Knox
Arlena Dafoe
Tess Eells
Anthony Cross

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Discussed the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption. Arlena went over what was required.
- Discussed the water that was coming in from under the door at the Russell Museum. Karen had said when the snow started to thaw, they had a water issue. Supervisor Matthews said they will have to take a look at it.
- Discussed the theatre steps. Tess was asking if they had been looked at they cannot book anything until they know if they are safe to use. Supervisor Matthews is looking into it. They'll have to find an engineer.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor White Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 12/16/25 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 1-20-2026

December 2025 Report:

Hunting license commission	8.42
1 Marriage License Comm	7.50
15 Certified copies	150.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
8 dog licenses	32.00
2 Building Permits	50.00

0 Community room fee	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$247.92

Disbursed amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	756.58
NYS Department of Health	22.50
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	<u>8.00</u>
Total To State	\$787.08

Total Disbursed **\$1,035.00**

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard
 Nays - 0
 Motion carried.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 January 20, 2026**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of January 20, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

RESOLUTION: # 20 Budget Modifications

- \$612.00 From A5132.1 Garage and Pit, to A1620.1 Operation of Buildings.
- \$42.00 From A5132.1 Garage and Pit, to A1220.1 Supervisor.
- \$92.60 From A5132.1 Garage and Pit, to A3510.1 Control of Dogs.
- \$8235.76 From A1990.4 Contingent Account, to A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance, and \$1932.12 From A1650.4 Central Communications, to A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance
- \$433.64 From A1220.4 Supervisor, to A1620.4 Operation of Buildings

\$2032.33 From A3510.4 Control of Dogs, to A5132.4 Garage and Pit.
\$12,000 From DA5110.1 General Repairs, to DA9060.8 Hospital & Medical Ins.
\$12,493.12 From DA5142.1 Snow Removal, to DA9060.8 Hospital & Medical Ins.
\$61.31 From DA5142.1 Snow Removal, to DA9030.8 Social Security
\$828.33 From DA5110.1 General Repairs, to DA5142.4 Snow Removal
\$1,302.47 From DA5130.4 Machinery, to DA5142.4 Snow Removal
\$164.37 From DA5140.4 Misc Brush, to DA5140.4 Snow Removal

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed 2026 Organizational Meeting Friday January 2nd. Dave Forsythe was reelected Chair & Larry was reelected Vice Chair.
- Resolution passed to call on New York State Governor Kathy Hochul & New York State Department of Health to immediately act on North Star Health Alliance.
- Resolution was passed to modify the 2025 Budget to distribute additional sales tax revenue with municipalities in St. Lawrence County.
- Discussed County accomplishments of 2025 and ongoing challenges.
- Discussed their December meeting, he asked the County Treasurer what county earnings are on investments. As of December 1st, interest received is \$4,109,222.83.

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: NONE

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: Richard Meilleur

Highway Report

1/20/2026

We have had a busy month. We had 3 major ice events in late December which used more salt, sand and labor than we had anticipated. We have also had a good amount of snow on the weekends at the end of the year which meant we had more overtime than usual at the very end of the year. We also have put a total of \$3,636.00 into the wood boiler system in the last two months and have had one overhead door repaired for \$1,475.85. They were both emergency fixes that totaled \$5,111.85. That is 25% of our annual budget for garage and pit.

Our trucks were all up and running as of today with no major issues. Our backhoe is having transmission problems and will have to go to John Deere for diagnostics, pressure test its hydraulic pumps and electrical etc.

We are still progressing well with our FEMA projects. We have another meeting with them tomorrow.

We still have an issue with the balance sheet for December DA5120.4 Bridges Contractual \$6,720.00 still has not been moved to DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual making it look like I was over on that account when I was not. Board approved moving that money 2-3 months ago. There should actually be \$1,302.47 left in that account after balancing all Contractual Hwy accounts. The balance should be \$357.25. That is if you put the \$1,185.08 fuel reimbursement check back in to HWY account where it got paid from. There should also be \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00 left on hwy payroll account.

After checking all my accounts and math, I noticed that the hospital and medical account was over by \$24,493.12 acct DA9060.8. This is not something I have any control over. Also, on the General side, acct A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance was over by \$10,167.88 that I also do not have control over.

So it looks like to me that the Health and Medical Insurance accounts went over budget by a total of \$34,661.00. That is an issue with budgeting and should be addressed. I realize the Highway used most of our budget this year but it was needed to keep our roads safe and our Town Barn heated.

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

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

- Discussed December revenue.

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE REPORT: Doug Beachard

- Discussed backhoe issues
- Discussed taxes.
- Discussed furnace issues.

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard

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
January 20, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

Vouchers

Total

General	1-19	\$9,200.00 A600 (2025)
	20-31	\$20,200.84 (2026)
Highway	1-15	\$22,477.92 DA600 (2025)
	16-35	\$20,670.59 (2026)
Street Lights		\$0.00
Capital Improvement	15	\$693.50

RESOLUTION: # 21 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White

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

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Beachard asked about the Audit. We are waiting on Court paperwork to start. Supervisor Matthews will contact Hoffman & Eells or Gray & Gray.
- Larry discussed tax rate per \$1,000.00 assessed value, in 2015 it was \$8.52, 2026 was \$6.90. County goes off 44%.
- Discussed tax exemption to Mike's Trophies. Supervisor Matthews said it's okay to send.

Resolution: # 22 SALARIES

ASSESSOR: \$19,876.00 – Amy Hunt

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard.

Ayes - 5 Matthews, Kerr, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed dog laws. Supervisor Matthews will speak to Dan Moyer & Town Attorney Henry Leader.
- Highway Superintendent Meilleur discussed CHIPS reimbursement.
- Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Russell and the Town of Canton for the North Woods Road was TABLED

RESOLUTION: # 23 Holding Harmless the County of St. Lawrence for Providing Service for 2026

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor White to accept the agreement. Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Holding Harmless the County of St. Lawrence for Providing Service for 2026.

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Kerr, White
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: # 24 Holding Harmless the Town of Hermon for Providing Service for 2026

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Contract. Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Holding Harmless the Town of Hermon for Providing Service for 2026.

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Kerr, White
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: # 25 Agreement to Spend Highway Funds

A motion was made by Councilor White and Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the Contract.

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Supervisor to accept Agreement to Spend Highway Funds Pursuant to the provisions of Section 284 of the Highway Law, we agree that moneys levied and collected for the repair and improvement of highways, received from the state for the repair and improvements of highways, shall be expended as follows: General Repairs. The sum of \$271,808.00 may be expended for general repairs upon miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and boardwalks or the renewals thereof.

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Kerr, White
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 26 DOG FACILITY CONTRACT

The Town Board will authorize the supervisor to enter into a contract with Daniel Moyer for the care of strays and abandoned dogs found by Daniel Moyer as part of the duties as dog control officer. The Town of Russell shall pay Daniel Moyer \$850.00 for the care

of strays and abandoned dogs for the Town of Russell for the year 2026. Dangerous dogs held for court cases are \$20.00 per day to be paid by the Town due to the increased amount of resources required for housing such dogs.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard.

Ayes - 5 Rowe, Matthews, Beachard, Kerr, White

Nays - 0

Motion carried

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor White to adjourn the meeting @7:16pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk