

Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
2/17/2026

BOARD:

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

GUESTS:

Morris Jeffries
Larry Denesha
Robert Knox
Arlena Dafoe
Connie Bessette
Anthony Cross
John Berbrich
Nancy Berbrich

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Arlena wanted to announce that the Enrich Group is trying to raise money by having a fundraiser, collecting new/slightly used shoes, which a company is buying them from the group to take them to 3rd world countries. They have to collect almost 3,000 pair of shoes by May.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor White Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 1/20/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT: 2-17-2026

January 2026 Report:

Hunting license commission	.56
1 Marriage License Comm	7.50
12 Certified copies	120.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
9 dog licenses	60.00
0 Building Permits	.00
0 Community room fee	.00
Fax and copy money	.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor	<u>\$188.06</u>

<u>Disbursed amounts:</u>	
DECALS (Sweep)	9.44
NYS Department of Health	22.50
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	<u>17.00</u>
Total To State	\$48.94
Total Disbursed	\$237.00

Total taxes collected as of 2/13/2026 is 74.56%

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Kerr 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
 February 17, 2026**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of February 17, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

On Feb. 12 \$74,722.50 was transferred from General to Capitol Improvement to cover cost of pick up, until CHIPS reimbursement.

I contacted Historic Preservation, over the theater steps, they actually worked to get elevator grant, applications won't be accepted until early summer, May/June. Haven't had any luck with an engineer yet.

I contacted Hoffman & Eells Group CPAs, about taking over our audits, we sent out info, haven't heard back yet on cost.

- They are interested in taking over at the end of tax season, as long as we have it at the end of May, 1st of June so we know what we have for our budget.

I contacted Ins. on library roof, can't do anything until snow melts, I was advised to contact RSI for service, they are ready, just waiting, and on a side note they are going to get me an evaluation of the roof for life expectancy.

- As soon as we know, we can start budgeting now.

Contacted Dan Moyer on new dog ordinance, working with him to get a copy to the attorney.

- Councilor White had also tried to get in contact with an engineer. One of the numbers he had is no longer in service.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed one of the resolutions they had on the agenda at their board meeting. It was one that that would authorize the St. Lawrence County Sheriff enter into a Section 287G memorandum of agreement with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The meeting started at 6pm with public participation that ended at 11pm. There were 3 models:

#1 Warrant model. If Immigration & Customs Enforcement had a warrant for someone, the Sheriff's Department would go and serve the warrant.

#2 Task Force model. The Sheriff's Department would go out with the Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

#3 Jail Enforcement model. This is limited to the St. Lawrence Correctional Facility. It gives us access to the Immigration & Customs Enforcement's data base. If someone is arrested and already in custody in the St. Lawrence County Jail, we would be able to check the data base to know if they were wanted elsewhere.

Model #3 was the one on the agenda, which is an agreement for 1 year. Most of the speakers were against I.C.E. officers.

- Wes had asked Larry if he could see about getting a couple slow moving vehicle signs put up for the Lazy River Bridge due to the Amish that travel the road. Supervisor Matthews will look into it.

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Bobby Knox

- There will be a Chicken BBQ dinner Saturday February 28th 1pm-6pm with bands, Chinese auction and 50/50 to benefit Doug LaPoint.
- When they responded to Doug's house fire, lines down to the pump house froze. They had to use the torch on them and a valve is broken. He wanted to know if there could be a box or something to cover the valves on the outside. Also, if they could keep the pump house shoveled out. Supervisor Matthews will look into it.

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

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

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: NONE

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 17, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

	Vouchers	Total
General	32-46	\$13,852.85
Highway	35-58	\$46,619.28
Streetlights	2	\$1,476.13
Capital Improvement	1	\$23,460.00

RESOLUTION: # 27 **Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White**

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Morris asked Councilor White about how much the docks had cost. Councilor White said it was maybe around \$1,300.00, they would have to go back and look when they were purchased. Arlena wanted to know if they would be replaced. It was explained that losing the docks is a recurring issue with flooding, it has happened at least twice. They had been taken out every fall and put back in every spring. They would need to have something more permanent but probably wouldn't due to DEC regulations.
- Arlena asked about the balance for the Veteran's Wall. Supervisor Matthews thinks there is a couple thousand still.
- Discussed the ballfields.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Supervisor discussed the library issues with Nancy, President of the library board. They discussed the previous Library Lease, which if it is being used for anything else other than the library the building would go back to the Town. It has been used for sorting & storing clothing and other items for the Enrichment Group. Everything not Library related should not be brought into the library. There is an office and other areas where clothing is piled. Arlena said they aren't bringing anything into the library. She said they take stuff out of their bin on their Enrichment building and take it into their storage building. They said that the clothing in the locked office might be Brenda's. There are also shelves now in the community room where items are being stored, when people are utilizing the community room there should not be anything left in it, it should be clear of all items. Supervisor Matthews would also like the scheduling for both community rooms to be handled by the Town Clerk's office, as people have been trying to contact Brenda at library and there is no answer. Nancy said the library had applied for and received grant funding for the renovations on the library and the community room, that there is a stipulation that the library would have control of the scheduling for the community room and what they place in that room. Connie mentioned Brenda, to oversee the scheduling for both community rooms. Supervisor Matthews would like to do a walk through with Nancy at some point. He has been in contact with the Town Attorney to draw up a new lease if needed. Supervisor Matthews added that the Town pays for the heat, electricity, and maintenance of the building.
- Councilor Kerr asked about the letter from the lawyer received about the Town Local Law #1 of 2009. We discussed the letter as it was due to residents pushing snow onto public Town roads, blocking trails and rights of access. The letter wasn't sent to anyone; it's just on file in case it needs to be. A few of the roads are Boyd Pond Road, Cook Road and West Road. It states there could be penalty of \$100.00.

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

All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk