

**Regular Board Meeting**  
**@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm**  
**3/17/2026**

**BOARD:**

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

**GUESTS:**

Tess Eells  
Larry Denesha  
Robert Knox  
Arlena Dafoe  
Connie Bessette  
Anthony Cross  
John Berbrich  
Nancy Berbrich  
Bradley Griffin  
Karen LaPoint

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

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

- Nancy Berbrich wanted to thank the Town of Russell and appreciated the work the Board does. She discussed the library and provided the Board with copies of the newest lease which was for August 2007. That the community room is an extension of the library, that they completely funded the building and furnishing of the community room through library building grants and other grants for library building renovations including a roof in 2008. She said the roof has a 35-year guarantee. They do have receipts if needed on the roof for a claim. Since the community room is an extension of the library, the library board has the responsibility of the room. If there are any questions to please let her know and if there are any problems or complaints to please let the library board of directors know.
- Arlena asked if the Town Board had made any plans for the for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S.A. Supervisor Matthews said that the Historian had plans. She wanted to know if we planned on adding more flags instead of flowers for the poles. Supervisor Matthews said the same yearly flags and flowers will be set up but we do not have anything else at this point.
- Karen LaPoint, Historian, discussed the plans that she has for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> there will be ringing of the bells at the church at 10:00a.m. for 2 minutes and 50 seconds, possibly patriotic crafts for children, a reading of the Declaration of Independence, purchasing bells to ring along with the church and a couple of other things. She is also planning to do cemetery walks with stories on Memorial Day this year. On Flag Day June 14<sup>th</sup> she plans to have a cemetery walk in the North Russell Cemetery.
- Connie asked again if there would be any celebration money available for other groups. Supervisor Matthews said we didn't have any extra money budgeted for

celebrations for additional groups. He will take a look to see what is available. She asked how other groups would ask for that money. It would need to be brought in front of the Board to decide. They would have to have a plan submitted.

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Councilor White Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 2/17/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

**TOWN CLERK REPORT: 3-17-2026**

February 2026 Report:

Hunting license commission	4.18
0 Marriage License Comm	.00
1 Certified copies	10.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	.00
7 dog licenses	34.00
0 Building Permits	.00
0 Community room fee	.00
Fax and copy money	<u>.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue to Supervisor</b>	<b>\$48.18</b>

Disbursed amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	375.82
NYS Department of Health	.00
Ag & Market (spay, neuter program)	<u>9.00</u>
<b>Total To State</b>	<b>\$384.82</b>

**Total Disbursed \$433.00**

Total taxes collected as of 3/13/2026 is 78.09%

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

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

**BALL FIELD COMMITTEE:** None

- Councilor Beachard said he had spoken to Tammy, they will need toilets and would like to start using the fields May 1, 2026.
- Supervisor Matthews discussed moving T-ball to the upper field, keeping softball and baseball on the lower fields but they will need to discuss it more.
- Arlena asked if the regular toilets would be done by then. Highway Superintendent Meilleur said they would not, they need an engineered septic.

**SUPERVISORS REPORT:**

**Supervisor's Report  
March 17, 2026**

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of March 17, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

I've been in contact with RSI, and the insurance agent on library roof. I expect a quote for repairs along with life expectancy and cost to replace, shingles and tin.

I received a check on Friday for \$500 from the SLC Chair, 250th commemoration Committee.

**RESOLUTION: #29                      Budget Modification, to move \$500 from A600 to Historian Contractual Expense A7510.4**

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White to authorize the Supervisor to make the budget modification to move \$500.00 from A600 to Historian Contractual Expense A7510.4.

Ayes - 4            Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

I inadvertently deposited I the EK sand contract payment of \$1.00, into General had to do a transfer from general to highway.

Dereck C Matthews  
Town Supervisor

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

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

**LEGISLATURE REPORT:** Larry Denesha

- Discussed the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Town of Russell applied for & received funds, but Edwards-Knox School has not applied. It's \$250.00 for schools, \$500.00 for towns and \$1,000.00 for villages. If interested, they can call the County Administrator's office at 315-379-2276.
- Discussed a Resolution that passed declaring for March 2026 Woman's History Month in St. Lawrence County to recognize contributions that women have made to the County.
- Discussed that they are going to issue on RFP to conduct a study for renovating parking lots at the Courthouse, D.S.S. building and Human Services building.
- Discussed reappointment of Don Chambers St. Lawrence County Highway Superintendent for an additional 4-year term.
- Discussed opening bids for Highway Administration & Maintenance Facility. They met with the architect. All firms, except for one, is a St. Lawrence County firm. It will be about a \$12 million dollar project. If passed, it will start mid-April.
- Discussed the National Grid presentation at their last Board meeting. The Board wanted to understand why bills are higher. Two of their people came. The largest driver for cost increase over last year is supply, which represents energy that they purchase. They do not generate power; they buy power on the open market. Their cost has gone up by about 38%, delivery cost is up, usage is up 20%, levied taxes & fees from NYS 18%, capital investments 11% and 33% is operations. They were asked what their corporate profit margin was in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the first quarter of 2025. They did not know but would get him the information. He is still waiting.
- The largest exporter of liquid gas is the United States.

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

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

**FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Russell:** Bobby Knox

- Discussed the checks for the Fire Department. They had not received them yet. The contract had been signed after last month's meeting, they would go have gone out .
- Discussed the pump house. Supervisor Matthews hasn't met with Greg yet.

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

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

**DeGrasse:** NONE

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

**3/17/2026**

We have had a busy month. We have blocked and split about 30 cords of firewood. We also have been cutting brush on Bellville and Lafaver Road.

Our wood boiler broke down, and we are heating the Town Barn with fuel oil and the waste oil burner. We are going through about 100 gallons of waste oil and 150 gallons of fuel a week. That is going to add up on fuel cost as we usually don't use any fuel oil.

I have got quotes on a new wood boiler from Steve Folsom and Burville Power Equipment. Burville Power Equipment does not install or service. Folsom can give a price to install and upgrade all parts and plumbing needed inside and out. Price for boiler alone is \$23,750.00. Folsom to get quotes on the rest of the parts and 4 hanging heater units by the next Board meeting.

We have had a couple truck breakdowns with 1 repair costing over \$8,500.00, for a complete rear suspension for the 2009 Paystar.

Richard Meilleur  
Highway Superintendent

- Superintendent Meilleur will have everything for the next meeting on the furnace.

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

Ayes - 4      Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard  
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  
March 17, 2026  
Audit

Dereck C Matthews  
Tim White

	Vouchers	Total
General	47-57	\$9,273.99
Highway	59-86	\$58,712.76
Streetlights	3	\$1,715.33

**RESOLUTION: # 30      Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White**

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

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

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Arlena asked if we had hired an engineer yet for the ballfield septic system. Supervisor Matthews said we had not as it may cost around \$10,000.00 to \$12,000.00 to finish off the bathrooms and is on hold due to the Theatre steps, furnace for the Town Barn and Library roof which are a priority right now. Connie asked what was not on hold for the ballfield. He explained again that we have

electrical supplies we just need good weather and extra time that they can work on it. There are no volunteers as of right now.

- Arlena asked if we had hired an engineer for the Theatre stairs. Supervisor Matthews said we have Barton & Loguidice looking at them. We are just waiting on findings. We may be able to get a grant. We have chains and a sign for the public to keep off the stairs. Events are on hold for the Theatre.
- Our check came back for C.H.I.P.S. and back into the account.

**Permission to Install a National Register marker on the Town Hall property at 4 Pestle Street**

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Rowe to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Historian’s letter for a National Register marker to be installed, by the Town, on the Town Hall property at 4 Pestle Street.

Ayes – 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

All were in favor.

- The Board was given the Charter/Spectrum renewal. Henry has the agreement and is looking it over. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Highway Superintendent Meilleur asked Supervisor Matthews if he was going to do the paperwork to go over tax cap. Supervisor Matthews said he had not yet.
- Bobby asked if the Town had received any money from New York State. Bobby said there were 42 towns that did receive funds. Supervisor Matthews said we have not received anything. We may not have qualified. Supervisor Matthews said we could have volunteers to do work. Connie asked if volunteers would be given supplies to do the job. Supervisor Matthews said yes, we would provide the supplies.
- Larry said if we were looking for money for the ballfields, contact the RVRDA. You can apply for money that varies every year that they give away. Contact Patrick Kelly at the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency to apply for a grant.

Supervisor Matthews called the Board into executive session for personnel @ 7:02pm. A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White.

The Board ended executive session @ 7:33pm. A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Rowe.

Action taken for executive session, per the Town lawyer, is to require attendance of bookkeeper at our next board meeting on April 21, 2026, at 6:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor Rowe to adjourn the meeting @7:33pm

All were in favor.  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk