

Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
4/21/2026

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
Brenda Hale
Henry Leader

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Nancy discussed the library. She handed out an updated Community Room Policy and recently passed Patron Complaint form to the Board. The forms can be handed in to the Library Director. Our library is involved in a scrabble crawl. You do have to have a library card to play. The prize is a \$100.00 Amazon e-gift certificate. This will allow people from all over to see what they have to offer. They also have a fundraiser going on to purchase family passes to the Wild Center. So far, they have enough to purchase 2 family passes. They are still working on a policy for the program.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor White to accept the minutes from 3/17/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

March 2026 Report:

Hunting License Commission	32.60
0 Marriage License	0.00
9 Certified Copies	90.00

0	One Day Marriage Officiant	0.00
11	Dog Licenses	50.00
0	Building Permits	0.00
0	Community Room Fee	0.00
	Fax & Copy Money	0.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor		\$172.60

Dispersed Amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	2,847.40
NYS Department of Health	0.00
NYS Agriculture & Markets (spay & neuter program)	13.00
Total to State	\$2,860.40

Total Disbursed **\$3,033.00**

Total taxes collected as of 4/17/2026 is 84.71%

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

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

- Highway Superintendent Meilleur was contacted by Tammy Carlin on a couple of the nets that were down and needed to be fixed. She had a concern about the well casing, which he fixed, and asked if they could add gravel to the parking lot. He will try to roll it if it's dry enough.
- Councilor White will get in contact with Pete to see about getting the electrical supplies that were purchased and start working on that. They discussed not being able to roll the fields yet due to them being wet. They haven't been able to work on the fields much since the backhoe has been down.
- Discussed keeping T-Ball on the upper fields and softball on the lower fields.

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
 April 21, 2026**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of April 21, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

Insurance denied claim on Library roof, had RSI inspect and give estimated cost, it came back at exp \$60,000.

- Supervisor Matthews asked if the library would be able to look into grants options for the roof and he will also be looking.

Barton & Loguidice came and inspected the theater stairs and requested they remain closed, they have put in a request to search grants and repair options.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

RESOLUTION: # To Put Library Roof Out to Bid TABLED

RESOLUTION: # 31 Barton & Loguidice Proposal for the Theatre Stairs for their engineering services providing grant assistance for obtaining funding that will not exceed \$4,800.00

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize Supervisor Matthews to accept and sign the proposal from Barton & Loguidice for their engineering services providing grant assistance for obtaining funding that will not exceed \$4,800.00.

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

RESOLUTION: # 32 Budget Modification to Move \$406.00 to A7510.4

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize Supervisor Matthews make a budget modification to deposit a grant check received by the Historian of \$406.00 and move \$406.00 from A600 to A7510.4 for the plaque that is being purchased.

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

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed the County replacing the bridge on County Route 21 over Elm Creek that will be done with a Federal Transportation Block Grant. They plan on leaving the current bridge while straightening out the corner and placing the new bridge.
- Discussed construction of a new County Highway Administration Building. When they purchased 51 acres for the new outpost building, they planned on moving the County Highway Administration Building and Maintenance Shop there also. They passed a Resolution authorizing the Chair to sign contracts for construction of the Highway Facility, Maintenance & Administration Building. It will be a \$19.377 million project, being paid for by using \$12,218,638.00 of Capital Reserve Fund and \$7,158,962.00 of Unappropriated Fund Balance. It will be close to a 2-year project. Most of the firms working on it are from St. Lawrence County except 2.
- Discussed Bill S4408 that was passed in February of this year by the NYS Senate by a vote of 42-15. This would open 782,000 acres of NYS forests across dozens of counties, if enacted, to renewable energy developers/solar arrays. NYS DEC would be able to enter into energy agreements on these lands without approval from town or county governments. St. Lawrence County has 37 forests with 66,002 acres and Lewis County has 26 forests and 82,472 acres. Larry will be introducing a Resolution at the County level opposing this bill. After he gets it passed he will bring a copy to all of his towns so that they can also submit Resolutions.

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: NONE

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

4/21/2026

We have had a busy month. We have been doing spring cleanup, sweeping roads and cleaning up sand from the winter. We have also cut shoulders on Danna Hill. We had some good weather the last couple of days, so we are patching potholes and started grading dirt roads.

The new backhoe is on a delay from John Deere. They didn't tell me how long, but we won't get it by mid-May like expected.

I have measured up for most of our paving projects; I am just waiting on the State Budget to pass so we know how much money we will be getting from CHIPS.

I have got a quote on the boiler and installation of a new heating system for the Town Barn; it is a substantial amount more than I thought it would be. I would like to get a resolution to put it out to bid with the specs from the HVAC Tech who came and looked at everything we have and figured what we need to do the job.

I would also like a resolution to put out to bid the paving project on Pestle Street from the intersection of CR 24 to the end of the courthouse parking lot. We need to do this to use CHIPS monies.

Richard Meilleur
Highway Superintendent

- Supervisor Matthews would like propane included for the HVAC system. The new boiler system and heating system will probably be over \$100,000.00.
- We can have the bids come back the day before the next board meeting and open them at the meeting.
- Discussed how other towns have \$30,000.00 budgeted a year to heat their Town Barns.

RESOLUTION: # 33 For New Boiler System and Installation of a New Heating System Project to be Put Out to Bid

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Rowe for the New Boiler System & Installation of a New Heating System Project to be put out for bid.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION: # 34 Paving Project for Pestle Street to be Put Out to Bid

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White for the Paving Project for Pestle Street to be put out to bid.

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

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: Doug Beachard

- Discussed the boiler system & looked at the woodshed. They will need a new woodshed for dry wood.
- Discussed paving projects for next month.

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, 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
April 21, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

Vouchers

Total

General	58-81	\$10,750.85
Highway	87-121	\$44,592.08
Street Lights	04	\$1,236.86
Capitol	02	\$3,750.00

RESOLUTION: # 35 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Highway Superintendent Meilleur said he received an email from the County saying they needed the signed forms, shared service agreement with insurance policy & spend agreement, from the last meeting. He didn't know if they had been sent to them. I checked after the meeting; all the forms had been sent. The email was sent to remind those who had not yet sent them in.
- Discussed the Northwoods Rd agreement. The new Canton Supervisor didn't know if the board would agree to the \$1,000.00 increase, they may get push back. Supervisor Matthews will have to find the email to the old Canton Supervisor as the New Supervisor didn't know about the increase. Supervisor Matthews found the email.
- Canton Rescue has agreed to sign a 3-year agreement/contract with us in place of the yearly.

RESOLUTION: # 36 To Hold The Public Hearing for Renewing Cable Agreement on Tuesday May 19th, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Town Hall with Regular Board Meeting to Follow.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Rowe to hold The Public Hearing for renewing Cable Agreement Tuesday May 19th, 2026 at 5:30pm at the Town Hall with the Regular Board Meeting to follow.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed the Highway budget. Highway Superintendent Meilleur would like to meet and go over some numbers for the budget. Supervisor Matthews has been working on the Preliminary budget. He would like to set a meeting up at the next board meeting to work on the budget together.

RESOLUTION: # 37 Agree to Renewal with NFP/Selective Insurance for \$57,291.86

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to authorize Supervisor Matthews to sign a renewal proposal with NFP/Selective Insurance for \$57,291.86.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, White, Beachard

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

- Discussed getting quotes from other insurance companies.
- Councilor Rowe would like to see if there could be a permanent light on the flag at the Veteran's Wall since the solar light isn't working properly. They will check and see what they have for electricity over there. Supervisor Matthews asked about the bricks that were taken off the wall. Connie said they are looking at different options to re-apply them.
- Discussed the FEMA Pit Bridge. We should be able to put the work out to bid for it this fall.

Supervisor Matthews called the Board into executive session for personnel @7:03pm. A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White.

The Board ended executive session @7:51pm. A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White.

Action taken for executive session is that the bookkeeper will meet with the auditor in the second week of May and follow up with the progress.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting @7:52pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk