

Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
6/16/2026

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:

Bradley Griffin
Larry Denesha
Robert Knox
Arlena Dafoe
Connie Besette
Karen LaPoint
John Berbrich
Nancy Berbrich
Richard Dafoe Jr
Anthony Cross

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Connie requested Blanchard Hill Road from ballfield to CR 24 and from CR 24 to Pestle Street Road at the Fire Station to be closed from 1:00pm to 1:30pm July 19th, 2026, for the Enrichment Russell Fest Parade. Supervisor Matthews will contact Ryan from the County to request CR 24 closure.
- Karen LaPoint said she had 20 people for the Memorial Day Historical Cemetery Walk. On July 4th at the Museum from 9am-12pm they are putting on "Let Freedom Ring" where they will be having kid's crafts, giving bells to ring at 10:00 for 2 minutes 50 seconds and the Declaration will be read. The Museum will be open until 3:00pm for America 250.
- Nancy gave an update on the library. There have been 6 families that have taken advantage of The Wild Center passes.
- Arlena asked the Board if they would like to volunteer to be in the dunking booth for the Enrichment Carnival on Sunday July 19th. So far Toni, Richard, Tim, Charlie, Doug, Larry and Bobby have agreed to volunteer.

RESOLUTION: # 48 To Close the Town Roads, Blanchard Hill from the Ballfield to Pestle Street at the Fire Station, on Sunday July 19th from 1:00pm to 1:30pm.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor White approve closing the Town Roads, Blanchard Hill from the ballfield to Pestle Street at the Fire Station, on Sunday July 19th from 1:00pm to 1:30pm.

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

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr Seconded by Councilor White to accept the minutes from 5/26/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

Town Clerk Report : 6/16/2026

May 2026 Report:

Hunting License Commission	6.08
0 Marriage License	0.00
10 Certified Copies	124.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	0.00
14 Dog Licenses	92.00
7 Building Permits	175.00
0 Community Room Fee	0.00
Fax & Copy Money	0.00

Total Revenue to Supervisor	\$397.08
------------------------------------	-----------------

Disbursed Amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	103.92
NYS Department of Health	0.00
NYS Agriculture & Markets (spay & neuter program)	26.00

Total to State	\$129.92
-----------------------	-----------------

Total Disbursed	\$527.00
------------------------	-----------------

Total taxes collected as of 6/12/2026 is 91.57%

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

**Supervisor's Report
June 16, 2026**

1- Financial Report

- Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
- Account balances as of June 16, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

Motion to transfer \$12,386.14 from General to Capitol Improvement for Chips bills.

RESOLUTION: # 49 Budget Modification to transfer \$12,386.14 from General Fund to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr to approve the transfer of \$12,386.14 from General Fund to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

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

Contacted attorney about open container law, he does not believe there is one, but advised to check for valid vendor license, insurance, and if they could cover Town of Russell for day of event on Ins.

Checked with attorney about IRS issue, he has heard nothing back, nor have we.

Auditor is to be doing Court on June 22, 2026, next Monday.

I talked with Ryan at St Lawrence County for parade, and he said to email request with a date and time, same as previous years, shouldn't be a problem.

- Barton & Loguidice is working on the grant process for the Town Hall stairs. Spoke to Heidi Ames is working with them to get them everything from when the elevator was put into the Town Hall.

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Discussed when the County entered into agreement 287G with Immigration & Customs Enforcement. It allowed the County to partner with them to access their database for anyone going to be incarcerated that was wanted for violent crimes anywhere in the country. The 2027 budget the State was working on there is legislation in it that makes it illegal for any law enforcement agency to work with or enter into an agreement with ICE in NYS. That would make the agreement made in February null and void.
- Discussed the 250th Anniversary. The St. Lawrence County Historian is requesting ring a bell for Liberty, at 10:00am bells ring for 2 minutes & 50 seconds across the County, maybe possible quick blast of fire sirens also. We will know more Thursday evening on the fire sirens.
- Passed a Resolution making the month of June as Dairy Month in St. Lawrence County, as dairy products account for 72% of all the agricultural products in St. Lawrence County.
- Passed a Resolution that recognized the Potsdam Central School Girls Hockey team for the NYS Girls Hockey Championship.
- Passed a Resolution Affirming Local Authority Over Data Center Sightings. NYS may be considering passing a 1-year moratorium statewide. The County can't but each municipality has to do one on their own. He is asking the towns he represents to consider passing their own 1-year moratorium against data center sightings.
- Passed a Resolution Adopting a Mortgage Tax Report from the St. Lawrence County Treasurer. The Town of Russell should be receiving a check for \$7,950.54.
- Discussed the Tooley Pond Road Bridge. Will be closed around July 6th for 6 weeks.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Robert Knox

- They are selling raffle tickets for kayak \$5 for 1 or 3 for \$10 and 50/50 tickets 1 for \$1 or 5 for \$3.

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

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

6/16/2026

We have had a productive month. We have started our paving projects with Forbes, Backus and West Road. They are shimmed and topped we just need to put shoulders on them. We have also got Lazy River Road reprofiled and added 3" of crushed stone. The paving crew should be back to put the binder and top on it in about 3 weeks.

We have also been cutting shoulders on Blanchard Hill Road and we are about half done mowing roadsides for the first time. We should have them all mowed before the 4th of July shutdown.

I have submitted a reimbursement request to CHIPS for \$21,016.56. We should get a reimbursement check from the State by July 17th. That is from the last checks we paid in December.

I have good news from FEMA! We will be receiving a check in the next couple of weeks for \$112,089.93. We are still working on a couple more projects now that they are back to work. I hope to have more good news at the next meeting with our progress with FEMA. It has been a lot of work, but it is finally starting to pay off. I'd like to thank Darcie for all the help with the FEMA meetings and helping me with all the extra paperwork we have had to do to keep the process moving forward.

We have also been rebuilding our sand screener, and the parts bills are getting up there. Fuel is also staying at a higher price than normal.

We also need to amend the total CHIPS allowance from \$55,5673.45 to \$601,982.83, with an increase from the NYS Budget when it passed.

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

Thank you,

Richard Meilleur

Highway Superintendent

**RESOLUTION: # 50 Asking for The Town Board to Approve an
Amendment for 2026 CHIPS Paving Projects from \$555,673.45 to \$601,982.83.**

A motion was made by Councilor White and Seconded by Councilor Beachard to approve an amendment for 2026 CHIPS Paving Projects 1-10 as presented by the Highway Superintendent from \$555,673.45 to \$601,982.83 with confirmed CHIPS amount from State. Therefore, the Town Board agrees to approve the amendment for the 2026 Projects with what the Highway Superintendent presented.

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

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

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

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

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
June 16, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

	Vouchers	Total
General	104-120	\$9,917.19
Highway	147-175	\$186,361.66
Street Lights	06	\$1,012.67
Capitol	04-06	\$12,386.14

RESOLUTION: # 51 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, Rowe, Beachard, White, Kerr
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- There were no bids for the Library Roof.

RESOLUTION: # 52 To Put Library Roof Back Out to Bid

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Kerr for the library roof to be put back out to bid.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Russell Fire Department is asking for the Board's approval to shut down Pestle Street on July 18th, 2026 from the hours of 4:00pm to 2:00am during the block party for Russell Fest 2026.
- The Russell Fire Department is asking to lift the open container law for July 18th to July 19th. Supervisor Matthews will have to contact Henry, we may have to have a public hearing.
- The Russell Fire Department is asking for a 2% raise for operations and equipment. The Board will take into consideration when they discuss the 2027 budget.

Column

OFFICIAL AD PROOF

This is the proof of your ad scheduled to run in **North Country This Week** on the dates indicated below. If changes are needed, please contact us prior to deadline at **(315) 265-1000**.

Notice ID: O5W6SzoLDNHxiclCUcb8E | **Proof Updated: Jun. 22, 2026 at 11:44am EDT**
Notice Name: library roof ad 2nd round

See Proof on Next Page

This is not an invoice. Below is an estimated price, and it is subject to change. You will receive an invoice with the final price upon invoice creation by the publisher.

FILER

Darcie Cross
russellnyclerk@gmail.com
(315) 347-2358

FILING FOR

North Country This Week

Columns Wide: 1 **Ad Class:** Legals

Total Column Inches: 5.83

Number of Lines: 51

06/26/2026: 2, Public Notice - NO Affidavit Needed Notice 36.73

07/10/2026: 2, Public Notice - NO Affidavit Needed Notice 29.38

Subtotal \$66.11

Tax \$0.00

Processing Fee \$0.00

Total \$66.11

6/16/26

**RUSSELL
BID NOTICE**

**ADVERTISEMENT TO
BID**

Town of Russell Library
Roof

The Town of Russell is seeking sealed bids for replacing the roof at the Russell Library with steel or shingles. Please include quotes for both steel and shingles in your bid. The location is 24 Pestle Sheet Russell NY. Prevailing wage rates will apply. For any questions call Supervisor Dereck Matthews at 315-267-6018.

Sealed bids can be returned to the Russell Town Clerk's office located at 4 Pestle St Russell NY 13684, emailed to russellnyclerk@gmail.com or mailed to:

Town of Russell
PO Box 628
Russell, NY 13684

The Town Board has the right to reject any and all bids. The Town of Russell is an equal opportunity employer. Bids will be *accepted* until 12:00pm July 20th, 2026 and will be opened and read out loud at the regular Russell Town Board Meeting at the Town Hall 4 Pestle St Russell, NY at 6:00PM on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026.

ADVERTISEMENT TO BID

Town of Russell Library Roof

The Town of Russell is seeking sealed bids for replacing the roof at the Russell Library with steel or shingles. Please include quotes for both steel and shingles in your bid. The location is 24 Pestle Street Russell NY. Prevailing wage rates will apply. For any questions call Supervisor Dereck Matthews at 315-267-6018.

Sealed bids can be returned to the Russell Town Clerk's office located at 4 Pestle St Russell NY 13684, emailed to russellnyclerk@gmail.com or mailed to:

Town of Russell
PO Box 628
Russell, NY 13684

The Town Board has the right to reject any and all bids. The Town of Russell is an equal opportunity employer. Bids will be accepted until 12:00pm July 20th, 2026, and will be opened and read out loud at the regular Russell Town Board Meeting at the Town Hall 4 Pestle St, Russell, NY at 6:00PM on Tuesday, July 21st, 2026.

RESOLUTION: # 53 To Close Road from CR 24 Intersection at Pestle Street Down to Peter Vaughn's Property for Russell Fest 2026 Block Party on July 18th, 2026 from the hours 4:00pm to 2:00am July 19th, 2026.

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

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes to close the road from intersection CR 24, Pyrites-Russell Road at Pestle Street down to Peter Vaughn's property for 2026 Russell Fest on July 18th, 2026 from the hours of 4:00pm to 2:00am July 19th, 2026 during the block party.

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

RESOLUTION: # 54 The Town Board will Take into Consideration of the Request of 2% Increase for Operations & Equipment from The Russell Volunteer Fire Department for the 2027 Budget.

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

Therefore, the Town Board will take into consideration the request of the 2% for Operations & Equipment from the Russell Volunteer Fire Department for the 2027 Budget.

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

- Discussed the Tax Cap, needs to be done by the end of August.
- Supervisor Matthews will send the Town Attorney the Resolution for Data Centers.
- Discussed the insurance changes that were sent from our Insurance Broker. Leaving as is now. They will be tabled until the next meeting.
- Arlene gave an update on the Veterans Wall. They are working on putting the bricks on shortly.
- Bobby asked about the elevator.

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Rowe to adjourn the meeting @6:45pm

All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk