

Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
7/21/2026

BOARD:

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

GUESTS:

Morris Jeffries
 Larry Denesha
 Robert Knox
 Nancy Berbrich
 John Berbrich

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Nancy Berbrich discussed the library. They have 2 new board members, Tara & Greg Jenne. They had a good turn out with their book sale. There is a book recycling program. If you have any books that you no longer want, there is a place for them.
- Morris asked about the work at the ballfield. Supervisor Matthews explained they need to coordinate times when they can get together to work on it. They plan on the fall when it's cooler and there is more time. Whatever does not get done they may put out to bid.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard Seconded by Councilor Kerr to accept the minutes from 6/16/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

TOWN CLERK REPORT:

Town Clerk Report : 7/21/2026

June 2026 Report:

Hunting License Commission	17.67
2 Marriage License	15.00
9 Certified Copies	136.00
0 One Day Marriage Officiant	0.00
9 Dog Licenses	54.00

8	Building Permits	375.00
0	Community Room Fee	0.00
	Fax & Copy Money	0.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor		\$597.67

Disbursed Amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	302.33
NYS Department of Health	45.00
NYS Agriculture & Markets (spay & neuter program)	15.00
Total to State	\$362.33

Total Disbursed **\$960.00**

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

Supervisor's Report
July 21, 2026

1- Financial Report

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

-Account balances as of July 21, 2026, for the general fund, highway fund, capital improvement fund, and streetlight fund have been filed with the town clerk.

Budget modification; Motion to transfer \$233,418.10 from General to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

RESOLUTION: #55 Budget Modification to transfer \$233,418.10 from General Fund to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

A motion was made by Councilor Kerr and seconded by Councilor Beachard to approve the transfer of \$233,418.10 from General Fund to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

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

June 22, we received \$112,089.94 from FEMA and state from our storm damage in 2024, with more invoices intending to be received.

With that I would like to give many thanks to Richard and Darcie for the many hours invested in working on this project to get the town reimbursed as much as possible.

I have received a call on library roof, but not heard back as of yet on a quote?

Dereck C Matthews
Town Supervisor

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

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

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Passed a Resolution claiming July 2026 American Patriots month in the honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. The entire board each read a portion of the Declaration of Independence. Also recognized a 100-year-old WWII Veteran from Ogdensburg, Richard Carl Dillenbeck.
- Passed a Resolution that gave permission to the Chair to sign contract with Barton & Loguidice for engineering services for the CR 17 culvert in South Russell.
- New Highway Maintenance facility is making good headway.
- Tooley Pond Road Bridge on July 6th broke ground. Could take 6-8 weeks.
- CR 27 & CR 24 intersection was discussed due to the accidents that have happened there. They will be cutting vegetation back for a better view. They are working on trying to find a solution.
- Watertown Times on June 16th Senator Gillebrand said she secured 3 Federal Grants for a total of more than \$1.3 million. We have actually received in total as of June 24, 2026, not including the \$1.3 million, was \$4,224,905.42.

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, Kerr
Nays - 0

Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Robert Knox

- Not too many people showed up to the block party.
- They are not sure yet what they will be having for the election dinner.

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

7/21/2026

We had a couple of storms in the last month, and they took down quite a few trees, especially on the south side of the town. We have gotten most of the trees and debris cleaned up and we should have it all done this week. We will be putting shoulders on hopefully starting Thursday of this week.

Paving on the Lazy River Road is now done. The paving on Pestle Street by the Town Hall is scheduled to be started by the 2nd week of August with Grass River Paving doing that section.

We have submitted 3 more projects to FEMA for reimbursement. They are moving along in the grant process, and we should be getting some more money distributed to us in the coming weeks.

The new boiler should be delivered in the 1st or 2nd week of August.

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

Thank you,

Richard Meilleur

Highway Superintendent

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

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, 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
July 21, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

	Vouchers	Total
General	121-138	\$10,742.22
Highway	176-201	\$65,329.58
Street Lights	7	\$988.57
Capitol	7-11	\$233,418.10
Capitol B&L	10	\$56,250.00

RESOLUTION: #56 **Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White**

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Councilor Rowe asked if we have heard anything back from the lawyer on changing/adding to dog laws. Supervisor Matthews said he has not. The lawyer and dog control are trying to get together to discuss.
- Morris asked about the audits. Supervisor Matthews said the library and court 2023-2024 audits are done. We are now waiting on the 2023-2024 town audits to be done. When they are done, the new auditor will work on the 2025 and future audits.
- Bobby asked about the Theatre Stairs. Supervisor Matthews discussed that Barton & Loguidice need other information and are requesting letters of support from the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bids for the library roof were opened and discussed. Bid #1 from John Jones Jonesz's All Season Service Metal Roofing for \$55,000.00 and Bid #2 from John Jones Jonesz's All Season Service Shingles Roofing for \$55,000.00. They will be tabled until our next board meeting on 8/18/26.
- Councilor Beachard asked if we had heard anything back from the IRS. We have not.

RESOLUTION: #57 Public Hearing for Local Law to Override 2% Tax Cap if need be to be held 8/18/26 at 5:30

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

Therefore, the Town Board authorizes the Town Lawyer, Henry Leader, to draw up the Local Law allowing the Town to override the 2% tax cap if need be and to set up a date for a public hearing. The public hearing will be set for 8/18/2026 at 5:30pm before our regular board meeting.

Ayes - 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, Kerr

Nays - 0

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilor Rowe and seconded by Councilor Kerr to adjourn the meeting @6:40pm

All were in favor.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk