TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 5:00pm 10/5/2026

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:
Arlena Dafoe
Karen LaPoint

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Supervisor Matthews.

- The Board looked over the Tentative Budget.
- Discussed the ballfield. Supervisor Matthews raised it so they can get the electric done. He will also be looking into grants.
- Discussed donations of some of the materials needed for work being done to museum.
- Karen asked about department heads budget requests and getting copies of tentative budget. Board members get copies of the tentative budget to look over. We provide a couple of copies on the table for guests to look over.
- Arlena asked how many hours are spent watering the flowers every day and where in the budget the money is taken from to pay for them. The Board answered that it probably takes 2-3 hours a day and it comes out of Celebrations.
- Connie asked if enRich was going to be able to get the banner they want. Supervisor Matthews said it is a Board decision and asked if she had gotten more prices or quotes as discussed at the previous meeting. She did not and said the cost is $800.00. I asked if they, enRich, had talked about purchasing the banner with the Fire Department to see if they would go 50/50 on the purchase since the events are put together by the Fire Department and enRich. She said they are asking the Town to make the purchase, they had not asked the Fire Department and they are a very small group that does not have the funds to make such a purchase. They were asked why we needed a banner when there is a digital sign board already in place at the end of the Fire Station where everyone that comes through Russell can see it. She doesn't think it's seen, people don't sit through the whole message. Arlena said they tried to meet and work with the Fire Department, and they refused to work with them at all. They were pretty much told it was their way or no way and to do their own things, last year. The group does already have yard signs that were put out and it was

posted all over social media. They said the Church, Library, the Fire Department and themselves would benefit from the banner.

- The guests asked if there was an empty seat on the Town Board as one of the Board members has not been present for meetings. They also asked if anything could be done if a Board member does not show up for meetings. Arlena asked if there is a requirement that you must live in the Town of Russell. Highway Superintendent Meilleur said to be on the Board yes, not to be a Town employee.
- Discussed the Veteran's account. Connie said the wall will need to be sealed this year.
- Karen pointed out an error on page 5 for historian pay that did not show correctly. Supervisor Matthews will correct it.

RESOLUTION: # 66 Accepting the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget

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

Therefore, the Town Board accepts the 2027 Tentative Budget as presented as the Preliminary 2027 Budget and authorizes the clerk to advertise a Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget to be set for Wednesday November 4th at 5:00pm.

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

A motion was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to adjourn the meeting @ 5:40 pm

All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk