Regular Board Meeting
@ The Russell Town Hall @ 6:00pm
10/27/2026

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:
Morris Jeffries
Karen LaPoint
Robert Knox
Tess Eells
Bradley Griffin
Sandy Burnham
Greg Given
Larry Denesha
Connie Bessett

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

- Morris noticed Councilor Kerr wasn't at the meeting and asked how many meetings he had missed. He thought there was something, unless they were excused absences, 3 missed and there was a vacancy. The Board said they believe it is only if they were appointed, not elected.
- Connie, on the behalf of enRich, requested the use of the Museum for their overflow of brand-new gifts, not used, for their Christmas Shop. Supervisor Matthews asked the dates it would be used. She said from November 16th until December 10th, enRich items will be removed by the 10th of December. The Board gave permission for the time frame given for the use for gift overflow.
- Morris asked about the ballfield again. Supervisor Matthews explained that as per previous meetings they were trying to get the electricity done this fall and if they couldn't get it done this year, they have it budgeted for next year to hire someone in the spring to do the work. We have the material we just need the work done.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Councilor White Seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the minutes from 9/22/26 as presented by the Town Clerk.

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

TOWN CLERK REPORT: Darcie Cross

September 2026 Report:

	Hunting License Commission	212.29
1	Marriage License	7.50
9	Certified Copies	90.00
0	One Day Marriage Officiant	0.00
10	Dog Licenses	40.00
3	Building Permits	75.00
0	Community Room Fee	0.00
	Fax & Copy Money	130.00
	Shelter Contributions	0.00
Total Revenue to Supervisor		**$554.79**

Disbursed Amounts:

DECALS (Sweep)	3,636.71
NYS Department of Health	22.50
NYS Agriculture & Markets (spay & neuter program)	10.00
Total to State	**$3,669.21**
Total Disbursed	**$4,224.00**

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

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

BALL FIELD COMMITTEE: None

SUPERVISORS REPORT:

Supervisor's Report
October 20, 2026

1- Financial Report

-Details of all income and expense transactions have been filed with the town clerk.
-Account balances as of October 20, 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 $54,889.99 from General to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

RESOLUTION: # 67 Budget Modification to transfer $54,889.99 from General to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White to approve the transfer of $54,889.99 from General to Capitol Improvement for CHIPS bills.

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

Tentative budget was presented to board members for approval, it was approved, with no tax cap increase, just normal 1.9999%

GMR called about library roof, they were coming up for measurements, to prep for the upcoming overlay. No definite date yet, but soon.

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, Beachard, White
Nays - 0
Motion carried.

LEGISLATURE REPORT: Larry Denesha

- Passed a Resolution appointing a new Director of Solid Waste, Bryan Lanning.
- Discussed SNAP benefits that are proposed to be cut at the federal level. New York State is one of the states where their counties are required by state law to administer SNAP and to share its administrative costs. Changes will fall directly to the counties which could be an additional expense of up to $4.5 million for 2028. They passed a resolution asking them to delay it for 2 years.
- Discussed the St. Lawrence County Court House and H. B. Smith building parking lots have been repaved, restriped and there will now be preventative maintenance program every 10 years reseal and every 5 years restripe.
- Discussed Amish buggy interface with motor vehicles due to the recent accidents. The Sheriff is monitoring. There will be a task force put together.
- They held the official groundbreaking for the new St. Lawrence Highway building.

- Discussed the Rich Roads Solar & Twin Rivers Solar projects, construction is supposed to start for both in 2029.
- They reviewed the Preliminary Budget.
- Discussed adjustments to salary for Legislators and he explained his decision on why he voted the way he did.

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

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Russell: Robert Knox

- Chicken & biscuit dinner on Election Day November 3, 2026 starting at 4:00pm-7:00pm for $15.00 per person.

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

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

DeGrasse: NONE

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

10/20/2026

We have had another productive month. We have been screening sand and hope to be done by early next week. We are putting up extra sand as our pit will be closed for bridge repairs for all summer and most of the fall next year. We have also been fixing and replacing road signs. We have been cutting brush, boom mowing and are currently working on brush on Dutton Road.

The dump trucks have all been serviced and inspected. We will start to put snowplows on by the end of this week. Fuel prices are still high so we will not be running our trucks any more than needed. We still have to touch up our dirt roads before winter. I am hoping that we can have the new heat system completed by next week. The boiler and heaters are all installed with just some electrical and plumbing left to finish.

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 White and seconded by Councilor Beachard to accept the Highway Report as presented.

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

- Supervisor Matthews asked if Highway Superintendent Meilleur if he was set for fuel and he said he is good for now. They can always do a modification later if needed.

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
October 20, 2026
Audit

Dereck C Matthews
Tim White

	Vouchers	Total
General	165-180	$27,998.81
Highway	253-282	$31,817.89
Street Lights	10	$1,179.25

Capitol 21-22 $54,889.99

RESOLUTION: # 68 Audit Report- Dereck Matthews & Timothy White

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- Connie asked about the solar light at the Veteran's Wall. Pete or Richard will pick one up.
- Karen asked about the status of the grant for the Theatre Stairs. Supervisor Matthews said he has not had an update but will get in touch with them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussed the Gravel Pit Bridge bids and the FEMA grant money from the storms. An independent audit will be needed at the end of the project. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.
- Discussed the changes to the application to use the facilities. We had added that the deposit had to be picked up the following week after use or it would be considered a donation to the Town and that if the key was not returned after use the applicant will be responsible for the fees to change the lock.
- Supervisor Matthews explained the resolution for Town Records due to records availability. He has been asked for information from Albany and cannot get the records needed from the bookkeeper to answer them. All clerk records, payroll records and all records the bookkeeper has need to be kept inside of the Town Hall building. He was told he should have full access to the accounts for the judicial system so that he could answer questions when needed and he does not have access. The bookkeeper will be set up in this building in his office and records will be in our records room where they belong.

RESOLUTION: # 69 Town Records

Adopted: October 22, 2026

WHEREAS, the Town deems it necessary pursuant to New York State Law to properly record and preserve Town records and to keep same secure; and

WHEREAS, it appears there are some departments that have not done so;

NOW THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED that all branches of the Town government, including, but not limited to, the Justice Court, shall keep all files and records on Town property so as to preserve and protect same in accordance with the law.

Motion to accept Resolution was made by Councilor White and seconded by Councilor Beachard.

Adopted: Ayes: 4 Matthews, Rowe, Beachard, White
Nays: 0

- Councilor Beachard asked about the audit. Supervisor Matthews said the auditor cannot get a response from the bookkeeper for information needed to finish. The court audit is still not done, and it started in the spring. If Supervisor Matthews had access to the paperwork he could give the information to the auditor. It's making it hard on the Town financially not knowing where we're at.
- Connie asked for permission to use the Town Hall lawn for the field of flags again this year for Veterans. The board said she could. This year they are going to be selling flags again for $5.00 each and using the money to buy veterans' breakfast at the Plumbrook Café. Anything left over they decided they would use for upkeep for whatever they needed for the wall.

A motion was made by Councilor Beachard and seconded by Councilor White to adjourn the meeting @6:49 pm

All were in favor.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Darcie Cross - Russell Town Clerk