

TOWN OF RUSSELL ANNUAL MEETING 2023

The Annual Town Meeting for the Town of Russell, Lincoln County, was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the Russell Town Hall. This meeting was posted on the Town Website and one public place.

Chairman Kressel was unavailable and fill-in chair was Dave Heller. Dave called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting were Dave Heller, the town clerk, and 14 town residents.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting were handed out at the door and reviewed by all present. Linda Dorgan made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Nathan Roggenbuck second. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Annual reports were handed out at the door. Dave Heller asked if any questions. Nathan Roggenbuck asked if all NSF checks were resolved. Per clerk, yes. Jesse Mattson made a motion to approve the Annual Report, Second by John Ronis. Accepted as reported. Motion carried.

Fire Department: Mike Hoffman reported on behalf of the Fire Department. There were 45 calls in 2022. New Firetruck is now fully loaded and in service. Five new member last year. Budget remains the same. Working on getting new turn-out gear. Mike's is expired – on back-order until August 2023. The cost of gear is \$4,000 for a set and will last about 5 years, depending on use (for reference it was noted that in 2003 it was about \$1,500 per set). Budget has not changed since 2006. First Responders are not trained for Fire-Fighters. The First Responders are on stand-by, which saves the Fire Department money for not having to have someone/ambulance respond from Merrill.

First Responders: Written report by Tim Steinfest. The First Responders responded to 226 calls (7 townships, 2 counties) in 2022. To date this year they have already had 61 calls. Currently have 8 members, 6 are licensed, 2 are in training. If any questions or interest in becoming a member, they should contact townofrussellemr@gmail.com or call 715-218-2585. Linda Dorgan commented they do a good job and do not get paid.

Old Business:

- New Grader Shed complete. There were a few problems with last cold spell with the doors which should now be fixed.
- Speed limit through town was not lowered.
- Re-Assessment was done in 2022
- Roadwork- LRIP grant was applied for and denied. Only two accepted in Lincoln County.
- We have ARPA money still and looking for approved uses.

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- Dave noted that Jesse did a good job stretching granite last summer. Currently have one bad spot. Jesse noted there is more than one bad spot he is aware of. Jesse stated that Axen is now open, after having to be closed due to wash-out. It is a main access road. Jesse said Peterson Brothers went the distance to help us get the road opened and is much appreciated. Jesse stated and is aware First Ave and Hay Meadow are in need of work. Brushing will need to be done late summer/fall. The Town of Merrill Sweeper should be scheduled to be coming by Chairman Kressel.

New Business:

- Road Inspection has not been done yet. Dave feels our roads are in better shape than a lot in the county.
- Introduction of two new town supervisors. Lori Studinski and Nathan Roggenbuck. Dave wished them "Good Luck". Road Report coming soon. Bridge approaches need to be looked at. Marty Sosnovske stated there are grants available the board should look into for 3rd Ave Bridge.
- Jesse noted he wants to keep gravel/granite the same and does not want to go backwards. He would also like the town to look into getting a different single axle truck with wing and plow. We have stuck a lot of money into the grader. A new circle is being put on as we speak. Mow board is getting re-bushed. Estimating about \$12,000 in repairs/updates.
- Recycling Clean-Up Day scheduled for Saturday, May 20th from 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. Clean-up Day Handouts available at the door.
- Michael Williams asked about the tires in the ditches on the sides of the roads. Jesse stated he picked up about 2 truckloads of tires off of Dudley. Brought up there has also been diapers dumped onto highway 17 numerous times this year. It is not known who is dumping them, but if anyone sees anything to report it to the Lincoln County Sherriff. These issues cost the town money. Nathan Roggenbuck told Michael that he could bring the tires to his business, if not too many, for recycling purpose.
- Jesse asked about the trees being trimmed. That discussion tabled for a regular meeting.
- Andrea Roggenbuck commented she likes the new website. As a mom, she would like a park put up for families. Jesse asked about getting skating rink like we had many years ago. Discussion about canoe/kayak landing by the park as well. That would be a DNR issue. Suggested to start with playground and work on park. Linda brought up that in years past the town has put up picnic tables and play equipment and it would always get vandalized. Mary Jo Rajek suggested having a "Park Committee". The sand at Echo needs to be tilled. Brian does clean-up the garbage, as well as local residents who try to keep it clean. Jesse Mattson made a motion for a Park Committee. Andrea Roggenbuck second, fundraising and business donations. Motion Carried. Add to agenda for next regular meeting. Check on insurance.

No further business or comments.

Set next years meeting date: April 16, 2024 at 6 p.m. Motion by John Ronis. Second by Linda Dorgan. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.