

Town of Russell
Annual Meeting Minutes April 21st, 2026

The annual town meeting for the town of Russell Lincoln County was held on Tuesday April 21st 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Russell Town Hall

This meeting was posted on the town website and one public place verified by the chairman. Chairman Kressel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting where Robert, Lori, Marty, Sue, and 11 town residents.

Minutes of the 2025 annual meeting we're handed out at the door and reviewed by all present. Tom Skaar made a motion to accept the minutes as printed, Mary Huhta second. Motion carried.

Treasury report: Annual reports were handed out at the door. Chairman Kressel asked if any questions. Terry Prueser asked if salaries for employees were cheaper than the last couple years. Chairman Kressel explained we stayed within our budget the last few years. Leona Anderson asked if the money going into the bridge CD would pay for a bridge. Chairman Kressel and treasure Sue explained there is \$10,000 a year going into the bridge CD and Equipment CD and noted it would take 20 years to afford a bridge at today's cost.

Fire Department report: Fire Department report was handed out at the door for residents to review. Fire Chief Kressel stated they were new members. Engine 6 needs to be updated with a projected cost of \$600,000 there is a two-year waiting list for such engine. Leona VanderSanden asked about the ISO rating. Fire Chief Kressel explained the department hasn't been rated since 2006 and because it's a voluntary Fire Department and not staffed all the time the rating stays the same.

First Responder's report: First Responder report was handed out at the door for residents to read through. Chief Tim Steinfest stated they are no longer EMR they are EMT non-transport. Tim stated the new vehicle that was bought for their department was paid for by the First Responders, however Chief Steinfest pays for gas and oil changes in the vehicle while using it. They will be having a hamburger brought fry July 3rd and the 4th at the General store in Gleason.

6:26 Chairman Kressel had to leave for a fire call; supervisor Studinski took over meeting.

Sanitary District Report:

Sanitary District report was handed out at the door for members to review. Leona VanderSanden stated the report did not add up. Sanitary District member Kitty Lang handed out to the town board and members a new report that was then reviewed. Leona stated she had been to meetings and didn't think they would have enough money even if there was a rate increase. Kitty stated she was looking into grants Leona asked about PFAS Grant. Sanitary Commissioner Osheim was present and stated there was phosphorus getting into plant not PFAS... the plant was pumped in October therefore needed to be pumped again soon. MSA is still contracted to help. Terry Prueser stated MSA is a joke.

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Kitty Lang explained they only use them and they only do what they ask them to do. Leona asked about phone charges and why they were so expensive. Junior and Kitty explained they need internet at the plant so when things go wrong it is a warning to their phones. The members use their own phones. Kitty explained half of her internet bill is paid by the Sanitary District. Leona explained why she brought it up to the town of Russell because the Sanitary District falls under the town of Russell and they still have a loan of \$315,000 that could possibly fall onto the Town of Russell members.

Parks committee: a Parks committee report was handed out at the door for members to review Mary Huhta was present for the meeting and explained the playground installation would be mid-May they will be working on getting donations throughout the year with the hope in the fall they could start planning for a pavilion. So far all ARPA money is used for this project only. Their next meeting is the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 at the Town Hall. Echo Lake cleanup is scheduled for this coming weekend.

Old business no old business to discuss new business: Terry Prueser complained about Bridge approaches and stated we should have a skid steer with a roller to fix them. Supervisor Studinski explain we have more important things to fix including inlets through town. Terry Prueser stated it was the DOTs project; therefore their inlets to fix. Supervisor Studinski explained she had talked to the DOT and was told when the road went through the town elected to have curb and gutter with storm sewer. Terry said Supervisor Studinski was wrong and that it was the DOTs problem. Supervisor Studinski received a quote from Musson Brothers of Rhinelander to fix inlets in the amount of \$55,355 and stated that we needed to fix them. Supervisor Studinski stated she would look into the minutes again but believes the town should move forward with fixing the worst inlets. Leona VanderSanden stated she would try to check with Merrill Sand and Gravel to see if they have any records. Terry Prueser stated there were bumps on the bridge on Axen Road north of Bloomville that should be dug down to see what is underneath them.

The current court case was asked about the board explained we are under appeal with that.

Terry Prueser also asked if the manhole at the end of the Sanitary pipe had been cleaned out. Supervisor Studinski said she would check on that.

Next year's annual meeting date was set for April 20th 2027 at 6 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Studinski
4/24/2026