

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, February 13, 2012 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** Supervisor Mark Scott and Councilors Shirley Robinson, David Putney, Robert Dalton, and Travis McKnight.

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Shawn Prentice, Sandy Wright, Dan Andress, Russ Strait, Patty VanPatten, James Ma and Jim Thew.

**Call to order:** Supv. Scott called the meeting to order @ 7PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by McKnight to approve the minutes as submitted. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:** Shawn Prentice asked if he could have a copy of the list of businesses that were interviewed for the economic development study. Supv. Scott stated that he thought Brian Norton had a copy and would get one for Shawn. Shawn asked him to email it. Sandy Wright asked what the chargebacks were on the Town & County Tax Bill. Supv. Scott reported that these are charges incurred by the Town for the County to provide services through real property, elections, community college, and worker's compensation. Sandy stated that there was an 8.4% increase in the chargebacks. Supv. Scott stated that there is not a lot that the town can do concerning these costs.

**RVRDA:** Russ Strait reported that the RVRDA is close to coming to a Power contract with the New York Power Authority. All power allocations will have to go through Massena Electric Department. They are hoping to have the approved contract by the end of March. Russ will get the board a copy before it is approved. Russ also reported that the monetization portion of the contract requires legislation. The former Governor refused to sign it. There is no timetable as to when this will take place.

Supv. Scott noted that the RVRDA will be accepting applications for 2012 grants. In 2011 the Town applied for \$94,000 for various projects. They were awarded \$15,000 to conduct a study for a trail to Coles Creek. The Town would like to apply again this year to provide handicap access to the Old Town Hall. Russ noted that there will be \$600,000 available for this round. He also noted that Lisbon & Louisville did not apply last year but will most likely apply this year. The competition will be more competitive. He told the board that the applications are scored by the IDA and then sent on to the RVRDA for their review. The more professional the application the better chance it will have to make it to the top of the pile. Supv. Scott will be in touch with Randy Crawford for help with the grant. It is due mid-March.

**Homecoming:** Russ briefly touched on insurance for the Homecoming committee. He stated that if the Chamber takes over homecoming they should have volunteer insurance coverage. The Town should receive a copy being listed as additionally insured. He stated that the Town is covered. Supv. Scott stated that he had spoken with the Chamber and they are leaning towards volunteer insurance for the members who organize Homecoming and other events.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Putney, seconded by Dalton to enter into executive session @ 7:20PM to discuss the ongoing contract negotiations with Teamsters and to discuss the possible sale of town owned properties. A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Robinson to return to regular session @ 8:15PM. No action was taken during executive session.

**Code Enforcement:** Supv. Scott reported that the Code Enforcement Officer was out of town and his report would be presented at the next meeting. A letter was received from Andy Maslin requesting an extension on his demolition of his property in Chase Mills. He has requested an extension until June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Code Enforcement Officer had sent him a final notice on February 15<sup>th</sup> stating that he had five days from receipt of the letter to have his demolition

finished or he would be ticketed to go to court. Attorney Nash noted that he didn't think that the Code Officer could send this type of offense to local court. He believed that it would have to go to Supreme Court and that there were several steps that needed to be done in the process. It could cost the Town some money to go through the process. He would have to look at the documentation and the local law that the Code Enforcement Officer was working from. The Board discussed the situation and felt that the process had been dragged out long enough. If they give the extension and Mr. Maslin doesn't complete the demolition it would add more time to the process. A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to have Attorney Nash review the documents and to send Mr. Maslin a letter. Ayes: All

**Committee Reports:**

**Recreation:** C. McKnight reported that the meeting was rescheduled until February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Highway:** C. Putney reported that the highway department has been plowing and trying to get the ice off the roads. They have had some breakdowns to repair. He noted that the road conditions were tough and would be talking to Highway Supt to see what can be done. Supv. Scott reported that the Town of Madrid is going to allow the Town to draw sand from their pit next year.

**Rescue Squad:** C. Dalton reported that the Squad meeting had been changed and he was not notified. He spoke with Norm Harvey who is concerned that the driveway is higher than the building and the water is running under the doors. They received two quotes for the fans. One from Bernard Runions for \$873 and the other from Craig Debien for \$1525. C. Dalton noted that he had not been involved through the process but would set up a meeting with the Squad to see if the quotes compare apples to apples.

It has been brought to the Board's attention that the Rescue Squad has run over budget on their gas by \$908. It has run over the last 2 -3 years. The Town currently holds back \$1,000 from their annual payment for fuel. Their contract will be up for renewal at the end of 2012. This will be something that needs to be addressed at this time.

**Wall proposal:** The Town received two bids for the replacement of the back wall on the Rescue Squad. The bid requested the contractors to quote insulated metal & insulated vinyl.

Bid # 1: Bernard Runions: Metal: \$11,363.20 Vinyl: \$10,790.38

Bid #2: Tiernan's Construction Metal: \$8,600.00 Vinyl: \$8,125.00

Discussion was held and the Board felt that metal was a better deal being the wall takes the prevailing weather.

Resolution #18

Motioned by: Dalton

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby award the bid for replacement of the wall on the Rescue Squad to Tiernan's Construction for metal siding in the amount of \$8,600. The Board will have Tiernan's use a color that is close to the rest of the building. Ayes: All

**Library:** C. Robinson reported that the Library held their meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board would like a light on the flag pole. They wondered if the electric for it was removed during the construction. The light has not been checked on the back stairs. Supv. Scott will meet with the Board on February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM to discuss the responsibilities of the Town as to the repairs and upkeep of the building. They feel the Town should have had the contractors install the snow stoppers on the roof to stop the falling snow. The next meeting will be March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**WRA:** The Recorder will be out this week. There is still time to get articles in. They have been receiving donations for the concert series.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Supv. Scott reported that he had met with the Chamber. They will be officially taking homecoming over. They will no longer use the Town's tax ID #. They discussed the job position and still do not have a job description. Supv. Scott stated that whomever they hire can be used to help implement the goals and strategies in the Economic Development Plan.

**New Business:**

**North Country Affordable Housing:** Supv. Scott received a letter from North Country Affordable Housing, Inc. requesting a letter of support for their tri-county housing grant that they are applying for. A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Robinson to send a letter of support. Ayes: All

**Hold Harmless Agreement:** Supv. Scott reported that the County has requested the Town to pass a resolution holding harmless the County of St. Lawrence for providing service to the Town of Waddington.

Resolution #19

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Putney

WHEREAS, the Town of Waddington is desirous of St. Lawrence County Department of Highways providing shared services such as paving, shoulder widening, signage, road stripping, blasting and other routine maintenance activities to the Town, and

WHEREAS, both the Town of Waddington and the County of St. Lawrence are desirous of promoting partnering efforts for the safety of the traveling public in St. Lawrence County, and WHEREAS, in this joint cooperative endeavor, the Town of Waddington and the County of St. Lawrence desires to be reimbursed for their expenditures, and

WHEREAS, the Town is aware that the County may incur liability in the providing of the services and wishes to indemnify the County in this regard,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County of St. Lawrence from and against liability, loss, damage, claim or action resulting from the work performed by St. Lawrence County Department of Highways. The Town of Waddington does not indemnify and hold harmless the County for any liability, loss, damage, claim or action which arises during the actual performance of services by the St. Lawrence County Department of Highways. Said St. Lawrence County Department of Highways and the County of St. Lawrence assumes the liability for losses, damages and claims for the actual physical performance of the work, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following request for General Liability (GL) coverage is as follows

General Liability Insurance

On an "Occurrence" basis, with the following limits:

\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence, \$2,000,000 General Aggregate, \$1,000,000 Products Aggregate, \$1,000,000 Personal Injury, \$50,000 Fire Damage Legal Liability, \$5,000 Medical Payment Expense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Lawrence County shall be an additional insured on the GL Policy, via ISO endorsement CG2026. Ayes: All

**Energy Companies:** Supv. Scott reported that he has received several calls from energy service companies (ESCOs) to purchase power from them. These companies allow the Town to purchase the power portion from them and save money on the rates. The transmission portion of the bill remains through National Grid. The Town could save as much as 3-30% on energy depending upon the type of power purchased. He would like to receive quotes from them to see what the savings could be. A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Putney to ask for quotes from ESCOs to see what the savings could be. Ayes: All

Supv. Scott also reported that he has received a request from an individual to rent 1-3 acres of land to enhance their vegetable business. The clerk will look at the Ag lands available for this purpose. An individual would have to carry an insurance policy and name the Town as additionally insured.

**Website:** Supv. Scott reported that the Clerk had approached him concerning a government website. The Town currently has a page on the Chamber's website but it is not user friendly. It is very hard to work with and is not up to date. Information was sent to the Clerk from North Shore Solutions who is partnered with Clarkson University. They help set up Municipal websites that will be compliant with the Municipal Website Internet Laws mandated by the

State. This site would contain all information needed for the local government, minutes, agendas, forms, assessment rolls etc. There could also be a link associated with the Chamber's website. The Board discussed this and gave permission to have the company come talk to the Clerk and Supervisor to see their product.

**Economic Development Study:** The economic development study was presented at a meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> @ the library. The document contains the results of meetings, surveys, goals, and strategies for the Town of Waddington. Comments will be taken until February 17<sup>th</sup>. Copies of the plan are available at the library, town office, or online.

**NYPA Surplus lands:** Supv. Scott reported that he and the board had met with James Ma the gentleman that purchased Mater Day and several other properties in the Town of Oswegatchie and Ogdensburg. He is very interested in the Whitehouse Bay parcels and Leishman Point. He is open to all types of development, residential, energy etc. Before anything can be done with the discussions the property needs to be appraised. Supv. Scott received two quotes for appraisal. One from Farm Credit East, Bob Hostetter/Nancy Putman \$8,500 and the other from North Country Management \$7,500. The Board discussed the proposals. The Board noted that Bob Hostetter has done appraisals on Leishman and the River Road lot in the past.

#### Resolution #20

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to hire Farm Credit East, Bob Hostetter/Nancy Putman to appraise the Town properties including Leishman Point and all parcels through and including Whitehouse Bay. The cost of the appraisal is not to exceed \$8,500. Ayes: All

Supv. Scott read a letter from Harold McAllister concerning his interest in the property that he leases from the Town. He has requested first refusal if the property is put out to bid.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv. Scott reported that he and Councilor Robinson had attended the local government task force meeting. The Power Authority Settlement review will be coming up next year. They will be looking to see if there is anything that has not been done that should have. C. Steve McKnight had agreed to work on a list of properties in the Town that should have been included in the return of lands during the relicensing. Because Steve is no longer on the Board Supv. Scott asked C. Travis McKnight to take his place. C. McKnight said that he would.

**Shared Services:** Supv. Scott stated that he has not heard anything from the Village concerning the proposed shared Planning/Zoning Board of Appeals Boards. A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by McKnight to send the Village a letter asking their intent in this venture. Ayes: All

**Old Town Hall:** Supv. Scott discussed making the funding request to the RVRDA to install the elevator received from Hamilton Gardens. The Board will request \$50,000. Supv. Scott will also talk to Randy Crawford and an elevator company to see what needs to be done. There is a \$100 application fee to apply for the grant.

#### Resolution #21

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Putney

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to apply for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the RVRDA for the installation of the elevator in the Old Town Hall. The Board further approves the \$100 application fee. Ayes: All

**Code of Ethics:** Attorney Nash stated that there is no update on the ethics board. He will be looking into it when he attends the Association of Towns State Conference coming up later this month.

**Fish Cap:** The Board received an annual report and letter of thanks for the Town's contribution to the Fish Cap program.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Putney, seconded by Dalton to pay bills # 100- 192 in the amount of \$179,541.77. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to adjourn the meeting at 10:05PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk