

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, July 13, 2020 in the Civic Center, Waddington. The meeting was held in person and social distancing and mask requirements were in place.

**Present were:** Supervisor Alex Hammond and Councilmembers: David McBath, Scott Loomis, and Shaun Prentice. Councilman McKnight was not present at the meeting.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Patty VanPatten, Edith Ashley, Mike Zagrobelny, Village Mayor, Kelly Cevalias, Tenley Amo, Phyllis Acres, and Bill Tiernan.

**Call to order:** Supv Hammond called the meeting to order @ 7PM noting that this was the 1<sup>st</sup> in person meeting since Covid -19 began. The Village held their meeting here last week so we will follow suite.

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

### **Citizen's Comments:**

Patty VanPatten reported that she went to the gazebo today to do some gardening and there is a nest of ground bees on the left side as you walk up the ramp. She asked the Highway Supt if he could take care of them. He said he would.

Tenley Amo asked if there had been any follow up with Karen White from NYPA. Supv Hammond reported that he had not heard anything yet. She told him she should have an answer one way or another by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. He will call her if he doesn't hear anything.

Patty VanPatten asked if there had been any movement on Brandy Brook. Supv Hammond told her that both projects were submitted as on proposal. Hopefully on the 15<sup>th</sup> there will be an answer.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Recreation:** Recreation reports were distributed to the councilmembers. The morning recreation and beach are both going well. They are following guidelines for Covid. The deep water swimming at the beach has been closed. The weeds are bad and they don't want to put any swimmers in harm's way until there can be a plan put in place to take care of them. It will remain closed for this year. They will look at getting the DEC involved to make something work. The Madrid Town Recreation will not participate in the beach program this year. There were too many challenges for busing etc. with the covid-19 regulations. They will discuss with the Town for next year.

**Rescue Squad:** C Prentice stated that he had spoken with Julie McBath. The Squad has had 18 calls so far in July. They are looking at fundraiser plans to help with the purchase of the new ambulance. They will be getting information to put out to the public. They are really doing their homework with the purchase. They have had sales people bring up rigs for them to look at as well as going to other places to look at them. There has been no news on the grant that was applied for.

The power to the building has been completed. The Squad will split the bill with the town for CD Electric who installed the new line.

**Library:** C McBath reported that the library board held a meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. They had a moment of silence for Vice President Bob Miller who passed away. They have received monetary donations as well as a tree to plant in his memory at the library.

The Library has begun story walks in Whittaker Park. Participants pick up their reading bag outside the library and individually participate at their own times in the reading along the river. They continue curbside pickup. They will now have to pay for a mailbox at the post office. New

routes have been formed and it is no longer free for them. The exterior window painting is coming along well. The air conditioners have been installed by the highway department and they will clean the gutters in the fall. Brian Mott is doing some small plumbing jobs and will look at the leaking sink and running toilet in the next couple days.

Tom Tomlin reported that there will need to be some grout work on the stone along the bottom of the library. There are some issues with the brick over the door downstairs. It looks like the block above the door is cracked. Supt Putney thinks the foundation may have shifted some. C McBath asked if there is a capital line for repairs at the library. There is a line that is shared between the old town hall and the library. Edith Ashley noted that they try to get construction grants for projects of this type. Sometimes there is matching money required. In the past the town has used Kenny Hargrave and the Snell Brothers to do masonry work on the buildings. They will be contacted to get some suggestions/quotes.

The Vietnam moving wall will be in Massena August 13-17<sup>th</sup>.

**Campground Committee:** C McBath reported that there has been no meeting and nothing to report.

**Cemetery:** C McKnight was not present at the meeting. C McBath noted that he will be getting information to him to write the grant for the cemeteries.

**Highway:** The highway department has been doing maintenance on trucks. They assisted Lisbon with 2 trucks for blacktopping. They changed two driveway culverts, installed a culvert at the intersection of Coles Creek Rd & Irish Settlement, had Barrets haul stone to the Rookey Rd for grinding. Suit Kote ground the Rookey Rd and added 3" crusher run. They graded the road and rolled it after. Blacktopped the intersection of Coles Creek Rd & 37 and Fobares to the Louisville Town Line and Irish Settlement Rd intersection. They dug one grave and one cremation.

Supv Hammond asked Supt Putney if he had any response to his job posting. He stated that he has had four applications returned. He also noted that Dennis is off the payroll as of this pay period.

**Gallery/Clarke House:** The Clarke House has some new vendors including the Croghan Candy. They have meats and candies produced in Croghan. They are also doing a wine tasting with Bregg Winery from Norfolk. All Covid-19 proto calls will be followed.

Mayor Zagrobelny reported that a community member donated the last surviving building from Ogden Island to the Clarke House. It is a boat house and they are working on moving it. The ready grant projects are in the planning/survey stage. The dock project is stuck in the wheels of government with the five different agencies that have to give their approval. BASS Masters has been moved to Clayton this year but will be back in 2021.

**Radio Tower Update:** They were supposed to start hauling today. They had updated drawings on July 9<sup>th</sup>. They are waiting for the easement from National Grid. Supt Putney noted that the planner from Grid was down about a month ago to locate the boundary lines for the easement. She is working from home due to Covid.

**Solar Project Update:** There was a teleconference concerning PILOT payments for the solar projects. Supv Hammond was asked if he was available for a time period he replied back that it would be better at another time and was never informed that it didn't change. From what he has been told Eric Burke, MW School Superintendent is not pleased with the IDA proposal. He will contact Attorney Nash to see what is going on with the process.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv Hammond noted as previously stated there is no update on the project. He is waiting for Karen White who told him she should have an answer by July 15<sup>th</sup>. He is giving her until this time. If he doesn't hear from her he will reach out to her. The next task force meeting will be July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Supv Hammond noted this will work well for him as he is off active duty as of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Kevin Kitzman wrote the board a letter offering to work on a strategy to get community input on the projects. Once the board receives approval for the project they will engage the community.

**River Rd Walking Trail:** Supv Hammond reported that the Joint Recreation Committee has asked the town to adopt a resolution to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 30 mph on the town section of the road known as River Rd, extension of St. Lawrence Ave. The population has increased substantially, the number of walkers on the walking path in all season has also increased and increased traffic flow at 45mph is posing a safety hazard.

The Board discussed the traffic and the walking trail and noted it is very heavily used. There are people who don't pay attention that it is a walking trail and think it is just a wide shoulder of the road. 45 mph is also a safety hazard past the Buck Rd where it turns into a dead end Rd and the entrance to the beach. There is also a pedestrian crossing located just before the beach entrance.

C McBath noted that at the last board meeting the board had discussed additional signage for the walking trail to keep motorized vehicles such as golf carts and UTV's off it. The Clerk contacted out insurance agent who told her that the more signage that can be put up the better off the Town will be should something happen. He said if something were to happen the town would probably be sued but the insurance company would defend us and we wouldn't be liable because we have signage information posted.

#### Resolution #45

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Loomis

WHEREAS, the River Rd in the Town of Waddington runs from the Village limits to the Waddington Town Beach; and

WHEREAS, the River Rd has many residential homes and a designated pedestrian trail that runs adjacent to it; and

WHEREAS, it is a heavily traveled road with a speed limit of 45 mph outside the Village limits with many cars exceeding this speed; and

WHEREAS, the River Rd's final destination is a dead end in front of the Town's beach; and

WHEREAS, there is an incline on the River Rd near the beach causing a sight limitation on the designated crosswalk to the beach;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby request that a study of the area be conducted and the speed limit be reduced to insure the safety of all people who either use the walking path or live in the homes along the way. Ayes: All

**Baildon property update:** C Loomis updated the board about the Baildon's property cleanup. They contacted the Town Attorney requesting an additional 2 week extension due to the heat etc. Attorney Nash responded to them by letter stating that they were given an extension until July 20, 2020. Upon talking with some Town Board Members he stated that he gives them until July 31, 2020 to have the property completely cleaned up to the satisfaction of the Code Enforcement Officer. The Code Enforcement Officer and the Board will check the property on August 1, 2020. If it is not cleaned up to their satisfaction he will pursue legal action on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Covid-19 Discussion:** Supv Hammond noted that the Civic Center will be where our board meetings will be held until things open up further and more people are allowed to attend in the Municipal Building.

The Clerk reported that the door at the Municipal Building remains locked. People don't want to follow rules. If someone comes to the building they are granted entrance to do their business as long as they have a mask on and then upon exit the area is sanitized. It seems to be working fine this way.

C Prentice noted that there are hot zone places and with people coming into the area it is a means of transmission. People need to be vigilant with the rules that are in place to avoid contracting this virus.

The FEMA application has been approved for the town. The thresh hold for the grant is \$3,300. Supv Hammond will reach out to the people in charge to see what can and be counted for the grant.

C Loomis asked if the board was renting out the old town hall for anything. Nothing is scheduled in that building and won't be until further notice.

**BASS Master Request:** Supv Hammond reported that as everyone knows the BASS masters will not be coming to Waddington this year. This will hurt the sales tax as a whole for St Lawrence County. The first two quarters of sales tax have been up \$4,000 each time from the same period in 2019. This next quarter will more than likely show a drop.

The Board looked at Revenue/Appropriation reports to see where things stood to date.

**Citizen's Comments:**

Patty VanPatten asked if anyone had noticed the fascia board had been blown off the tower on the left side of the old town hall. It had not been observed. The Clerk will contact Nickolas Bertrand to see if they can fix it with their lift.

She also noted that she had been speaking with a teacher from Prescott, Ont who has a place here in Waddington. She is staying here for now. She told Patty that they are taking the virus very serious in Canada. There are very strict rules in place.

Mayor Zagrobelny updated the board on work that the Village will be doing on the museum. The two front porches must be replaced. They will be contacting SHPO to see if there are any historic things that must be considered.

Russ Strait reported that our joint grant for the gateway sign at the four corners looks good. We hope to get the results shortly. They will set up a committee of locals and merchants to get input on what everyone would like see there.

He told the board that the Village has had trouble with people using golf carts etc. on the walking trails. The Village board has increased signage to keep people from using them with motorized vehicles. He stated that more signage and tree trimming around the current signs on the River Rd walking path would greatly help.

Kelly Cevallias addressed the board stating that she and her children were medically exempt from wearing masks. She also noted her concern for speeding on LaGrasse St.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Hammond seconded by Prentice to enter into executive session @ 8:17PM to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof. A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Prentice to return to regular session @ 8:45PM. Ayes: All No action was taken during executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Prentice to pay bills #13457 – 13513 in the amount of \$31,710.60. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McBath to adjourn the meeting @ 8:53PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A Burns, Town Clerk