

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, June 11, 2012 @ 6:30 PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: Supervisor Mark Scott and Councilors: David Putney, Shirley Robinson, and Travis McKnight. Councilor Dalton was absent.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Jane Layo, John Steen, Anthony Zeledon, Patty VanPatten, Sandy Wright, Winnie Veitch, Kenny Pierce, Assessor, Jim Thew, Amanda, Ogdensburg Journal, Charles Nash, Town Attorney, and Ben Johns, Newly appointed Town Attorney.

Call to order: Supv. Scott called the meeting to order @ 6:30PM. A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Robinson to enter into executive session to interview a candidate for Town Attorney. A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to return to regular session @ 6:50PM. No action was taken in executive session.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Town Attorney: Supv. Scott reported that during the executive session the Board interviewed Benjamin Johns for the position of Town Attorney.

Resolution #43

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Putney

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Benjamin Johns to fill the position of Town Attorney that has been vacated by current Attorney Nash. The appointment will take effect immediately. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments:

Sandy Wright stated that the gravel that has been spread on the walking trail @ Leishman Point looks very nice. She also thanked Supv. Scott for the meeting agenda.

Town Owned Property: Supv. Scott reported that at the last meeting the Town Board had decided to hold off on sale of Leishman Point. Recently Jeff & Rebecca Garrish contacted Supv. Scott stating that they were interested in building a 60 room hotel in Waddington. They are looking at property in the Village and also @ Leishman's Point. The Garrish's made a power point presentation to the Board. Question and answer period ensued. C. Putney asked them if they had considered a portion of Whitehouse Bay. He noted that they had a possible marina in the plans and Kenter Bay area of Whitehouse would be perfect for this. They told him they would look at that area also. At this time they will begin a feasibility study and market analysis to see where the project will stand. Assessor Pierce also noted that the Town has a business exemption in which the taxes are based on 50% the first year with proof of \$10,000 income and then drops 5% per year until back to 100%. The Board thanked the Garrish's and told them they looked forward to working with them to make this hotel fit into the community.

Campground Leishman: Jim Thew presented the Board with drawings of a couple of options for campground layouts. There was one for the River Road with 19 back in sites along the river and 6 drive through across the road. The one on Leishman Point showed low density sites with 35' between sites. Jim told the Board that these were very preliminary drawings just to get the

conversation rolling on possibilities. The Board thanked Jim for his work and will keep the discussion open.

Committee Reports:

Library: C. Robinson reported that the Board met on June 5th. The Board has until August 15th to complete the 990 tax form. Whalen, Davey & Looney will do the form. The Board would like the Town to have the banister on the front steps painted and repair the plaster on the ceiling and wall in the basement. The steps going to the basement need to be sanded and varnished. They would like to create a policy booklet for patrons. Next month they will do a walk around to check for repairs needed. An Executive session was called to discuss the hiring of an aide. The next meeting will be June 26th.

Supv. Scott noted that he had spoken to Roy Patraw. He is painting the banister. The Town will have to find someone to repair the plaster. It is up too high for Roy to do. The light in the back stairway is not working. The Board will contact Craig Debien to repair.

Sandy Wright asked C. Robinson if a new aid had been hired. C. Robinson stated that they hired Tiffany Pray from Ogdensburg. Sandy asked if any local people had applied. C. Robinson stated that they had. As a taxpayer Sandy stated that she had a problem with hiring outside of Waddington for the position. Attorney Nash stated that the Library Board has the sole responsibility for hiring at the Library. The Town Board did not have a say in it. If she wanted to address someone it would have to be the Library Board. Their next meeting will be June 26th.

Recreation: C. McKnight reported that the beach will be opening on June 26th. The summer recreation program will begin on July 2nd. The Recreation committee has had two meetings with the Village Board to discuss ideas and plans for an all season arena. They have discussed ice outdoors and indoor turf inside. Discussion will be ongoing.

Highway: C. Putney reported that the Town has gotten the docks installed, installed some new culverts, and general maintenance. They have been working at the beach with some leaking faucets. Supt. Mayette has had some men on vacation so has to jockey his schedule around. The Village will be paving soon. They are not sure if Madrid Highway Dept. will be able to work with them due to work being done on the dam in Madrid. Supv. Mayette has been talking with Lisbon to trade work with them for paving.

Supv. Mayette has checked a couple of places for sand. There have been some test holes dug and have come up gravel. There are two more spots to look into.

Rescue Squad: C. Dalton was absent but submitted the following report:

The Rescue Squad held their regular meeting on June 4th. There were 12 members present. After many months of work the draft of the new bylaws were handed out for members to review and to be voted on at the next meeting. One new member was voted in: Mike Abrunzo. The probation periods for three candidates was extended. Norm Harvey was congratulated and received a first responder's bag for his completion and passing the first responders test. Two of the members will be retesting soon. The Squad is going to set up a meeting with the fire department to discuss cross training to better help one another. Discussion was held to set up a schedule of workers for the upcoming events this summer. June Dumas will be doing a CPR class this month to update member's certificates. EMT Tomlins was honored for outstanding response to emergency calls this past year. Discussion was held regarding new equipment for remote data entry and record keeping. Invitation was received from the Armstrong's to their 50th wedding anniversary get together at the beach June 23rd from 1-4PM.

Road Maintenance Plan: C. Putney reported that he had received a proposal from Bill Dashnaw to develop a highway construction and road maintenance plan for the Town of Waddington. The cost for this is \$1500. The plan could be completed in two – three months. Discussion was held. They will hold off until they could have C. Dalton and Supt. Mayette here to make the decision.

WRA: Supv. Scott reported that the concert series will begin on June 29th. A schedule was available for the public. The deadline for articles in the Waddington Recorder is June 15th. They will be going on vacation and want to put it out before that time.

Chamber of Commerce: John Steen, President reported that the Chamber has completed 200 copies of their new business directory, the self-guided walking tour books are out, they will be updating the tri-fold tourist brochure. A committee of members has been formed to begin a new promotion to "Buy Local". The Chamber has been asked to help with the Wounded Warrior Fishing Derby. John presented them with \$500 from the WFN winnings and 23 Waddington water bottles. They are re-ordering more "Where the World comes to fish" t-shirts. They will pay for these with the WFN money and pay back as they sell.

Assessment Roll: Assessor Pierce reported that there were only three grievances brought before the Assessment Board. One was changed and the other two remained the same. He submitted 5 petitions for change to the Board in the amount of \$37,000. There was an increase of \$887,231 due to new construction. The equalization rate remains at 100%. Iroquois Gas submitted a petition to the Grievance Board requesting a reduction from \$8,000,000 to \$800,000 a 90% decrease. They sent these grievances to all of the towns in the Iroquois Gas project. These are special franchises and the State sets the rates on these. They will likely go to court.

Drug Testing: Supv. Scott reported that the Clerk had received quotes for drug testing from Mountain Medical based in Lake Placid and On-Site testing Services based in Brownville, NY. Mountain Medical has an urgent care facility in Massena open 7 days per week should we have the need for an emergency testing. They will also put us in our own company which will include the lifeguards and the Highway Department. Testing will be random but will occur at least twice per year. The quotes were compared and the following resolution made:

Resolution #44

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to contract with Mountain Medical Urgent Care Services for drug testing for the lifeguards and highway department. Ayes: All

Financial Software: Supv. Scott reported that the Town's financial software is becoming obsolete. The program was purchased by a new company called KVS. They will begin to phase out the EOS brand of the software for their updated version. This will cost between 30-40,000 and can be spread out over a 5 year period. The Clerk will also look at a new program that the Village has begun and one from Business Automated Systems. This will not have to be done ASAP but the Supervisor wanted to advise the Board of the issue.

Correspondence:

Supv. Scott reported that he had received a letter from the Department of State to inform people that Verizon will be contacting people by phone that have the lifeline program. They will be asking questions concerning the program. This is a legitimate phone call.

Supv. Scott received a letter from the DEC stating that there will be a meeting held on June 23rd from 9AM-noon in the Madrid Waddington Central School to discuss future management of state lands within the St. Lawrence Flatlands Unit. There are two units in the Town of Waddington.

Supv. Scott also received a letter from the Post Office stating that there are issues with the local post office concerning people receiving their mail. People are asked to be sure if they have a PO Box it is listed in their address. Congressman Owens has been working to keep the small Post Offices open but they may be cutting some hours.

Haggett Estate: Supv. Scott reported that the Town has received another \$2,000 from the Haggett Estate for the improvement of Old Brookside Cemetery. Jane reported that there is a program through Northern New York Library System which teaches how to mend the old cemetery stones.

Economic Development Strategic Plan: Supv. Scott asked the Council members if they were ready to approve the Economic Development Strategic Plan. C. Putney & McKnight stated that they were not ready yet. They will discuss at the next meeting.

Economic Development Coordinator: Supv. Scott reported that he had discussed the Economic Development Coordinator position with the Chamber of Commerce. They are fine with his job description. He would like to advertise the position to see what kind of response we get. Because it is later in the season the job would be for 8- 10 weeks, 30 hrs, @ \$10 per hour. This will be paid for from the economic development fund that was set up.

Resolution #45

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for the position of Economic Development Coordinator. This person will work 8-10 weeks, 30 hrs pr week @ \$10 per hour. Ayes: All

LWRP: Supv. Scott reported that a group met with a representative from the Department of State concerning the importance of having an LWRP. She told the group that we may be eligible for funding to update the document. She also encouraged the Town and Village to partner together when applying as this strengthens the request.

Old Town Hall Grant: Supv. Scott reported that at the last meeting the Board had authorized up to \$2,000 to be spent to write the grant for the Old Town Hall. The application is due by July 16th. He had letters of interest from C.W. Augustine and Betsy Varno. Discussion held and resolution passed.

Resolution #46

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to hire C.W. Augustine to write the grant for handicap accessibility for the Old Town Hall in an amount not to exceed \$2,000. Ayes: All

Planning Board: Supv. Scott reported that the Planning Board position had been advertised in the Ogdensburg Journal. There were a few phone calls but no letters of interest have been received yet. He also noted that C. Dalton had a person interested in an alternate position. The Board will discuss this again next month.

C. Putney read a quote from Tiernan's Home Center to replace/repair the area around the door on the Rescue Squad building to eliminate the water leakage problem. He suggested that the Board discuss this at the next meeting when C. Dalton can be in attendance as he is the one who spoke with Tiernan's about the project. The rest of the members agreed.

Citizen's Comments:

Jane Layo commented that the Historian job description being used is unreasonable. She stated that the Board can't expect one person to do the job according to these specs.

Homecoming Committee:

Resolution #47

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint the following people to the Homecoming Committee: Nancy Putney, Chairperson, Sue Caswell, Treasurer, John Steen, Secretary, Sheryl Evans, June Dumas, Benny Fairchild, Shelly Campbell, Mark Hill, Ronnie Keyes, Linda Jones, Robert Ritter, Amy Rivera, Michelle Mayette, Donna Miller, and George Ruddy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following organizations will be participating in the Homecoming Celebration: Masons, Knights of Columbus, Waddington Rescue Squad Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Waddington Fire Department, Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church and the Friends of the Library. Ayes: All

Bills: A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Robinson to pay bills # 452-529 in the amount of \$35,505.98. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Scott, seconded by Putney to adjourn the meeting @ 9:05PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk