

## Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 @ 4:30PM in the Municipal Building.

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

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Jonathan Putney, Fred Morrill, and Sam Burns, St. Lawrence County Legislators, John Tenbusch, and Amanda Purcell, Ogdensburg Journal.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order @ 4:45PM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the sales tax increase proposed by the St. Lawrence County Legislature. The County Legislators presented their 5 year plan for property tax reduction should the sales tax increase be approved. The formula for distribution will be .06437389% to the city of Ogdensburg (no change), 50/50 to towns and villages on the first 3%, then share 10% of increased 1% amount. Further discussion was held between the Town Council & County Legislators.

### Resolution #26

Motioned by: Dalton

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby support the 1% sales tax increase based on the 5 year plan as submitted by the County Board of Legislators.

Roll Call Vote:

C. Dalton: Aye

Supv. Scott: Naye

C. McKnight: Aye

C. Robinson: Aye

C. Putney: Aye

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Dalton to adjourn the meeting @ 5:50PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, March 11, 2013 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Terry Mayette, Highway Superintendent, Sandy Wright, Amanda Purcell, Ogdensburg Journal, Patty VanPatten, Shaun Prentice, and Bill Tiernan.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order @ 7PM.

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

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

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

Sandy Wright stated that she did not make the meeting about the sales tax but was able to get a copy of the meeting from the Town Clerk. She noted that she had a couple of questions. She asked what the dollar amount was that the Town would receive with the increase. Supv. Scott reported that currently the town receives approximately \$250,000 per year. The new plan would bring approximately an additional \$18,000. She noted that there was reference to an agreement with the City of Ogdensburg. Is there currently an agreement with the Towns & Villages? Yes there is for the % that is now collected but no official agreement for distribution of the additional 1% requested. How many towns are in favor of the increase? Supv. Scott could not say for sure. Shaun Prentice stated that at the last meeting there was no support for the sales tax increase and now one week ago they Board agrees with the exception of one. What happened? The Council Members stated that when they met with representatives from the Board of Legislators they presented their revised 5 year plan. They felt that the new plan could be implemented and followed to reduce the property tax burden on the County's residents.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Recreation:** C. McKnight reported that there was no recreation meeting this month. The rink is winding down. The Recreation Committee will meet at the end of March to discuss plans for the beach and a new caretaker.

**Highway:** C. Putney reported that the Highway Dept. has been plowing and doing maintenance on trucks. They had to replace a chain in a sander. They have put stone on the dirt roads and unthawed culverts. The vacuum pump in the furnace in the Highway garage has gone bad. Without it the burners will no light. The cost for the new pump was \$1531. He would like board approval to pay for this purchase. A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to pay for the purchase of a new vacuum pump in the amount of \$1531. Ayes: All

**Rescue Squad:** C Dalton reported that the Rescue Squad meeting was March 10<sup>th</sup>. At this time their fund balances are healthy. They just found out that they will be losing 2% on Medicaid reimbursements. A new elevator at Hamilton Gardens has been checked and they can use it for a stretcher but not a back board. Their new medical advisor Dr. Healey will be invited to a meeting to get acquainted with the squad and to offer guidance. Training is an ongoing event with two members going to Alexander Bay this month. They will be purchasing lifting belts to aid in loading patients. The squad is reviewing numerous applications for membership; also have two new associate members who are EMT's. One new member has been accepted from Chase Mills. With the upcoming BASS tournament this summer they will be looking for ways of bringing in extra help from surrounding squads. Tom Tomlin was selected as interim squad chief till the next elections. Along with the pagers and radios the squad is looking into text

messaging. Questions were asked when they could expect to receive the contract amount and the \$10,000 for the rig payment. The Clerk noted that the request is in the bills for approval.

**Library:** C. Robinson reported that the Library Board Meeting was March 5<sup>th</sup>. The friends of the Library will meet in April. The Board asked Edith to look into the cost of buying 9 computers. Edith will look for grants that might be available. Upcoming classes are computer and two tax preparation classes. Edith has the web site up and going. Cheryl will check with Matt Daley about the Summer Reading Program. Mary said there is a board that our Historian can use. The Board went into executive session @ 7:23 PM. The next meeting will be April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Chamber of Commerce:** No one was present to give a report.

**Energy Working Group:** The next meeting will be March 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM in the Library Community Room.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv. Scott reported that the report for the first phase has been completed by the Attorney. He will get the Board members a copy

**Town Property Utilization:** C. Putney reported that Jim Thew has gotten some materials together. Their schedules have not been compatible to meet. They will get together this month with the committee.

**NYS Health Dept:** Supv. Scott reported that he had received a copy of a letter that was sent to the Village concerning the BASS elite tournament coming this summer. They noted that there will be concession stands etc. that will need permits to operate. They reminded the Village to be sure to check ahead of time if permits are needed. The committee recently had their kickoff meeting. Four members will be going to Texas to see what a BASS Elite Tournament entailed.

**Recreation/Tourism:** C. Dalton reported that an informational meeting for the BASS Tournament was held this past Wednesday at the library for the public. At this meeting questions were answered about parking issues and whether or not shuttles will be available. There were questions brought up about the overzealous Park Police in our area. Janet will look into that. Janet Cassada will be going to Texas this weekend to witness an elite BASS Tournament and gather information that will help with the organizing of this tournament. On March 25<sup>th</sup> the committee will be presenting their projected budget to the St. Lawrence County Legislators to help them decide how much they can provide through their economic development funds. On Saturday, March 16 there will be a fund-raising softball tournament being held in Massena @ Bushnell field. All are welcome.

**Old Town Hall:** C. Dalton reported that Supv. Scott submitted the grant application to the RVRDA on March 1<sup>st</sup> in the amount of \$20,000. The grants will be awarded near the end of April. The Town has preliminary drawings from Randy Crawford for making the building handicapped accessible. AT this time we have \$50,000 that we received last year in a grant. We also have \$47,000 which is being leftover from our general maintenance budget for the building. We are at the point now that with the Board's approval we should ask Crawford and Stearns to start preparing the prints and bid package for the project so that when the time comes we are ready to move forward. The first thing that Randy Crawford will do is approach the NYS Historic people with our preliminary plan to seek their approval and if they approve then will proceed with the drawings.

Resolution #27

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to hire Crawford and Stearns to begin work on plans to make the Old Town Hall handicap accessible. Ayes: All

**Agriculture:** C. McKnight reported that he and C. Putney have discussed names for the committee. He doesn't have any news as to when the representative will speak to the board

about the emerald ash borer. He has made contact with John Morgan, VP for Farm Bureau to be a common member on the board when the Town needs help.

**Cemetery:** C. McKnight reported that he has emailed the NYS Cemetery Association only to find that Municipal owned cemeteries do not qualify for funding. There is money in the federal system. He is looking into this. Supv. Scott reported that the Town has received another \$5,000 from the Haggett Estate with more to come according to the letter. He will see if these funds can be used in other cemeteries.

**Business Development:** C. Robinson reported that John Tenbusch is compiling some names for development coordinator. He will help the Town with the startup.

**Iroquois Grant:** At the last board meeting it was decided to resubmit an application for the new sign at the town corners. Supv. Scott noted that upon reading the qualifications for the grant he could see why the town didn't receive it last year. He would like to change the application subject to the old town hall. The building has a history of support and this would be more in the lines of the grants requirements. If they can get more money for the project the Town could look into purchasing a new sign on its own. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Dalton to apply for the maximum amount to be put towards the unisex bathroom/handicap access. Ayes: All

**Power Monetization:** The following resolution was passed:

Resolution #28

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2012, Governor Cuomo signed into law the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Act (the "Act") which directs net earnings from the sale of unallocated Expansion Power and Replacement Power from the Authority's Niagara Power project to be deposited into the Western New York Economic Development Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorized the funding of a variety of economic development activities from unallocated reserved hydropower to stimulate Western New York's economic and employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, eligible projects for funding through the proceeds allocation must be located within a certain distance of the Niagara Power project in Lewiston and be within New York State; and

WHEREAS, in a similar manner to Western New York, the St. Lawrence FDR Power Project host communities have prioritized the pursuit of economic development using the monetized proceeds of unallocated low cost hydro power; and

WHEREAS, it is equitable and fair to enable the similar use of resources from the St. Lawrence FDR Power Project for Northern New York as has been approved for Western New York; and

WHEREAS, Northern New York Power Allocation legislation is currently being proposed to address this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington encourages the New York Assembly, Senate and Governor to adopt the Northern New York Power Proceeds Allocation legislation necessary to enable the monetized proceeds of unallocated low cost Preservation Power for economic development purposes in northern New York to include a 40 mile radius and that Senator Ritchie and Assemblyperson Russell pursue this legislation on behalf of the Town of Waddington. Ayes: All

**Opposing NYPA's Volunteer Payment to NYS:** The following resolution was passed:

Resolution #29

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, according to the New York Power Authority's Financial Statements, NYPA has increase revenue generated by the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project (\$45 million in 2011 alone); and

WHEREAS, NYPA has made voluntary payment to the State of NY in excess of \$1.2 billion in the past decade since the license to operate the St. Lawrence-FDR project was renewed; and

WHEREAS, NYPA continues to voluntarily contribute \$65 million per year to the NYS general fund; and

WHEREAS, the host communities, including the Town of Waddington, are still adversely affected by the construction of the power project while the majority of the benefits are distributed outside the region most impacted;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington is opposed to any additional payments by NYPA to NY State and strongly urges NYPA to redirect benefits to the host communities, including the Town of Waddington which have sacrificed the past 60 years while NYPA has been exporting much needed local revenue. Ayes: All

**Emergency Response Plan:** Supv. Scott reported that Tom Tomlins from the Rescue Squad asked if the Town of Waddington had an emergency response plan in place. Supv. Scott stated that they did and gave him the plan to review. The current plan is in a binder and very cumbersome with paperwork. It also needs to be updated. Joe Gilbert from St. Lawrence County worked with Tom and presented an easy to follow condensed emergency response plan. They would like to sit down with the Supv, Deputy Supv, Fire Chief, Mayor, and a Village Trustee to review the updated plan. Supv. Scott asked C. Putney if he would be available for a meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. He noted that he would. Supv. Scott asked the other Councilors to review the plan to see if there are any changes needed. He would like to be able to adopt the updated plan at the next meeting.

**Wellness Program:** Supv Scott reported that Carol Zimmerman with the Wellness Program will be here on March 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9AM to discuss the step challenge that the employees will participate in. The program will be for 6 weeks.

**Retiree Health Insurance:** Supv Scott reported that he and a couple of Councilors had met with the Retirees to change the health insurance plan that they currently participate in. The new plan would be a Medicare Advantage Plan. The plan will save the Town and the Retiree money. There is a deductible of \$1250 per year per person. The Town would fund an HRA in the amount of \$1250 for the retiree and \$625 for the spouse since the Town finances half of the spouse's premium. The retiree would retain benefits at no additional cost and the dependent would save \$350-980 annually. The Town will save \$3,200 to \$8,840 annually for all retirees and their dependents. C. Dalton noted that he had spoken with one of the retirees and that they had some concerns about the plan. C. Dalton stated that he feels that the retirees are afraid of change. The retiree/spouse will pay a copay to see the doctor. Once they get a receipt they can bring it in and the Town Clerk will submit it for reimbursement for them. If there is a problem with them paying the copay up front the Town will discuss the program with the physician's office to make other arrangements. Further discussion was held.

Resolution #30

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to switch the retiree/dependent's health insurance to a Medicare Advantage Plan. An HRA will be set up through American Health Resources in the amount of \$1250 per retiree and \$625 for dependent. This money will be used to reimburse copays spent during the plan year. Ayes: ALL

**Phone Review:** Supv Scott reported that he had spoken with the Town of Lake George and the Town of Newfane. They told him that they didn't save a lot of money but it was worth the time. Phone review will go back 4-5 years on our utility bills to see what we have been overpaying for. They will keep 30% of everything they find and the Town will receive 70%. They can't change any of our accounts or information without the Town's approval.

Resolution #31

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to hire Phone Review to check the Town's utility bills to see where we have overpaid and apply for the town's overpayments. Phone Review will receive 30% of all monies located and the Town will receive 70%. Ayes: All

**Foreclosure support:** Supv Scott reported that at the last board meeting the board had some concerns about supporting two foreclosure bills in the Senate and Assembly. They asked the Town's attorney to look at the resolution before supporting. Attorney Johns has stated that there are no issues that the Board should be concerned with should they wish to pass the resolution.

Resolution #32

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, vacant, abandoned and foreclosed homes and structures have proliferated throughout New York State over the last five years; and  
WHEREAS, vacant structures that are not maintained for months at a time degrade and depreciate the value of the vacant structure as well as the value of surrounding properties; and  
WHEREAS, lending institutions that hold mortgages on said vacant structures do not always provide the contact information of a responsible party; and  
WHEREAS, Assembly Bill A.88 and Assembly Bill A.824, currently pending, would make it mandatory for lending institutions to provide contact information of responsible parties regarding vacant structures, and require good faith in obtaining a foreclosure; and  
WHEREAS, the Town of Waddington Town Board supports the passage of said bills;  
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington hereby supports the passage of said Bills and respectfully requests that the State Representatives who represents constituents in the Town of Waddington support the passage of said bills. Ayes: All

**NYPA Agreement:** Supv Scott reported that he had not received any revisions from the Town Attorney for the NYPA Agreement.

**Citizen's Comments:**

Shaun Prentice asked if the Town's website was up and running yet. He noted that when you go to the BASS Elite website and click on Waddington you come to the old site that is maintained by Bob LaRue. It is not up to date and doesn't represent Waddington well. He stated that the link should bring someone to a current site. The Clerk will talk to someone about that. Patty VanPatten asked if there was a map of Waddington on the website. The Clerk noted that there was not but she would look at it.

**Executive Session:** Supv Scott made a motion to enter into executive session. C. Putney asked what the executive session would be about. Supv Scott stated that the assessor position is up for reappointment. He would like to talk about the job performance of the current assessor. Sandy Wright asked why the appointment was up now and not in December. Supv Scott stated that the position actually expires in October and is for 6 years.

A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Robinson to enter into executive session @ 8:25 to discuss the job performance of the current assessor. Ayes: All

A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to return to regular session @ 8:35PM. Ayes: All No action was taken during executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Dalton to pay bills # 162- 240 in the amount of \$76,684.45. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Putney to adjourn the meeting @ 8:50PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk