

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, March 9, 2020 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** Supervisor Alex Hammond and Councilmembers: Travis McKnight, David McBath, and Shaun Prentice. Councilmember Loomis was absent.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Patty VanPatten, James Miller, and Julie McBath.

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

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

**Moment of Silence:** Supv Hammond asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of Marsha Dalton. She was the wife of retired Town Supervisor William Dalton.

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

**Citizen's Comments:** There were no comments at this time.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Recreation/Tourism:** Supv Hammond reported that the arena is done for the season. The beach will start the first week of July after the East Coast Watercross being held June 28<sup>th</sup>. Supv Hammond also reported that the College BASS Masters will be in town the same weekend as homecoming. They will be fishing Thursday through Saturday. The weigh ins will be in Waddington instead of Potsdam. They will also have primary sponsor vendors brought in.

**Rescue Squad:** The Rescue Squad met on Monday. Their primary discussion was the Corona virus outbreak. They discussed AED's in public places. This is not a mandate but good practice. The squad will be offering CPR classes for the Fire Department, Highway Department, and any other Town employees or officials. Potential date for the banquet is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are still looking at new rigs. They met with some on Wednesday and Thursday of last week. No update on BASS Masters. They will be doing some cross training with the Fire Department. I.e.: snowmobile accident in the woods, fireman down. Julie reported that the USDA application should be done this week. They are getting their 3<sup>rd</sup> quote to narrow down and make a decision on a rig. She asked the Board if they pass a resolution of support for the Squad.

### Resolution #30

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington does hereby support the Waddington Rescue Squad Inc. seeking grants and other funding support to acquire a new ambulance to be used in providing critical emergency medical service response for the residents of the town and village of Waddington. The Waddington Rescue Squad Inc. is the primary agency that provides these critical emergency services to this community under an exclusive contract for service, and the acquisition any new ambulance equipment will not have any adverse impact on the community, and will only enhance similar services in neighboring communities under existing emergency service mutual aid agreements.

Ayes: Hammond, Prentice, McKnight

Abstain: McBath

**Library:** C McBath reported that the Library Board met on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They will be dedicating a computer for people to participate in the 2020 census. They have received one quote for

central air. They will advertise for more. They are looking into a Municipal vote to become their own taxing authority.

**Campground Committee:** C McBath stated that the committee met on February 12<sup>th</sup> to review some draft floor plans for cabins. There were 5 different schemes discussed. There are still questions to be answered. Will NYPA do engineering? They looked at the property by the Sucker Brooks Lookout. There could potentially be 2-3 cabins in this area. The smaller cabin approximately \$60,000 built off site and moved there. Still need to look at the water and sewer availability there. They suggested the board move forward with the cabins and work that can be done at Brandy Brook. Supv Hammond stated he had a meeting with Jeff Farrell and Brian Terry from the Power Authority and they were very interested in this project.

Resolution #31

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board would like to move forward with their primary project being 2 floor plans for cabins near the Sucker Brook Lookout including the updated Brandy Brook project as potentials for the Town's share of the NYPA recreation funding.

Ayes: McKnight, McBath, Hammond

Abstain: Prentice

**Highway:** The Highway Department plowed and sanded 18 times in February. They have been performing maintenance on trucks. All trucks now have master switches in them. They have pressure washed and painting walls in the shop, removed snow piles from Village streets, patching pot holes, and replacing road signs. They are working on putting stone on dirt roads to fill in holes. They will do grading when the frost goes out.

Supt Putney attended Advocacy Day in Albany to push for keeping winter recoveries and pave NY funding. Also advocating for increase in CHIPS funding, it hasn't been in 8 years. Losing winter recovery and pave NY funds will result in a loss of approximately \$43,000 in funding.

Supt Putney reported that an email had been sent to the board concerning some trees out on the Jenner Rd. There has been an ongoing disagreement between the Barrs' and Acres concerning the properties involved. It seems they have now put the Highway Department in the middle of their disagreement. There were trees that were in the town's right of way that needed to be taken out. He spoke with Seaway Timber who was cutting on the property and they agreed to take them out. There are also two trees on the Barrs side of the road that are real bad that they need to be removed. Supv Putney and C McKnight went out and measured the trees to be sure they were in the Town's right of way. The tree is 5-6" in the right of way so the town is within their rights to remove the trees.

The Board asked Supt Putney what the normal protocol is for trees in the right of way. Supt Putney stated that it has always been the Highway Supt's judgement to have them removed if it wasn't something the department could do. Discussion ensued and the board told Supt Putney that he should continue with his current policy.

The new Mack truck has been ordered. It should be ready for delivery by November.

**Gallery at Lake St Lawrence:** Supv Hammond reported that the Laurentian Singers performed at the old town hall on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. There were 40 – 50 people in attendance. The performance was recorded. The cleaner came in and cleaned prior to the event and the heat was set at a comfortable temperature. He stated he hopes to see more events like this in the building.

Supt Putney reported that he had to Merkley's come to service the downstairs furnace at the old town hall. The suction line was plugged and the igniting rod needed to be cleaned. It is something that will have to be paid attention to.

**Museum:** James Miller reported that the Museum Board met two times since the last board meeting. They have been cleaning the building. They are confident that they will be able to open the museum by mid-June. They need to get into the old town hall to see what is in there for artifacts. They are thinking maybe a seaway theme room. They are continuing their search

for a Museum director –Town/Village Historian. There are three candidates. They will be reaching out to all three for availability of interviews. Their next tentative meeting date is April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**East Coast Watercross:** Supv Hammond reported that the Board was provided to the revised lease agreement as specified by the Town Attorney. He would like permission to sign and then sign the MOU.

Resolution #32

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to sign the revised lease agreement (approved by Town Attorney) for Leishman Point with the East Coast Watercross. Ayes: All

C. McKnight reported that there is a change in the Chiefs at the Fire Department. New Chief is Jimmy Armstrong and Assistant Chiefs are Kevin Sharlow and Sean McGee. C. McBath asked if this would affect the department's decision to do the parking etc. as planned. C. McKnight noted that it would not.

A meeting will be scheduled with all parties involved with the event.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv Hammond reported that he had met with Jeff Farrell and Brian Terry from NYPA. They went over the annual maintenance report for the facilities. He asked them about the easement of the Iroquois Dam Rd. They gave him a copy of the easement which states we can give authority to use to access the property. He also asked them about some type of primitive camping on Ogden Island. They gave him information on the bird habitat on the island. The next LGTF is March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30.

**Iroquois Dam Land:** A letter was received from American Realty 1 stating that she is representing a company looking to acquire and utilize large plots of vacant land in certain areas in St Lawrence County. She noted that our land at Iroquois has been identified as a parcel of interest by this company. She asked of our interest to sell or lease this area. The area that they have identified on the map is the prime waterfront to the left of the road. This is the property the town had been talking about making into lots for sale.

Supv Hammond stated that he had contacted her and she told him it was a solar outfit that would either purchase or lease the property on a 25 year lease. Further discussion ensued.

Motion by: McBath, Seconded: McKnight to reject the proposal from American Realty 1 not currently interested in selling the identified parcel. Not enough ayes motion died.

Motioned by: Prentice, Seconded by McBath to reply back to the letter stating the Town has interest in selling other areas. If they have a serious offer it can be brought to the Board. We have potential for the property identified. Ayes: All

**Solar Project:** The Clerk reported that there is a solar project in front of the Planning Board located on CR 31. It has been sent to the County Planning Board for review and a public hearing is set for March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4PM in the old town hall. They have submitted a proposal for PILOT payments. The Town Attorney stated that PILOT negotiations will take place through the St. Lawrence County IDA. He requested that the Board appoint Supv Hammond to be the negotiator along with him. Discussion was held concerning PILOT and other ways revenue can be made through projects like these. The board noted that they would like C. Prentice to also be involved in the negotiations because he has experience with energy.

Resolution #33

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that Supv Hammond and Councilor Prentice will represent the Town in the negotiating party for the solar project. Ayes: All

**Emergency Services Tower:** C McBath reported that he had sent everyone a draft copy of a lease to be sent to the County for their input. He has spoken with Matthew Denner, Emergency Services and asked that he and their attorneys review the document and send back to the town. Once we receive their take on it we can send to Charlie for approval. The Board agreed with this.

**National Grid:** C Prentice reported that since the Town received the notice from National Grid stating we would have to go to demand service if we were over 2000KW for 3 consecutive months he has monitored the bills. He just got the newest bill and we were under the threshold therefore we are not in the 3 consecutive month timeframe. He will continue to monitor.

**Fire System:** C Prentice reported that NCC Systems inspected the building to install a fire/smoke system through the entire building including the Rescue Squad portion. The total turnkey price is \$17,700. He feels it is something we should put on our list of projects that should be done as we work on budget for the upcoming year.

**Justice Annual Report:** C Prentice and C Loomis met with the Court Clerk to conduct the annual review of Justice Court Records. A copy of the report has been given to the Board members.

Resolution # 34

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board accepts the audit of the Town Court Books conducted by Councilor Loomis & Councilor Prentice for the year 2019. Ayes: All

**USDA Loan Resolution:** (copy attached)

Resolution #35

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the USDA Loan resolution, copy attached. Ayes: All

**Audit:** Supv Hammond reported that the Bookkeeper has requested that the Town conduct a full audit of accounts. There is no problem with missing funds she just feels that there are some areas that need to be cleaned up. The Town has had spot audits done but there has not been a full audit since the state did one in 2000. She has requested an estimate from John Saucier with Pinto and Associates. They are the accountants we have used over the years.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Prentice to return to regular session @ 9:45PM. Ayes: All. No action was taken during executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made to pay bills # 13255- 13306 in the amount of \$42,723.17. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Prentice to adjourn the meeting @ 9:50PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk