

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, May 13, 2013 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Sandy Wright, Jane Layo, Martha Sinkeldam, Vicky MacDonald, Randy & Theresa Mathous, Gary Morgan, Katie Lynch, Patty Wagner, Patty VanPatten, Bradley Hart, NYSDCP, and Amanda Purcell, Ogdensburg Journal.

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

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Putney to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting and the special meeting. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments: Jane Layo asked if the Town had a place to drop off hazardous materials. Supv. Scott noted that it has to go through the County's hazardous materials drop off. There is too much liability for the Town's to collect this.

Katie Lynch addressed the Board concerning the hiring process and procedures for the beach caretaker. She stated that there were three applicants for the position and there was no interviewing or voting done by the Recreation Committee. She wanted to know who had the authority to hire someone. Supv. Scott noted that the Recreation Department hires the people at the beach. He was under the impression that the applicants had been discussed in a meeting. The Town Board does not hire for these positions. Supv. Scott noted that the position is on a 24/7 basis to watch the beach, clean the bathrooms, empty garbage, weeding flowers, and mowing & trimming the lawn. Patty Wagner asked if there had been a background check done on the person hired. Supv. Scott again stated that the Board is not involved in the process. He did note that the Board would discuss the hiring procedure with the Recreation Committee.

Patty VanPatten asked what the Town would do with the old mowers and equipment now that they hire out the municipal mowing. Randy Mathous noted that there were two old mowers left and they are used on occasion.

Dental Plan Union Workers: Supv. Scott reported that the union members had the Teamster's Supreme benefits package when the health insurance was changed. The union chose to stay with the Teamster's for their ancillary benefits. (Dental, vision, disability, life) It was brought to the Supervisor's attention that the dental plan which the union has now has lost benefits. The supreme plan was \$5,000 the current plan is \$2,000. They have been told that they can no longer carry the supreme plan if they do not have the Teamster's health plan. Supv. Scott noted if an instance arose that the member should use over the \$2,000 he would like to be able to allow them to make up the difference through additional money in the HRA. Discussion was held and the following resolution was passed.

Resolution #37

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, the current Waddington union health plan, which includes high deductible health insurance, HSA/HRA, and Teamster's ancillary benefits has saved and will continue to save money for both the Town and employees, and

WHEREAS, prior to February 1, 2012, the dental plan in place provided a \$5,000 maximum benefit, whereas the current dental plan provides a \$2,000 maximum benefit, and

WHEREAS, it was and remains the intent of the Town to continue equal benefits at the same or lesser cost to the union employees, the Town agrees to make up for the financial difference

between the old and new dental plans – after the employee has fully utilized their HSA and HRA accounts and after subtracting the employee’s savings.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to modify the terms of the HRA to include the dental adjustment based on the following example of the maximum the Town will pay should a union employee exhaust their HSA and HRA accounts while paying for dental expenses in excess of \$2,000. (The example is based on an estimate of savings between the old and new plans for 2013) The additional benefit will be paid only on an as-needed basis and is not expected to be utilized on an annual basis. Savings accumulated in the Town’s HRA will cover any additional cost to the Town to provide this added benefit. Ayes: All

	Single	Family
Prior dental maximum amount	\$5,000	\$5,000
New Dental maximum	\$2,000	\$2,000
Difference	\$3,000	\$3,000
Cost savings	\$200	\$1,250
Additional cost the town is willing to make up	\$2,800	\$1,750

Theresa and Randy Mathous addressed the Board with their concerns with the new health insurance plan. They have run into some problems with the administration of the plan. Most of the problems have been or are in the process of being resolved but they felt that the Board needed to know what they have encountered. Supv. Scott noted that there is more involvement with the employee to pay the claims for medical and prescriptions but the Mathous’ are saving over \$100 per month on their premiums. Randy stated that he would rather pay more for the old plan than to have the headaches that come with this plan. The Board noted their concerns.

NYS Deferred Compensation Plan: Bradley Hart spoke to the Board about participating in the NYS Deferred Compensation Plan. He noted that there is no cost to the Town to participate. It is all employee contributions. There is no minimum of employees that have to sign up. The Board stated that they would discuss this with employees to see if there was any interest and get back to him. He will send the Board a resolution to pass if they decide to participate.

Colonial Insurance: Supv. Scott noted that he had been contacted by Colonial Insurance which is similar to the AFLAC insurance already offered to the employees. This also is at no cost to the Town. It is based on employee paying the premiums.

Resolution #38

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby permit Colonial Insurance to come and speak with Town Employees to see if they are interested in any of the products in which they offer.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the employees choose to participate in the Colonial Insurance program it will be through employee payroll deductions and at no cost to the Town. Ayes: All

Committee Reports

Library: C. Robinson reported that the Library Board met on May 7th. The summer reading program is usually held in July for four weeks. Two teachers, Tina Kowalchuk and Laura Parmeter attended the meeting. It is unlikely they will have the funding for the program. The teachers asked for suggestions. When the dollar amount is known the board will check to see if some of the Haggett bequest could be used.

New blinds are needed on the main floor. They can be purchased at Vicki's cost and she volunteered to install them. A disaster plan will be discussed in June. They will no longer require 2 people to be present during the Library hours.

Vicki, Martha, and Roy did a walk around. The results as well as the Cornell report and a color coded report show who is responsible for each item. Each Town Board member will have a copy. The Board discussed installing a 30 gallon gas-fired hot water heater but no decision was made. The next meeting will be June 4th.

Vicky MacDonald reported to the Town Board concerning the list of items to be taken care of at the library. She noted that there are 6 items in the NYSEDA report that need attention with a cost of \$8,228. There is an annual savings of \$1,990 per year resulting in payback within 4.1 years. She feels that the number one priority is to have the steps repaired and the hot water heater installed.

Martha Sinkeldam, President of the Library Board reported that the library has between 8,000-12,000 patrons per year. Approximately 1/3 of them use the computers for classes, looking for jobs, and genealogy research. The library now has the ability to loan books for e-readers through NCLS. They have a summer reading program through the school, story hours, and the Friends of the Library have brought back the Merry Berry Sale in December. They hope to have it again this year. There have been some changes in staff over the last year. The Board is looking to review their policies after they work through the disaster plan.

Economic Development: C. Robinson reported that she had spoken with Joe Gray from Massena. The Town of Massena had Mike Almassian working as their economic development coordinator. He is no longer there. He stated that Massena would be willing to enter into the economic development coordinator with the Town of Waddington. She is also going to check with Lisbon and Louisville.

Highway: C. Putney reported that the Highway Department has finished chipping brush on the Halfwayhouse Road. They have been helping the Village install the docks, doing some truck maintenance, and getting the water ready at the beach. They have also been working on gravel roads and have one left to complete.

Land Utilization: C. Putney reported that he had campground meetings the last two Thursday evenings. They are working on the plans to submit to the Town Board. The temporary campground that will be used during the BASS Elite Tournament is all set. There will be 25 sites. The Town will have to provide porta toilets and potable water. Jim Thew is finalizing the sketches for DOH approval. They began working on clearing the site last week and ran into problems with the Town's dozer. He has spoken with Lisbon about shared services and they will be moving their dozer in for the town's use. The area will be cleared, harrowed, and seeded for use.

Rescue Squad: C. Dalton reported that the Rescue Squad held their meeting on May 5th. There were 12 members present. Dr. Healy, the Squad's providing doctor was in attendance to meet the members. He is needed so that the squad can purchase meds and is available for advice as needed. The fund balances remain healthy.

Dr. Healy suggested the squad contact Claxton Hepburn about the medical building holding more hours during the fishing tournament. Other volunteer squads in our area have been contacted and most seem very eager to assist Waddington to maintain good coverage for the event.

One member attended a weekend full of training seminars this past month and one of the items being stressed is personal safety for first responders. With the increase of calls involving drugs and alcohol on the rise in the area they are setting up a committee consisting of two members that will be charged with training other members to recognize situations that could be hazardous to enter without law enforcement. The Chief will be contacting the Sheriff and State Troopers because of the lack of response on recent calls when they were requested but didn't feel it was necessary to respond.

The members are in the process of setting up the proper software whereby they will also be contacted via text messaging along with their pagers and radios. There will be a dedicated computer monitor so when the driver gets to the building, preps the rig, he can check to see who is responding and who is not. This will allow him to determine whether he waits at the building or proceeds to the scene.

The area rescue squads and fire departments are still working closely with Life Net to set up training as an ongoing practice. Life Net is the helicopter rescue and emergency transportation group out of Potsdam and Watertown.

BASS Elite Tournament: C. Dalton reported that the BASS committee met on May 9th. The committee heads will meet every Thursday night from this time forward in the library basement. Once a month these meetings will be open to the public for any questions that haven't or can't be answered. C. Dalton reported that he was able to attend this meeting and it was well-organized and well run with many good ideas and suggestions brought forth and decided upon. The fund raising is doing quite well with the addition of the grant from the RVRDA.

Emergency services are going to be coordinating security and the County is working with the Sheriff's office to cover the overtime that will occur in providing 24/7 coverage. Emergency Services are also in touch with homeland security and customs to possibly set up a portable port of entry for Canadian boaters.

A full page ad will be run in numerous sporting publications in Canada as well as the US. JoAnn Roberts from St. Lawrence County Chamber presented a preliminary list and schedule of events. It is coming together quite well. There were some big name country performers being tossed around that have been contacted about performing on Saturday. Saturday of the derby will be military appreciation day. They are awaiting confirmation from the 10th Mountain Division Band to perform on that day.

The Town Clerk will get some links added to the Town's website which should help people to answer questions or at least aim them in the proper direction to get the answers.

Old Town Hall Renovations: C. Dalton reported that he had gotten a quote for the asbestos survey from Atlantic Testing \$3260 and David Cole \$1,950. David Cole has completed the survey and has found very little asbestos that would change the scope of the job. It amounts to 2 sq. ft. of material. The reports should be back this week. A preliminary bid package has been received from Randy Crawford for the Accessibility project at the old town hall. The Board discussed dates of advertising, prebid walk through, and bid opening dates.

Resolution # 39

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the bid package and scope of work as submitted by Randy Crawford. The Board also agrees to bid opening of June 10th @ 7PM during the next regularly scheduled board meeting. Ayes: All

Sharlow Lease Agreement: The Board discussed the leasing of the Sharlow property for the Resource Center to move into. They asked the Attorney to write a lease agreement for the Town.

Resolution #40

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Attorney to draft a lease agreement between the Town of Waddington and Edwin & Lori Sharlow for property located @ 52 Lincoln Ave. Rent will be \$500 per month + utilities. The purpose of the lease will be to provide a place for the Waddington Resource Center. Ayes: All

Recreation: C. McKnight reported that Gerald Dow had been hired as the beach caretaker. The beach program and summer camp will run again this year.

Cemetery: C. McKnight put together a bid spec sheet for the replacement of the driveways in the Old Brookside Cemetery. He would like to have it advertised and bid openings on June 10th @ 7PM.

Resolution #41

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve C. McKnight's specs to have the driveways refurbished in the Old Brookside Cemetery. This will be advertised and bid openings held @ the next board meeting June 10th @ 7PM. Ayes: All

WRA: The concert series schedule is out and available. The WRA was again awarded a grant towards the programs. The grant is less money and for the past couple of years local businesses have helped sponsor the concerts. Louise Smith is the Coordinator and the concerts are held in Island View Park on Fridays.

Recorder: Articles for the next recorder should be in shortly for a June publication.

Energy Working Group: The next meeting will be May 21st. The committee will look at solar panels for the municipal buildings. Other towns have already done this and there are NYSERDA funds available.

Chamber of Commerce: Jane Layo reported that they are going to order more t-shirts. They ordered 600 before and only have 150 left. Their t-shirts actually coincide with the theme of homecoming this year. The Board asked where the Chamber purchases their t-shirts. Jane noted that it is through a company in Gouverneur. The Board stated that there is a t-shirt maker right in the Village. Rogue Decals is in the Waddington Auto Parts store. They might like to check with him and keep the business local if possible. The Mayor has requested changing the three signs coming into the Village. They are discussing this.

Allison Road: Supv. Scott reported that he had received a letter from the Klages on Allison Rd requesting that the town consider a speed reduction and weight limit for this road due to the increase of truck and farm equipment. The Board discussed this and noted that there was no need for a weight limit on the road because it was used for the detour route for the County while the bridge was out. There is enough road to support the weight.

Resolution #42

Motioned by: Dalton

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, the Waddington Town Board has received a request from concerned residents about the speed in which vehicles travel on the Allison Rd, and

WHEREAS, there has been increased traffic including tractor trailers and large farm equipment, and

WHEREAS, this road is in a residential area,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby request that the speed limit be reduced from 55 MPH to 45 MPH. Ayes: All

Power Monetization:

Resolution # 43

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, legislative authority in the form of an amendment to the Power Authority Act is needed to authorize the New York power Authority (NYPA) to disburse proceeds from the sale of unallocated hydroelectric power as described in the "Agreement Regarding Funding of the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency" and signed on June 2, 2010 by NYPA, the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency and the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency Local Development Corporation, and

WHEREAS, this legislative authority would enable the monetization of the 10 megawatts of St. Lawrence County Economic Development Power for purposes of economic development as described in the various agreements already approved by NYPA, the St. Lawrence River Valley

Redevelopment Agency, the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency Local Development Corporation, the Massena Electric Department and the host communities, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington supports legislation authorizing NYPA to monetize unallocated hydroelectric power as described in the "Agreement Regarding Funding of the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency". Ayes: All

Psychiatric Center Support:

Resolution #44

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: Putney

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of mental Health is proposing a reduction in the number of inpatient psychiatric hospital beds, and

WHEREAS, the plan would include designating certain hospitals for closure, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, located in Ogdensburg, New York provides a comprehensive range of residential programs including Children/Youth Services, Adult Services, and a Sex Offender Treatment Program, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center has a distinguished history of providing services to those in need from the North Country and throughout New York State for over 100 years, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center is the only such facility in this part of the State, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center provides high quality care for residents of this region for whom travel and access to other facilities outside of this region would be a hardship, and

WHEREAS, the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center employees approximately 500 people, and

WHEREAS, these employees reside in the North Country, make purchases here, and support our local businesses, thereby contributing to the local economy and making our region a better place to raise a family, and

WHEREAS, in the past few years the General Motors plant in Massena, New York closed, putting over 500 people out of work, the Newton Falls Fine Paper Mill closed, leaving 100 people without jobs, the zinc and talc mines in the Gouverneur area have greatly reduced their operations costing over 200 job losses, and numerous cutbacks and layoffs at local hospitals and schools have further strained the North Country economy, placing an unprecedented demands on human, health, and social services in our region, and

WHEREAS. The loss of jobs and payroll at the at the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center would create an economic climate that will contribute even further to the need for services that would be taken out of this area by the Center's closure or reduction of services, and

WHEREAS, the current condition of the over 500,000 square feet of vacant and deteriorating buildings that were formerly used by the Psychiatric Center is a clear indication that there is no market or reasonable expectation of the adaptive reuse of any additional buildings currently being used by the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center should they be closed, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board urges our regional elected representatives to oppose any plan that would involve the closure or reduction in services of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, United States Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, United States Congressman Owens, New York Senators Little, Griffo, and Ritchie, and New York Assembly Members Duprey, Russell, Butler, and Blankenbush. Ayes: All

Memo of Agreement: Supv. Scott reported that he had received a letter of agreement from the St. Lawrence County Legislators regarding emergency services.

Resolution #45

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Putney

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Scott to sign the Memo of Agreement for emergency services with St. Lawrence County. Ayes: All

NYPA Maintenance Agreement: Supv. Scott reported that the Town Attorney had gotten everything settled for the NYPA Maintenance Agreement.

Resolution #46

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: Dalton

Resolved, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Scott to sign the Maintenance Agreement with the New York Power Authority. Ayes: All

Wellness Program: Supv. Scott reported that the Town's employees have just completed a step challenge program as part of the wellness participation. He would like to be able to award the winning team a cash prize of \$30 each. There are four participants per team.

Resolution #47

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to award the winning team members of the step challenge a prize of \$30 per person. There are four members on the team. Ayes: All

Executive Session: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Dalton to enter into executive session @ 9:40PM. A motion was made by Putney, seconded by Dalton to return to regular session @ 9:50PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Resolution #48

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the Task Force to move forward with the hiring of the Wladis Law Firm to represent the Town's during the negotiations with the New York Power Authority. Ayes: All

Resolution #49

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby support the Recreation Commissioner's appointment of Gerald Dow as beach caretaker. The caretaker's duties will include flower beds, trimming, and general cleanup of bathrooms etc. for a period of 6 months beginning May 20- October 20th @ a rate of \$180 per month. Ayes: All

Bills: A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Putney to pay bills #321 -397 in the amount of \$30,754.42. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Dalton to adjourn the meeting @ 10:10PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk