

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, November 3, 2014 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** Supervisor Sandra Wright and Council Members: Travis McKnight, Shirley Robinson, Patricia VanPatten, and Shaun Prentice.

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Robert Dalton, Highway Superintendent, Christy Snider, Janet Salton, Vicki MacDonald, Kevin Kitzman, April Sharlow, Dana Smith, Jackie Hodges, Marilyn Burrell, Edith Ashley, Roy Patraw, Mark Scott, Cheryl Dominy, Allison Charles, Jane Layo, Janet Cassada, Margaret Uppstrom, Gail Thew, Barbara Whyte, Barbara Evans, John Tenbusch, Arlene martin, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Lloyd Grandy, and Jan Simmons.

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

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

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

**Public Hearing:** Supv Wright reported to the board that she had received a notice concerning the over 65 health insurance premium. It will be going up 40%. This will be a difference of \$5,157.24. She is looking at other options. She asked the board if they want to amend the budget now or wait to see what will happen and make a budget adjustment from contingency if and when the time comes. A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to leave the budget as presented and make a resolution if needed. Ayes: All

Supv Wright opened the public hearing for the preliminary budget @ 7:15PM with the clerk reading the legal notice published in the Ogdensburg Journal. She noted that due to the large crowd in attendance she would like to limit comments to three minutes.

Cheryl Dominy spoke to the board concerning the 14% cut to the library budget. She feels that this is too much for them to absorb at one time. They don't want to take the extra money from the surplus due to planned projects and emergencies that can arise. She respectfully requested the board to continue with the current rate.

Allison Charles, Jacki Hodges, Marilyn Burrill, Dana Smith, John Tenbusch, Mark Scott, Vicki MacDonald, Kevin Kitzman, and Edith Ashley all spoke against the 14% cut to the library budget. Supv Wright closed the public hearing @ 7:25PM.

Supv Wright asked the Board if there were anything else that they would like to add to the budget discussion.

C. McKnight stated that he had listened to all the comments made during the public hearing. People are wondering why the highway department needs a new snowplow. He stated that the newest truck is a 2007 and that there was paving that didn't get completed due to budget constraints. He noted that he personally had worked on one of the plow trucks in his yard that was broke down and was not safe to be driven back to the town barns. The Highway Department has a gradeall that hasn't run in 2 years because the money to put into it was too great. We had to hire a neighboring town to do our ditching for us. It comes to a point when public safety is of a great concern. It is now not a matter of want a new truck it is a matter of need. He noted that the Library is an important part of the community but at the same time people are being taxed to the max. The Board is doing all they can to try to make it work.

C. Prentice stated that the Town still has highway negotiations to enter into, a 40% increase in health benefits, and highway challenges continue to rise. There are a lot of people on fixed incomes that just can't afford increases. There are state mandates that unfortunately we have no control over. There are just no options. The cut may not be right but it is unfortunate. We will have to do more with less.

C. VanPatten asked the Library Manager if she could go without purchasing books for one year. Edith explained the process for the book purchases. She also stated that she is looking into other funding options and requested that the board give her one year to find them. Further discussion ensued.

Resolution #74

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board will keep the library budget contribution the same as 2014. The will be done for one year to give the Library the time requested to find additional funding.

Roll call vote:

Supv Wright: Naye

C. McKnight: Aye

C. Robinson: Aye

C. VanPatten: Aye

C. Prentice: Naye

Adjustments were made to the preliminary budget reflecting the change in Library by taking it from contingency. The amount to be raised by tax will remain @ \$263,483 with a rate per thousand of \$1.96

Resolution #75

Motioned by: VanPatten

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, the Waddington Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the public notice on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget as revised is hereby adopted as the annual budget for this town beginning January 1, 2015. Such budget as so adopted will be entered in detail or physically placed therein the minute proceedings of the Town board and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of this Town shall prepare a certified copy to the Clerk of the County Board of Legislators.

Roll Call Vote:

Supv Wright: Aye

C. McKnight: Aye

C. Robinson: Aye

C. VanPatten: Aye

C. Prentice: Aye

**Committee Reports:**

**Library:** C. Robinson reported that the library meeting is tomorrow evening.

**Recreation:** There was no meeting for the Rec. Commission this month. They are talking of having one this month to discuss the ice rink and life guards for next year’s beach duties.

**Tourism :**

Our 28 Annual Great Lighted Pumpkin Display and Contest was held Oct. 25th. We had a total of 22 entries. Not a very good day for it. As a Chamber member I worked with the Library for a combined effort from 10 to 12 carving and helping children with their pumpkin designs. There were about 45 kids taking part. The next event will be Christmas in Waddington. Working on the Caroling night.

**Cemetery:** C. McKnight reported that he met with Witherbee & Whalen to look at the stones for repair. He is still waiting for their estimate for the job. There are approximately 413 stones identified for repair. He would like to put this on hold for now. We will be having some expenditures for the plaque and the stone for the Haggetts and would like to see what the total is. He doesn’t want to deplete the account at this time. The Board agreed to see what the estimate is and go from there.

**Rescue Squad:** Supv Wright reported that the Rescue Squad was holding their meeting this evening. They will be holding their election of officers. C. VanPatten stated that the Squad really likes their new boat. They used it during the canoe race.

**Highway:** Supt Dalton reported that six days was spent working with Madrid putting up their sand and salt. We have also hauled the Town’s. We have approximately 120 tons of salt on hand for the beginning of the winter.

The Pay loader has been serviced for the winter. Due to deterioration from salt corrosion the foot pedal had to be replaced for the throttle. The sand screen is near completion. Due to unforeseen complications in repairing the Grade all he has found that the updated parts are no longer available. They have had Madrid doing some ditch work with their machine. They have spent approximately 16 man hours cleaning culverts from beavers. One man took a week vacation. They are trying to figure out when the rest of vacation time can be used before the end of the year. Our Christmas Village needs repairs. He asked what account would cover this. The trucks will be harnessed for the plows and sanders soon. One day was spent in Lisbon paving. They helped the Village of Waddington repair a water main break on St. Lawrence Ave near Gener Barkley's house.

**Solar Project:** C. Prentice reported that the meter was changed as of today. They will be commissioning the project on Wednesday. The Town should receive packaging on as built, foundations, and drawings including spare conduit locations in the parking lots for its files. C. Prentice noted that there should be a reconciliation statement coming from National Grid for the transformer work. He would like to be informed when it arrives so that he can go over it.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Jane reported that the Chamber's annual dinner will be held on Thursday at JC's River Run. The Great Lighted Pumpkin contest was held. They are working on the Christmas in Waddington campaign. There will be specials with Caroling. There will be no decoration contest this year. They only had three sign up last year. They are working on the 2015 membership drive.

**Save the River:**

Resolution # 76

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, the ecological health of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River is paramount to the economy of the region, contributing billions through sectors including but not limited to tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, boating, shipping, and power generation.

WHEREAS, landowners, public infrastructure, businesses, and communities are now threatened by erosion, and by a lack of coordination in management of the shoreline, and have experienced flooding in the past; and

WHEREAS, the levels and flows of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River are regulated through a dam in the River in accordance with a regulation plan that is over 50 years old; and

WHEREAS, the current regulation plan "Plan 1958D" has proven inadequate to address unforeseen conditions, requiring frequent deviations attempting to stabilize the lake, and has caused clear environmental harm to wetlands, coastal habitats, and the myriad economically and environmentally important species of plants and animals they harbor, thereby degrading the quality of life for all citizens of the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River region; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission has sponsored a 10-year, \$20 million process to develop a new regulation plan that addresses the concerns of all stakeholders in New York, Ontario, and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, the International Joint Commission now proposes "Plan 2014" as the new regulation plan for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system; and

WHEREAS, Plan 2014 will increase production of hydropower by the dams in the St. Lawrence River, and maintain the benefits that regulation of the River and Lake has provided to international shipping; and

WHEREAS, by restoring some of the natural fluctuations in water levels, while avoiding extreme high and low levels, Plan 2014 will restore the plant and animal diversity of coastal wetlands without public investment and dramatically increase opportunities for hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington supports Plan 2014 and urges its swift adoption by the U.S. and Canadian Federal Governments. Ayes: All

**Whitehouse Bay:** Supv Wright reported that she has met two times with a group who is interested in building an open air amphitheater at Whitehouse Bay. They have sent a proposal

to the Board. She asked the Board what they would like to do with the proposal. Board members agreed that they had just received the proposal and had not had a chance to look at it. A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by McKnight to table any discussion until the next board meeting. Ayes: All

**Snow Removal Contract:** To date the Town has not received an actual contract from the County for approval. The proposed contract will include a 7% increase for 2015, 3% for 2016, and 3% for 2017. The County Highway Superintendent told Supt Dalton that the contract is now in the County Attorney's hands but that by approving contingent upon the wording of the contract once received will cover the Town for liability should they have to plow County roads before they sign the contract.

#### Resolution #77

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to renew the County Snow removal contract with an increase for 2014-15 season of 7% and 3% for the following two years contingent upon approval of all aspects of the contract once received by the County. Ayes: All

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

Mayor Cassada thanked the Highway Supt for the help received by the Village Crew during their water main break. She noted that it was a great job of shared services. She also commended the Town Board for all that they did this evening. She noted that it was a very contentious meeting and the Board was very calm, composed, polite and respectful to the Citizen's in attendance. She also thanked the Board for the flowers and meat platter sent to her home upon her mother's recent passing.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by VanPatten, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session to discuss Power Authority negotiations. A motion was made by VanPatten, seconded by Robinson to return to regular session @ 9:10PM No action was taken during executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Prentice to pay bills #823 -867 in the amount of \$61,651.71 Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Prentice to adjourn the meeting @ 9:20PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk