

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, October 8, 2012 @ 7PM in the Hepburn Library Community Room.

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

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Benjamin G. Johns, Town Attorney, E. Jane Layo, Sandy Wright, Jesse Uppstrom, Dona Dun, Barbara Burdick, Dorothy Locy, Gail Thew, Roy Patraw, Judy Jones, Lee Young, David Kendall, Ann Custard, Amanda Purcell, Ogdensburg Journal, Carolyn Kick, Mildred Martin, Larry & Carol Sears, Allen Amo, William Shoen, Village Trustee, Janet Cassada, Village Mayor, David & Debbie Zysik, Elizabeth Zysik, Allison Charles, Jim & Libby Blackmore, John & Yvonne Turner, Terry Alsup, Westbrook & Marge Bates, Kenneth Pierce, Lewis Barkley, Eileen Auringer, Mary Magnusson, James Pipher, Carol & Richard Sovie, Bruce MacDonald, Mike Chambers, Tom Roidl, Martha Sinkeldam, Bill Dalton, Ken Chambers, Ed Tiernan, Patty VanPatten, Carol Zimmerman, Marguerite Giroux-Eckman, Anthony & Nicole Zeledon.

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

Supv. Scott noted that there will be a need for an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: Supv. Scott noted that during the discussion of the pole barn for the trailer it was written that he would like to see a cabin instead of the trailer. He noted that he did not state this that it was Jim Thew. The correction was noted and a motion was made by Scott, seconded by McKnight to accept the minutes as corrected. Ayes: All

Citizen Comments: Supv. Scott noted that there will be two public comment periods and that due to the amount of people in attendance he would like everyone to hold their comments until this time unless requested from the board.

Jane Layo stated that the America Flag was touching the floor and was disrespectful.

Worksite Wellness Program: Carol Zimmerman from Work Well Investments reported that the Town of Waddington participated in the Comprehensive Wellness Program during 2012. Waddington was one of nine businesses from St. Lawrence County that participated. She noted that the Town had good attendance in certain aspects of the program. She would like to invite the Town to continue participation in the next program offered through Work Well Investments. Because the Town participated in the program in 2012 they are offering the program at a 50% reduction. The cost to the Town would be \$1,250. This cost could be slightly less if all aspects of the program are not used. The Board discussed and a motion was made by Putney, seconded by Dalton to table a decision until the next board meeting. Ayes: All

Budget: Supv. Scott reported that the Board had a special meeting a couple of weeks ago to discuss the tentative budget. The tax levy for 2013 would be \$261,943 with a tax rate of \$1.98 per thousand. The rate for the 2012 budget was \$1.99. Supv. Scott asked if the Board had any further changes that they would like to make before it is adopted as the preliminary budget. C. Dalton noted that the Board did not decide whether they were going to hire a full or part time employee for the highway department. C. Putney will find out how many hours a part time person can work since the highway department is union. If the board adopts the tentative budget as preliminary changes can still be made before it is adopted as final.

Resolution # 66

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Putney

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the tentative budget as the preliminary budget for 2013. Ayes: All

Public Hearing: Local Law # 1 of 2012: Supv. Scott opened the public hearing with the Clerk reading the legal notice published in the Ogdensburg Journal. The purpose of the local law is to allow the Town Board to override the 2% tax cap mandated by the State. Supv. Scott noted that the preliminary budget is under the 2% tax cap. As many citizens are aware St. Lawrence County is having discussions to reduce the amount of sales tax distributed to the towns in St. Lawrence County. If this happens it could drastically affect the Town's budget. Supv. Scott asked if there were any comments from the public.

Jane Layo asked if the Town Board could put it in writing that the only way they would use the local law to override the 2% tax cap was in the event that the County actually cut their funding. The Board noted that this is the reason why they are considering the law. The other reason for doing the law now is due to the timing of filing the law before the Town needs to adopt the final budget.

Jim Thew noted that he had a conversation with the County Administrator concerning the proposed 20% tax increase. He noted that this would not be good for a lot of residents and businesses. She told him that a lot of the County's costs are unfunded mandates imposed by the State that become burdens to the County's. Jim suggested that people contact their State representatives concerning these mandates. The County Administrator also noted that the County Legislators have just begun to cut items from the budget.

Sandy Wright also agreed that the County needs to sharpen their pencils to find places to cut. If the Towns can keep their budgets in line they need to start.

Supv. Scott asked if there were any more comments. None being offered he closed the public hearing.

Resolution #67

Motioned by: Dalton

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby adopt local law #1 of 2012 entitled Override of tax levy limit imposed by General Municipal Law §3-C for the Town of Waddington for 2013.

Roll call Vote:

Supervisor Scott:	Aye	Councilor Putney:	Naye
Councilor Dalton:	Aye	Councilor Robinson:	Aye
Councilor McKnight:	Aye		

Resolution # 68

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, the Town of Waddington must comply with the requirements of General Municipal Law §3-c(5) which mandates that the Town can't increase its tax levy greater than 2%; and WHEREAS, St. Lawrence County has been discussing the decrease of sales tax distributed to the Town of Waddington; and

WHEREAS, such a decrease would cause the town to have to make up this revenue in its tax levy causing an increase over 2%; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has unanimously passed local law #1 of 2012 to override the 2% tax cap;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree that they will not increase the tax levy greater than 2% for any other reason except if the County cuts its funding in sales tax.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Scott:	Aye	Councilor Putney:	Naye
Councilor Dalton:	Aye	Councilor Robinson:	Aye
Councilor McKnight:	Aye		

Supv. Scott reported that the Supervisor's Association has requested that the Towns join together by passing resolutions stating that they are opposed to the redistribution of sales tax monies and that they support a county wide referendum to increase the sales tax by 1%.

Resolution # 69

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Dalton

RESOLVED: that the Town of Waddington does hereby strongly oppose the redistribution of sales tax monies to the Town of Waddington as proposed by the St. Lawrence County Administrator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the St. Lawrence County Administrator, to the St. Lawrence County Legislature, and to the representative legislator for the Town of Waddington.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Scott: Aye

Councilor Putney: Naye

Councilor Dalton: Aye

Councilor Robinson: Aye

Councilor McKnight: Aye

Supv Scott asked if the Board wanted to pass the resolution for special referendum for sales tax increase. The proposal will not be able to be on the November ballot due to timing. The cost of a special election will run approximately \$150,000. No motion was made for the resolution.

Committee Reports:

Library: C. Robinson reported that the Library Board met on October 2nd. Three patrons attended the meeting. They were concerned with the types of books being ordered. It was suggested that the patrons give a list of books they would like to read to the Library Manager. They are concerned that the snow guards will not be installed before winter. Supv. Scott has checked with Joel LaPierre from RSI roofing. He will review the roof plans and get back to the Town with a quote. The Library Aide resigned. The Board will advertise and set up interviews for the position. The board worked on the 2013 budget. The next meeting will be November 6th.

Supv. Scott stated that he had received an estimate for the snow guards from RSI roofing. One row of S-5 snow guards placed the entire front of the library \$3,975 and 16 linear feet near the handicap access is \$560.00. RSI will also look at the Old Town Hall roof at a rate of \$ per hour.

Resolution #70

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: Scott

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize RSI to install S-5 snow guards across the entire front of the library in the amount of \$3,975 and 16 linear feet near the handicap access in the amount of \$560.00. The Board also approves RSI to look at the leak in the roof of the old town hall at the price of \$ per hour. Ayes: All

Recreation: C. McKnight reported that the committee met this past month. They are currently working on job descriptions for the beach caretaker and ice rink attendant. They would like to meet with the Village to discuss the rink description. Chuck Bishop who was head lifeguard for the past two summers has volunteered to help revise the employee handbook for the beach.

Rescue Squad: C. Dalton reported that the regular meeting had been cancelled and not rescheduled yet.

WRA: Supv. Scott reported that the Waddington recorder will come out in November. This will be the Christmas addition so if anyone wants to submit articles they need to be in by the end of October.

Chamber of Commerce: Jane reported that the Chamber will hold their annual banquet the Wednesday after Election Day. It will be held at JC's River Run.

Highway: C. Putney reported that the Highway Department has paved the Hanlon Rd. Shoulders have been installed on this road and some other roads in the Town. They are hauling sand from Mike Brennan's which is closer than Curran's. They have been doing maintenance on the trucks.

G2G Leishman Point Proposal: Supv. Scott reported that the Gerrish's were unable to be here this evening but would like to speak with the Board via phone. Jeff Gerrish reiterated that the first phase of the project they are proposing is the development of a campground with RV sites, cabins, and an adventure park. Phase two is to restore the Clark House on Main St. This will be within 1 -1 ½ years. They will renovate the interior and hope to coordinate the use of the Old Town Hall as a grand banquet room/meeting hall. This could hold weddings, concerts, and shows. C. McKnight asked about the \$27,000 revenue that would be paid to the Town in the first year. Mr. Gerrish noted that this is anticipated revenue that would be paid to the Town before paying themselves.

C. Dalton asked why they thought the first phase should be the RV Campground and not the Clark House. He noted that the Clark House would be the moneymaker as opposed to the campground. Mr. Gerrish stated that the Clark House market analysis did not show a 12 month income from the hotel. Lenders are not receptive to the theory "build it and they will come". They feel that the campground and adventure park will be a bigger draw.

C. McKnight asked what time frame they would be looking at for a concession agreement. Mr. Gerrish stated that they would be looking @ 10-20 years. Lenders look at financing for long term agreements rather than short.

Supv. Scott noted that the State of New York is currently looking at a concessionaire's agreement for Allegany State Park. The State retains ownership and a private entity would run it. What the Gerrish's are asking is very similar. They do not want to purchase the land they want to be the private entity that would invest and run the park. The Town would retain ownership of the property. Questions were raised as to what happens if the Gerrish's invest in the property and the project goes under. What would happen to the property? Mr. Gerrish explained that they would not be using Leishman Point as an asset. The only thing that the bank could take would be the items that the Gerrish's place on Leishman. Questions were raised about the Gerrish's equity and how much they have to start the project. Question and answer session ensued.

At the end of the session Supv. Scott noted that there are many questions that still need to be answered and the next step would be preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP). This would lay out the more specific plans, funding, and answer important questions that need to be answered. He also noted that there may be more people interested in submitting a proposal. The Town may also find that this is not what they want to do. They may find they want to pursue it alone. But until an RFP is issued the questions will remain. The Board discussed the cost of issuing an RFP. They asked the Town Attorney what the cost of preparation would be. He stated that he would have to look into it to see what it would entail. They requested that he figure that out and let them know. The Board noted that the discussion would continue.

Town owned lands: Supv. Scott reported that the appraisals had been finished on the River Road properties. He asked the Board their feelings on the appraisals. C. McKnight stated that he follows property prices closely and felt that they were in line. The board agreed. Discussion ensued as to what the next steps were to be. The Clerk stated that Hostetter had spoken to her about putting together smaller booklets for the individual land owners to look at their properties. The Board would like to send the adjoining landowners copies for their use with a letter requesting that they inform the board as to their intentions by February 1, 2013. The Board noted that the property owners will be liable for all conveyance costs.

Cemeteries: Supv. Scott asked C. McKnight about the progress on the repair of the cemetery stones. C. McKnight reported that he is waiting for a letter from Fishbind Cemetery stating that they are not interested. He has spoken with Witherbee & Whalen to get started. He also noted that he had been speaking with the Highway Superintendent and would like to get some estimates to repair/replace the driveways in the cemetery. They have deteriorated and in the spring are very hard to get through. The Board gave permission to get prices.

Speed Limits: Supv. Scott stated that the speed reduction requests for Chipman Corners and Irish Settlement Road have been submitted. He received a letter from the State Transportation Department stating that they are looking into the requests

Winter Maintenance: Supv. Scott reported that the County would like to extend the winter maintenance contract for another year. The rates will remain the same as last year.

Resolution #71

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to renew the Winter Road Maintenance Contract with St. Lawrence County for a term of one year. Ayes: All

BASS Elite Tournament: Supv. Scott reported that the Village had signed a letter of intent with the BASS Master Elites to bring their tournament to Waddington in August 2013. He asked Mayor Cassada if she would like to speak about this. Mayor Cassada stated that there will be a lot of work to be done to make this Tournament a success. According to the letter of intent the host community will have to raise \$60,000, pay for rooms, and some other items. She stated that she has been able to get backing from investors to help with what can't be raised. This venture will take all communities along the river to work together. She is very confident that this will all work.

C. Putney stated that the Mayor and Village Board should be commended for their efforts to bring this to our community and that the Town should support and help in any way that they can.

Resolution #72

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS,

Local Gov't Task Force: Supv. Scott reported that the local government task force has met with the Wladis Law firm to receive a quote for them to represent the Towns in the upcoming reopening of the relicensing with the New York Power Authority. They will meet again on October 30th.

Supv. Scott stated that State Senator Patty Ritchie is looking for a list of recreational improvements that the Town of Waddington would like to see. Patty VanPatten noted that the board should look at kayak launches at Brandy Brook.

North Country Life Flight: Every year the Town enters into a contract with Life Flight and contributes \$100. Supv. Scott has received the request for 2013. The Board discussed and the following resolution passed.

Resolution #73

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc is a not-for-profit, tax exempt corporation which is responsible for all aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake and private fixed-wing aviation resources; and

WHEREAS: The New York State Police and private fixed-wing aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

WHEREAS: The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service which is free of charge to critically ill and seriously injured patients, and therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Waddington hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country Life Flight, Inc for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medevac program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$100 which represents the Town's share for 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$100 is hereby appropriated to Account No 1010.4A for payment to North Country Life Flight, Inc. Ayes: All

Local Government Conference: Supv. Scott reported that the Local Government Conference will be held on Tuesday. If anyone is interested to go you can sign up at the time of the conference.

Camper: C. McKnight reported that he didn't have any luck getting information from Carney's trailer sales about the camper. Supv. Scott stated that he had spoken with Steve's RV's and suggested that we cover it for the winter and wait till spring for repairs. The Board agreed

Citizen's Comments:

Jane Layo reported that the address for the Division of Cemeteries is 270 Broadway, NY, NY 10007. The division has funding for cemeteries and it could be something the Town could look into for the other cemeteries in town.

She also reported that she went to Office Max for an estimate of reprinting the Waddington history book and was given a price of \$1,125. This did not include binding and collating. She also checked with Stubbs printing in Massena. He told her it would not be cost efficient. She spoke with Trent Trulock from St. Lawrence Historical Society and he sent her to an office at SUNY Potsdam. He told her that he has used them before and are very reasonable. She will contact them for a price and let the board know before she does anything. She also noted that she would need a letter from the Town releasing the copyright to the book so that it can be copied.

Resolution #74

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby release the copyright on the book "Waddington A Look at our Past" for the purpose of reprinting the addition. Ayes: All

Whitehouse Bay: It was asked if there had been any further communication with Mr. Ma for the sale of Whitehouse Bay. Supv. Scott stated that there had not been any.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session @ 10:15 to discuss Personnel Issues. A motion was made by Putney, seconded by Dalton to return to regular session @ 10:55PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Putney to pay bills #813 -876 in the amount of \$32,514.89. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Dalton, seconded by Putney to adjourn the meeting @ 11:05PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk