

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, September 14, 2020 @ 7PM in the Old Town Hall.

Present were: Supervisor Alex Hammond and Councilmembers: Travis McKnight, David McBath, Scott Loomis, and Shaun Prentice.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Phyllis Acres, Tenley Amo, Tracey Putney, Lowell McAllister, Edith Ashley, Heather Jock, Mark Scott, Patty VanPatten, Shaun Rafter, and Kevin Kitzman.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to approve the minutes from the regular August meeting, Special Executive Session, and Special Highway Rd survey meeting. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments: Lowell McAllister addressed the board with his concerns for the horse trails at Iroquois Dam. He wanted them to know that the trails are still operational. The gathering meadow has been mowed and the porta potty is being serviced. The trail riders are an asset to Whitehouse Bay and get along with the fishermen & hunters that also use the land. What they don't get along with is the mud boggers and litterers who have recently done some damage to the trails. They left ruts a foot deep or more in some places of the trails. Luckily there were some volunteers who fish the area and respect the land that came in and rototilled, seeded, and mulched the damaged trails. He told the fishermen in attendance that it was much appreciated. The fishermen noted that they had just as much to lose if the gate is closed to the public again. The Board also thanked the volunteers for their time and effort. Further discussion ensued as to how to control the vandalism. The board will continue to look into the problem.

Committee Reports:

Recreation: C Loomis reported that he had spoken with Russ. The beach closed 2 weeks ago and the morning recreation is also complete. They had to take the dog station down from the top of Leishman Point. People were filling it with human trash instead of dog waste. They will try at a later time to see if it will work. Pickle ball is going well. There is still the weed issue with the beach that needs to be further investigated. They will start so we are prepared for next season.

Rescue Squad: C Prentice noted he had nothing to report. The squad was meeting this evening.

Library: C McBath reported that an in person library meeting was held on September 1st @ 6PM in the library. They are still doing curbside service. Exterior painting is continuing. They are now fighting the weather. The library board approved having Barkley's change the locks on all the doors because there was no real accounting of who had keys. They clerk will be given a key. The highway supt will be asked if he wants one. Duffy received a quote of \$21,800 from Aeon heating for AC in the library. This is an attic unit with minimal invasion into the building. They are pursuing a grant w/75% funding. The staff is now starting to work their hours at the library- Duffy does not plan to be there at the same time and may work some of her time remotely.

C McBath has started to put together an RFP package of the work needed to be done on the library exterior, to get an idea of what it will cost. He will then work with Duffy and the Library Board to try and pursue grant funding for this work. It will probably be expensive. Anticipating 5 figure quotes.

Regarding the library request for clarification on duties received at the previous months town meeting- he has done some extensive research on the creation of the library, its charter, the

amendment of the charter in 2010 to give the Library NFP status. He has started work on a draft memorandum of understanding between the town board and the library board regarding clarification of responsibilities as it related to the building and operation of the library. Some of the details in the memorandum will need to be further clarified by the town board during our upcoming 2020 budget workshop before it can be presented to both the town and library boards for review/comment. The intent will be to layout who takes care of what in a "living document" that can be amended as needs be moving forward.

The draft library board budget shared at the meeting is not the same one that the clerk sent us today. I have copied both and taken a look at the last 2 years projected revenues vs revenues actually received. I consider this a budget workshop discussion.

Spoke with Mike Gillette at Fuller Insurance on Sept 2 about our current policy. General liability currently covers the library board, regardless of NFP status, provided the officers of the board are all appointed by the Town Board. The next library board meeting is Tuesday, October 6th.

Campground Committee: C McBath reported that the campground will not be meeting unless asked to by the Town Board.

Cemeteries: C McKnight reported that the grant application has been submitted to the Rock Charitable Fund. The grant will be for brush removal, driveway reconstruction, stone and fence repairs. It was reported in the grant application that the Town does have some funds available for matching. Hopefully this will help us in our endeavor. If we don't receive any this round we will try again.

Gallery/Clarke House: Mark Scott reported that the Gallery is now open with their fall into art exhibit. It will run through sometime in November. They are open Friday – Sunday in conjunction with the Clark House.

Russ Strait requested the annual stipend towards the Visitor's Center at Clark House. The Town and Village both gave \$2500 in 2019 to help with the handicap access ramp and bathrooms. Supv Hammond noted that the Board agreed to an annual stipend towards the visitor's center to help with the staffing. Discussion was held concerning the agreement with Clarke House. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Prentice to table the payment until next month when we can have more information. Ayes: All

Radio Tower Update: C McBath reported that he had gotten an update from Matt Denner on the tower. The schedule is as follows: 9/14 pouring the shelter foundation, 9/16, Tower scheduled to be erected, 9/22 power lines scheduled to be started and 10/31 completion deadline. He noted that everything is moving along as scheduled.

C McBath asked Supt Putney if he had spoken with Matt Denner about putting the highway radio repeater on the tower. Supt Putney noted that he hadn't but will make contact with him.

Local Government Task Force: Supv Hammond reported that he and C Prentice had attended the local government task force meeting in August. He let NYPA know about the planning meetings that will be held to discuss the recreation projects for the Town. He also gave Kevin Kitzman any plans that he could find concerning the recreation projects from Whittaker Park, Little Sucker Brook, and Brandy Brook.

He and Mayor Zagrobelny posed the question that if the Town were to build cabins and collect revenue from them could the revenue be put into a separate account in which the town could have the overall say of new projects at the NYPA recreational facilities. This would have to be run through FERC. Rob asked Supv Hammond to send an email with his outline and he would pose the question.

The Massena intake project is ahead of schedule and they will work on the pavilions when the weather changes.

Kevin Kitzman reported that he will hold the first Community Planning meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd @ 7PM in the old town hall. The next two meetings will be a couple weeks later. He will have the concept prints for projects that have been suggested.

Baildon's Property: A letter was received by the town attorney noting that he has asked the Court for an extension on the Baildon's cleanup due to conflicts with the timing to serve notice etc. They were due in Court October 16th. He has asked that it be moved out a month. He also told the board that the Town doesn't have a local law in place that allows the town to go on the property to clean it up if it is not done by the deadline. He can impose civil penalties of up to \$200 per day for the violation. The judgement would be filed against the Baildon's. He has asked that the Code Enforcement Officer and Town continue to monitor the situation and to keep him informed on the status of the cleanup.

The Board discussed putting a property maintenance law in place that would allow for the cleanup of properties in disrepair. They will look further into this.

Solar Project: The decommissioning plans have been sent to the attorney for review. He will let the board know whether to accept or not. PILOT negotiations have not been agreed upon. C Prentice sent the board members an email with NYSERDA guidelines for Solar.

Old Town Hall Roof Repair: The Clerk contacted Nicholas Bertrand. They will be in Waddington next week and will get up there with their lift. She will ask him to give her a heads up on when he will be there so that the Supervisor can meet with him. The sidewalk has not been completed from last fall/winter. The Clerk will contact Andy to see the status. C McKnight noted that he had received a text from Andy during the meeting stating that the sidewalk will be done before October.

River Rd Trail: Supv Hammond asked C McBath and Mark Scott if they had seen any change with the River Rd trail since the new signs were installed. Mark noted that he hasn't noticed any motorized vehicles on the walking trail but the sides by sides still go fast down the road. C McBath noted that a lot of the traffic has died down with the closing of the beach. Supt Putney reported that traffic counters have been installed at the bottom of the beach hill, Allison, and McGinnis Rd. They will be there the next couple of weeks and then again in the spring. The Board noted that it would have shown more traffic on the beach hill if it were installed during the busy season. Supt Putney told them that the recreation director was going to make the request earlier but the ball got dropped.

COVID: The County website reported that there were three new cases as of today. There are 10 active cases at this time. It is still in the area and people need to remain diligent. The doors at the Clerk's Office remain locked but access for business will be granted during regular business hours and a mask is required. The Clerk is back to full hours with a slight change. The hours will be 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM.

Iroquois Dam: Last weekend there was some damages done to the property to the left of the road. Big trucks have gone off the road leaving 1ft ruts in the mud to the water. They have also done donuts in the gravel road. When the board reopened the gate they made it clear to the community that if there are damages and littering again the gate would be closed. It is unfortunate that a few can ruin it for everyone.

There is an upcoming carp tournament to be held in Waddington and Whitehouse Bay property is one of the spots for fishing. Shaun Rafter and his crew went up to the Whitehouse Bay with their equipment and rototilled, seeded, and mulched the damage done. They want to be good stewards to the property and not see it closed. The Board thanked them for their time and efforts to repair the damages.

Discussion was held by the board. C Prentice noted that at the time of the gate closure the Board had put a protocol in place that would allow access for organized groups to hold events on the property. There needs to be a way to police that can satisfy both sides.

C Loomis asked if we could post signs for fines if caught doing damage? C McKnight noted that unfortunately if we don't catch them in the act there is nothing we can do. He has had similar situations with his farm fields and was told they have to be caught physically doing the damage. The Board discussed surveillance cameras. Lowell McAllister stated that he still had money left from the RVRDA grant that the Horse trails received. In-kind services are allowed to be claimed. If the fishermen give him a slip for their time and equipment he can get money back to put into the trails.

Mark Scott suggested that the board speak with Homeland Security/Border Patrol. They are always up there. C Loomis noted that they know who is involved but don't want to get involved.

Budget Workshop: The board scheduled a budget workshop for September 21st at 7PM. It will be in the Municipal Building due to the need to be able to access records. The public will not be able to attend the meeting in person but a zoom session will be set up for anyone who would like to be involved.

Power Failure Protocols: C McBath noted he would like to address the power failure protocols for the municipal building complex. A week ago there was an accident early Sunday morning in which an electric pole was taken out and power was down over a widespread area. When the rescue squad and fire department got to the building they couldn't open the doors. They had to call Supt Putney to come and throw the manual switch. He feels this is a training issue. Members need to be educated on what needs to be done. C McKnight noted that the generator is at the fire hall. Due to the nature of the startup there are only certain firemen that know the procedure. C McBath told the board he has been in contact with the Brasher Fire Station looking at ways to make the switches automatic. They have installed a whole new system. He will report back when he has some more information.

Food Giveaway: C McBath reported that there will be a food giveaway on September 19th @ 9AM at the Madrid-Waddington Central School. The program is on a first come first serve basis and there is no income limit involved. They have 460 boxes of produce, 460 boxes of meat, and 460 boxes of dairy to give away. This is funded by the USDA and being brought to the public by the Dairy Association.

Citizen's Comments:

Mark Scott noted that there was a property in 2011 in Chase Mills that the Board had been trying to have cleaned up. He thought that the Town had gone in and cleaned it. The Board members that were there in 2011 noted that the owner didn't want the town to take it out. He wound up cleaning it up himself.

Bills: A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to pay bills # 13565- 13616 in the amount of \$37,790.83. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Prentice to adjourn the meeting @ 8:37PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk