

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, August 12, 2024 @ 7PM in the municipal Building.

Present were: Supervisor Travis McKnight and Town Council Members: David McBath, Melinda Martin, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

Also Present: David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Kathy Putney, Historian, Tracey Putney, Julie McBath, Michael Pearson, Assessor and Phyllis Acres.

The Town Clerk was not present for the meeting. These minutes were transcribed from a recording made at the time of the meeting.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Changes to agenda: Supv McKnight reported that he needed to make a couple of changes to the agenda. The clerk was not there so he couldn't update the current agenda that was distributed. Under old business add solar emergency response discussion and Executive Session for the acquisition, lease or sale of real property or securities when publicity would substantially affect the value and move the reval resolution request up under citizen's comments so mike can give them an update.

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

Citizen's Comments: No comments were had.

Assessor's request to approve the reval: Mike explained that the State wanted a resolution stating that the town board has 100% commitment from the Town Board to support the reval.

Committee Reports:

Highway: Supt Putney reported that the roads have been cold paved. Chip seal within two - three weeks depending on weather.

The Highway Department went and helped the Town of Russell out over the weekend with roads that were damaged from the storms. He sent two dump trucks on Saturday, two dump trucks and loader on Sunday and the trucks and loader finished on Monday and came back. Waddington was lucky that we had no damage to any of our roads from the storms. C McBath asked if Supt Putney has kept track of the time etc. from Russell. If FEMA comes through with reimbursement money we would be eligible. Supt Putney noted that he had kept track.

Supt Putney's July Report :

Maintenance on Trucks and Equipment, two trucks to Louisville paving 2 days, worked on Buck Road a Townline road prepping for paving, cold Paved Townline and Buck Road w/ 3 Trucks from Louisville, 3 trucks from Norfolk, 3 trucks from Madrid, 6 trucks from Lisbon, and 2 Trucks from Waddington for Paving.

The County brought shoulder machine put shoulders on Buck and Townline Roads. 2 trucks from Madrid helped. Mowed lookout twice, Picke up mulch from Lowes for the beach, dug 1 cremation, and started round two of roadside mowing.

The State milled Route 37. The town did shared service and supplied 4 trucks. 2 from Madrid and 2 from Waddington. The Town was able to obtain 1 load of millings and one for the state.

Picked up an old culvert pipe from sewer project for village brought back to metal dumpster and put up 1 banner and fixed other ones that were damaged.

Library: C Martin reported that the library did not have a meeting.

Cemeteries: C Hunter reported that the meeting will be held August 15th @ 6PM. We will be discussing one more cemetery cleanup in September and the Ogden Vault. There will be an Eagle Scout attending the meeting to pitch his eagle scout project for the cemetery.

Supt Putney noted that the committee is working on a design for the Ogden vault. He showed the board some pictures of the stones that were able to be saved. They saved the one that stated Ogden. Supv McKnight wanted to publicly thank everyone involved on the day of the vandalism of the Ogden Vault. It was a difficult and very emotional day. A lot of decisions needed to be made. It was something no one would ever imagine having to deal with. Everyone involved worked extremely hard to deal with what we needed to at the time. The Board asked who has been in contact with the Ogden Family. It was noted that Kathy Putney has been in contact with them. They were here the Monday prior to the damage being done. Supt McKnight stated that he talked to them the day of the damage. The Board discussed funding for the work to be done with the vault. It will be up to the Cemetery Committee to decide if they want to use some of their cemetery funding. Hopefully, the Ogden Family will put something towards it. They asked about the man who did the damage. That would be up to the courts but he doesn't have anything to. C. McBath asked about the crime victim's fund. The BCI investigator mentioned the NYS cemetery association. Supv McKnight contacted them and because we are not a cemetery association we don't qualify. There is no coverage through insurance. They don't cover it because it is a family-owned vault. Tracey Putney is also hopeful that they will be able to get donations toward the project but the first thing they need to do is have a plan and a cost to begin.

Grants/Alternative Revenue:

Pending grant applications:

RVRDA Grants –

2023 grant – status on submission of paperwork to RVRDA for reimbursement for new campsites (\$15,000 was awarded)?

2024 grant – (agenda item tonight, tabled from last meeting).

Grant application submitted to build a prep kitchen upstairs at the Old Town Hall. Town received a \$10,000 award in letter dated June 26, 2024. We asked for \$15,719 to support a \$19,648 project proposal.

Supv McKnight noted that if the project is the same and the bids are lower it is ok. We can't change the scope of the project. He also noted that there are three places we could take the extra funding from. Economic Development fund this will spur economic development in the town, High flow money budgeted \$0 and got 10,000, or sales tax that we got extra. We could shop the prices.

Resolution # 48

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the RVRDA grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the prep kitchen at the old town hall. Ayes: All

NY SWIMS grant – The Town of Waddington grant application was submitted to the county on Friday June 21. The total request was \$4400. County will notify us if/when we receive an award.

Pending grant related work:

USDA Grant application (new plow truck) – application partially completed and forwarded on June 7 to Town Clerk for help in gathering financial and other town business documents and information that needs to be included with application submission. USDA advises that grant funds for the current fiscal year have been exhausted. The Town will apply after Oct 1, 2024, when USDA grant funds are expected to be replenished in the next Federal fiscal year.

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant – Supervisor is scheduling a meeting with Tom at DANC to move the engineering plan forward.

Clean Energy Communities Grant 3.0 – managed by NYSERDA – conference call scheduled on July 16 at 1pm to determine if a solar array upgrade would be eligible for reimbursement.

Waddington would need to complete one "High Impact Action" and submit documents of completion prior to 9/30/24 to be eligible for a \$10,000 grant.

SLC Youth Program Funding grants - On July 15, 2024, information was forwarded on available SLC Youth Program Funding grants to Councilwoman Martin for sharing / review with Rec Committee.

Northern NY Community Foundation / Rock Charitable Trust Grant –

(Agenda item for meeting tonight.)

On July 18, 2024 – attended a grant meeting in Canton hosted by the Northern NY Community Foundation / Rock Charitable Trust. Grant funding may be available for Engineering inspection for a Building Conditions Assessment Report to support a future grant application for Old Town Hall Restoration. Grant amount \$7,100 to update the Assessment Report. Letters of support from Historian, Village or as many as possible. Could we put some money up for the grant? Would come out of next year's budget. Crawford is doing the work for the rectory maybe we could save some travel expenses at the same time.

Resolution # 49

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve to apply for a grant through the Northern NY Community Foundation/Rock Charitable Trust to update the buildings conditions assessment report in the amount not to exceed \$7,500 with a 20% contribution by the Town of Waddington. Ayes: All

Alternative Revenue:

Leishman Point Campground – several bookings continue on the Hipcamp website – as of August 12 there have been 58 nights booked in 2024 with 5 nights pending in the next 2 weeks. Approximate revenue received so far in 2024 is \$2022.00.

Radio Tower land lease - Meeting held with SLC representatives on July 19. Supervisor McKnight, Councilman McBath and Highway Supt Putney met with Legislative Chair Forsythe, Legislator Lightfoot, and our County Legislator Rita Curran. Follow up mtg on tower land lease was held on August 9 with Supv McKnight, Councilman McBath, Legislator Lightfoot, and Legislator Glenn Webster to begin negotiations on renewing the radio tower lease agreement between the county and town.

Joule Community Power / NYSEDA webinar – On July 24, 2024 – attended a Joule Community Power / NYSEDA webinar. Did some follow up with Nancy Bernstein regarding submitting Iroquois land as a site for consideration for NYSEDA funding for future solar development. Learned that she and Supv. McKnight are already in discussion about this.

Historian: I attended both the Village and Town board meetings and gave reports. Got everything done for the Golden Agers Luncheon. It was a very bid success, with 60 in attendance. The oldest person was 94 and the farthest away was Florida. Thanks to Mary Hamilton and Sue Hunter Parisian and the WHA for all their support. Thank you to Father Giroux for letting us use St. Mary's Hall. Patty VanPatten and the women of the family circle for doing an excellent job with preparing and serving the food. Linda Dixon for the wonderful apple crisp dessert. Julie Mayette Grossman and her sister Sherry, and Beth Daley for all their help at the event.

I met with Kate Kruger from Clarkson University to talk about the honor students helping again at the museum this fall.

I also met with Brenda Papineau from St. Lawrence University. She collaborates with the Community based learning project and would like to send some students over to help at the museum.

The museum received a generous donation of new picture frames from Beth Pier and the Lilac Inn.

I changed out the exhibit for the summer with some old Blue Water Regetta things and past homecoming items.

I have three different calls about family genealogy in July.

We will be working on getting ready for History Day on Sunday, October 20th. This year we will focus on the 65th Anniversary of the Seaway. We will have a guest speaker named Jim Brownell from the Lost Villages Museum from 2:00 to 3:30.

The next meeting of the Museum Board will be Wednesday, August 21st @ 6:30PM in the old town hall.

The next WHA meeting is Tuesday, August 27th @ 6:30 in the old town hall.

Rescue Squad: C Tiernan reported that there were 25 calls and three dropped. They continue to have **concerns** about the solar event. They discussed coverage, training, and physicals. Julie McBath noted that they are working with Madrid. Their situation has changed since last week. One of their daytime people is out until further notice. They will be discussing having Madrid and Waddington toned out at the same time for any calls to either town. Julie also noted that they have been discussing a paid EMT to cover calls. She noted that there has been a rumor that the Rescue squad was going to hire someone and that the Town would be paying for it. She just wanted it to be clear that the squad has their own budget to do this and knows how many calls etc. They are not coming to the town for any type of financial support.

Solar Emergency Response discussion: Supv McKnight noted he had a lengthy discussion with Tony after our last meeting. Asked to attend the meeting tonight and was unable to attend the meeting family health issues. He is suggesting that we do not change the code. He said if we do it will open the Fire Department and Rescue Squad to more responsibilities with the projects. He said the town should pass a mandate that the Fire Department and Rescue squad never enter the fenced area. If there is fire the only responsibilities would be to protect a near by building or structure outside the fence. The way our code reads there will be no buildings close enough to ever catch fire, the only possibility would be if there were a grassfire in between which at that point the Fire Department could control. Tony further explained that every project is set up differently so the Fire Department would need specific training for each individual project. We know this would not be possible with a volunteer organization.

Julie McBath is still genuinely concerned about what will happen if there is a fire and a firefighter becomes overcome by smoke or something they inhaled. Then they become the Rescue Squads responsibility and they don't know what they have been exposed to. The same is true if a worker for the solar company is hurt inside the fence. Once they pull him out they become the Squads responsibility and again what do they do to manage it.

A letter could be sent to the solar companies to tell them that the Rescue Squad and Fire Departments have concerns about how to manage emergencies and have them reach out.

Rec/Tourism: No recreation meeting. Homecoming has a follow up meeting on Tuesday.

ReVal Resolution:

Resolution # 50

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

WHEREAS, the Assessor Michael Pearson has been working on a townwide re assessment project; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor desires the support of the town board in his efforts to conduct the reassessment project for the 2025 assessment roll,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby support the efforts of the Assessor to conduct a reassessment for the 2025 assessment roll.

Roll Call Vote: Councilor McBath: Aye, Councilor Martin: Aye, Councilor Tiernan: Aye, Councilor Hunter: Aye, Supervisor McKnight: Aye

Reassessment update: Mike noted that it is a lengthy process. A lot of work to be done. Moving forward. The next Waddington recorder will have an article in it concerning the reassessment project. Moving on to the evaluation and education portion of the project. Something scheduled for late fall and early spring before the impact notices go out. Supv McKnight is mid-November too late to have the first session? Mike noted not a too early or too late time. Notices go out in March. People really won't notice and hear about it until they get their notices. Mike looks at the week of November 11-15th and give us a couple dates to look at.

There is a new exemption for the fire and rescue volunteers. This will replace the old one in the books. They can take the income tax credit or the property tax credit. He will get the board

information. The state gave municipalities three years to adopt it. It would have to be passed by November 2025.

Iroquois Land Next Steps: Supv McKnight noted that this will be discussed in the Executive session.

Local Government Task Force: NYPA's Attorneys have finally finished up their review and comments and it was sent back to Eric Gustafson task force attorney to review. May be able to have a meeting by the end of the month. He will let everyone know once it has been set up.

Campground Opening Date: Supv McKnight asked Supt Putney what the situation on the new camp sites was. Supt Putney noted that the grass is coming in well. There were no new washouts with the sand. Thinks we should wait until next year to use the new sites. The cutoff date for rental of the sites for this year will be October 1st. The board discussed putting a holding tank in to allow dumping of rv's. Supv McKnight asked Supt Putney to get a quote to do this.

Radio Tower Discussion: C McBath and Supv McKnight met with a committee from the County. The board will discuss their contract proposals in executive session.

Dog Pound Fee Discussion: Supv McKnight spoke with Dan Moyer and will be having an Ag & Markets inspection next month. He will get us a copy of the inspection. Once satisfactory we will send the check.

Budget workshop date: Supv McKnight reported that he has already started with budget numbers. The workshop won't be a complete budget review but he will have a handle on the start. The Board decided to meet an hour before our next meeting on September 10th.

Citizen's Comments: None had at this time.

Executive Session: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Martin to enter executive session @8:15 . A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @8:55. No action was taken during the executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to pay bills # 24-00445- 24-00505 in the amount of \$47,137.68. Ayes: all

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Martin to adjourn the meeting @ 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk