

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, December 12, 2023 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Zeb Zagrobelny, and Phyllis Acres.

Call to Order: Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:05PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: There were two sets of minutes to approve.

A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to approve the minutes as submitted from the special meeting held on November 9th. Ayes: McKnight, McBath, Martin, and Hunter
Abstain: Tiernan

A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to approve the minutes as submitted from the regular meeting held on November 6th. Ayes:

Citizen's Comments: There were no citizen comments at this time.

Committee Reports:

Highway: Supt Putney reported that the Department has been busy performing general maintenance on trucks and equipment. 3 full PM services have been done on the trucks, plowed and sanded three times, all trucks and loader are fluid filmed, they have patched potholes, took down the banners and put Christmas decorations up. One man from the Village helped for a day. The new 309 excavator was delivered.

Supt Putney requested permission to bid on a 2016 Chevy Silverado double cab w/utility box. He would bid up to \$22,000. Funded as follows: \$17,000 from the equipment reserve and \$5,000 from his equipment line.

Resolution #73

Motioned by: Hunter

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby give Supt Putney to bid on one 2016 Chevy Silverado double cab w/utility box on Auctions International not to exceed \$22,000.

Ayes: All

Supt Putney also reported that he had received a phone call from Grasse River Solar. They are looking at the installation of a 90MW solar project on the Jenner Rd. A new substation will be built on the Madrid end. He wanted to meet to discuss the use of the road. The board discussed the issue and will make sure that there are provisions in the updated solar law to cover the cost of any damage to the town roads.

C McBath asked if the Village of Waddington and Town of Madrid have agreed to sell the wheeled excavator. Supt Putney noted that they have. He will wait till spring to list the items on Auctions International.

Library: C Martin noted that the library is trying to find a company to install the elevator at the library. It was noted that the lift doesn't need to be inspected since it is a service lift. She also noted that they have asked about the light in front of the library. Supt Putney noted he had spoken with Craig Debien. He will get to it as soon as he can.

She reported that Margie Todd has resigned as president and the library board. Michelle Patenaude has resigned as treasurer but wishes to remain on the board. She will have Margie send something in writing for the board to approve. The vice president is Tom Tomlins.

The library was also asking about who covers the snow removal. Supv McKnight noted that True Value did it last year and he had spoken with Karen about it for this year again. He will touch base to make sure they are still willing to do it.

Supt Putney noted that they had covered the air conditioning unit last week.

Cemeteries: Nothing to report at this time.

Grants/Alternative Revenues:

RVRDA Grant for town hall work- final report submission due.

RVRDA grant for Leishman Point: Need to give them an update on the work by the end of the calendar year.

NY Forward Grant: Have not heard any updates on the status of our application.

County Radio Tower discussion

Organized and facilitated special meeting held with St. Lawrence County Emergency Services, Waddington Fire, Waddington Rescue, and Waddington Highway to discuss County's plan for new radio system. Requested further discussion about renewing lease which expires December 2024 in town board executive session.

Historical Grant Opportunity.

On November 21 researched and shared grant opportunity information with the Town Historian and Waddington Historical Association- National Endowment for the Humanities (Preservation Assistance Grant for Smaller Institutions) – Preservation Assistance Grants help small and mid-sized organizations preserve and manage humanities collections, ensuring their significance for a variety of users, including source communities, humanities researchers, students and the public, by building their capacity to identify and address physical and intellectual preservation risks. These collections may include special collections of books and journals, archives, and manuscripts, prints and photographs, moving images, sound recordings, architectural ethnographic artifacts, furniture, historical objects, and digital materials. Application deadline: January 11, 2024

The Town Clerk reported that the final paperwork for the RVRDA grant old town hall had been submitted and a check for the reimbursement was received today. Supt Putney noted that if the weather holds he may be able to get some work done up on the hill for the campground. Supv McKnight noted that there was an email from NY Forward Grant representatives that questioned the use of the old town hall. He responded to it.

Recreation: There was no recreation meeting. C Martin reported that Christmas in Waddington was held this weekend. There was a good turnout.

Historian:

November was slow at the museum, we had about 10 visitors.

Had our last workday with the Clarkson honor students. They got lots of pictures scanned for us. Two of the students worked on installing the James Ricalton exhibit that was donated to the museum. I would like to invite all the board members to attend the open house on Saturday Dec. 9th 2:00- 4:00. Mr. Bailey plans on attending the open house. Refreshments will be served. We also worked on the walking tour for the West side of the village and will be working on the script during the winter.

We continue to receive donations of various things related to Waddington to add to our archives.

The Museum and the WHA are donating a Ship themed Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees coming up this weekend. Board members have been bringing in things to go on and under the tree.

I will continue to have Weds. Hours 2:00m-4:00 at the museum until January, and open by appointment if someone wants to see the exhibit.

The next Museum meeting will be held on Jan. 17th at 6:00, the public is welcome.

Thank you to the Village and Town boards for your continued support of me and the museum.

Iroquois Land Next Steps: Supv McKnight reported that he has been in contact with Scott Schlueter. Things are going as he planned and we should have an answer in negotiations next month.

Iroquois Vandalism: Supv McKnight noted he called the DA's office to see where the case stands and because he didn't know the defendant's name they wouldn't give him any information.

Local Government Task Force: Supv McKnight reported that he attended the annual NYPA meeting last Tuesday. They were given an update of what has been completed to date from the 10 year review. They are considering the proposal on the table. Their legal team is going over it. The LGTF will meet bi-monthly beginning in January. They feel there will be better participation. He will let everyone know when the dates and times will be.

NYSERDA: Supv McKnight reported that the green house gas reduction numbers have been calculated. Our case representative is working on finalizing our contract and moving forward. The building will be strapped and receive 3 ½" spray foam and new metal to match. It will be done in the spring when the weather breaks.

Town/Village website: Supv McKnight noted he would make a connection with Benny Fairchild from the Village to get the process rolling.

Surplus Land Beach: Supv McKnight reported that the Town Attorney has recommended that the town not accept the piece of land being offered to them by the Tiernan's. The piece is approximately ¼ acre. It is along the edge of a wetland and NYPA property. The cost would be greater than any benefit that would be received by the town if they obtained it.

Local Laws: Supv McKnight reported that in February the Town Board will have three local laws to be passed. They are the solar code update, tax exemption for volunteers, and sidewalks. The solar code is being reviewed again by the Attorney. There were some changes that he was not aware of. He also noted that the Town should keep the 1% total project escrow regulation. If you make a sliding scale, things get confusing. He has also told the solar company's attorneys to stop calling his office. They call or email every few days.

There is nothing on the books concerning the sidewalks in Chase Mills. Because of this the Town will pass a law stating that the town is not responsible for any sidewalks within the township. It will be up to the homeowner to maintain, keep, or remove the sidewalks.

Radio Tower Update: C McBath noted that at the meeting the County has changed the plans for the radio systems. The town should negotiate this through the lease agreement renewal.

NYPA O&M annual meeting: Supv McKnight reported that he will be meeting with NYPA representatives concerning the annual operations & maintenance of NYPA properties. He asked if the board had anything that they wanted brought up. The fishing pier at the Sucker Brook Outlook is in the works and will be replaced next summer. He noted that the pavilion at the beach has some rotten wood and needs to be painted again.

Solar Moratorium: Supv McKnight reported that the Solar Moratorium will run out December 31, 2023. The Town Attorney has suggested that the Board extend the moratorium for an additional six months. According to the local law this can be done by resolution. If everything is done sooner the town can lift the moratorium.

Resolution #74

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby extend the solar moratorium an additional six months with an expiration date of June 30, 2024. Ayes: All

Village Request for Shared Grantwriter: The Village sent out requests for proposals to hire a grantwriter. They received one from Strategic Company. They have already moved forward to have them begin the search for grants on behalf of the Village. If the Village stands alone on the

contract they will pay \$3,500 per month. If the town joins in it will be \$2,500 per month for each entity. C McBath noted that the Board should contact DANC and ask them to come speak to them. They do a lot of grant writing for municipalities. The Board discussed further and decided no decision would be made at this time. Supv. McKnight asked the board to send him any questions they might have and he will research the answers for them.

Village Request Increase Funding Fire Truck: Supv McKnight noted that the Board had met with the Village Board last week to talk about their request to increase funding to help with the payment on a new fire truck. The Village provides fire protection services to the Town residents through contract. Currently the contract is for \$35,000 annually. Currently the operating budget for the fire department is \$70,000 per year. The current truck payment is \$23,000 per year. This truck will be paid for in 2026. A new truck without any grants attached to it will cost \$280,000. Neighboring towns have fire districts. Madrid pays \$134,000, Louisville \$162,000, and Lisbon \$211,000 which includes ambulance services. These fees are split out among all taxpayers in each town. If the Board increases the fire protection rate this fee is only paid by taxpayers outside the village.

If the town decides to increase the fire protection rate it would put the total budget over the 2% tax cap. The board was concerned about what would happen to the STAR program if this happens. The Town Supervisor will investigate it for the next meeting.

Citizen's Comments: There were no comments.

Bills: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to approve bills # 23-0781-23-00854 in the amount of \$62,271.77. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Hunter, seconded by Martin to adjourn the meeting @ 8:45PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk