

Regular Meeting

Because of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 220.1 issued on March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meetings Law, the Waddington Town Board Meeting scheduled for December 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm was held electronically via Zoom instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. Members of the public were invited to join the meeting from their homes.

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, James Miller, Louise Gava, Joule Community Power, Mark Scott, Kevin Kitzman, Edith Ashley, Marjorie Todd, Kerri O'Bryan, Tenley Amo, Mike Zagrobelny, Mayor, Ed Rider, Shannon Robinson, Tom & Fran Nelson.

Call to order: Supv Hammond called the meeting to order @ 7:10PM.

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

Citizen's Comments:

Ed Rider asked if the board would be discussing the Local Government Task Force. Supv Hammond noted it would be under old business.

Mark Scott invited people to submit articles for the next Waddington Recorder. Articles need to be submitted by January 18th. It will publish by the beginning of February. He also noted that COVID is getting bad locally. There were three more deaths in the County today. He encouraged people to stay safe especially during the Christmas season. If you have people into your home that are not in your immediate bubble wear a mask and try to social distance and stay out of large groups.

Supv Hammond noted he had received a letter from Kelly Gatzke on Nov 17th asking why Waddington was not on the list receiving RAP funding for recreational services. He stated that he had never heard of the RAP funding. He tried to google it and came up blank.

Joule Community Power: C Prentice reported that the board has been in discussions on solar. We currently have a community solar system which is working well. Waddington has been designated as a clean energy community. There are new opportunities being presented in the clean energy field. Louise Gava works with Joule Community Power and is here to give the board a quick overview of the new opportunities coming about to see if there is any interest. Louise gave the town a quick overview of her company. Her company administrates developing solar projects on municipal owned land and could help put out an RFP to maximize development. There are four things needed to be done in the process. 1. The Town would pass a local law giving authority for the default offering. 2. The Town and Joule Community Power would enter into a contract stating what each entity will be expecting in the process. Joule does not collect a fee from the Town. 3. Identify sites and do a preliminary assessment to see where the best place is. 4. Create an RFP that has the best value for the town. Re: lease, pilot, customer acquisition etc. The process would take 4-6 months once a local law is passed to move forward.

The Board asked if Joule had other clients in New York. Louise noted that they have 30 municipalities across New York. This change that has been made by National Grid was just made in September. They have the Village of Brockport and Village of Lima coming on board but are just in the very beginning stages. They haven't explored anything yet as Waddington has.

C Prentice noted that the most recent news about solar in Ag districts wouldn't be a problem for the town since the property they are looking at is not prime Ag land. It is more spoils and clay. This would also benefit the local rate payers.

The Board noted they were very interested and would like to look at the local law if she would send it on.

Committee Reports:

Recreation: C Loomis reported that he had spoken with Russ. Pickle Ball is still going three nights per week at the civic center. 15-30 players have been attending. They will be installing ice as soon as the weather cooperates to hold it.

C Loomis also spoke with Lloyd Hargrave from the Waddington Fish and Game Club. He asked him about bringing back the Kid's fishing derby. Lloyd told him they have enough money in their coffers to pay for 2 more years of insurance which is \$800 per year. They would like to install a 200 yard shooting range. They have been having troubles with a neighbor who is getting after them for shooting.

Rescue Squad: C Prentice reported that the squad had their meeting via zoom. Their membership is still going strong. They have a few members on probation at this time. There has been a change in officers. 1st Assistant is Matt Antwine and Secretary is Emily McBath. They had some discussions about the grant. The new rig has been ordered. They will be working on fundraisers. If anyone would like to make donations they will be accepting them. He also noted that these people are on the front line and are volunteers that step up and help out.

Library: C McBath reported that the Library held two meetings. The first was November 4th @ 6PM. At that meeting they voiced their displeasure with the Town Board. They are very passionate about the library. They discussed preparing for a municipal vote to become independent from the Town's funding. They discussed having yoga in the community room. The neighbor's tree proposal was discussed. They asked about the line item in the town budget for the town hall/library. C McBath told them that that line item was not funded this year. If something is needed at the building they can submit it in writing and the board will consider. The storm windows and gutter cleaning has been completed. The December meeting was via zoom. Both C McBath and Supv Hammond attended the meeting. The new library director is Bonnie Sabatini. They thanked Duffy for the work she has done in her position to leave the library in the shape that it is. They discussed the hiring of employees. They are ok with the neighbor's tree proposal as long as it doesn't impede snow removal and the roots won't affect the building. They are looking to have an audit done. It will cost between \$4-8,000. They are looking at installing panic buttons for the library staff. They are \$1,400 to install and then \$18 per month for the service. Janet Salton has resigned as library aid. Her last day will be December 30th. They discussed the light on the flagpole. C McBath has spoken with the Sons of the Legion and it is a civic project they may tank on. They will be meeting next week. The library Board asked if they could use Town funds for grant matches. They currently have used money from their Haggett fund. This will have to be looked at and discussed. The new President is Marjorie Todd and the Secretary is Heather Jock.

Supv Hammond reported that there is some confusion when it comes to the hiring and firing of employees at the library. He noted that the clerk had done some research in the minutes on the hiring practice of the prior two library managers. In 2013-2014 the Town Attorney was in attendance at the town board meeting and told them that the Library trustees have the sole decision making on the hiring and firing of library employees. The Town only appoints the trustees which are usually recommended by the library board. The library board has one reappointment which is Tom Tomlins. Colin Grant has resigned from the board and they would like to appoint June Dumas to fill the unexpired term.

A motion was made by Hammond, to fill the terms as requested. No second was given. C McBath motioned to discuss the positions in executive session. The motion was seconded by C Prentice. Motion passed. It will be discussed in executive session and then the board will have to return to regular session if the appointments are to be made at this meeting.

Campground Committee: C McBath reported the campground committee will not meet unless requested by the Town Board.

Cemeteries/Safety: C McKnight reported that he had nothing to report at this time. He hopes to have a decision on the grant application submitted for the January meeting.

Highway: C McKnight reported that the Highway Department has been doing maintenance on trucks, equipment, plows and wings for the winter. They have had one cremation, blacktopped the road culvert crossing at the Halfway House Rd, cleaned up from the windstorm, did cold patching, and plowed once and sanded 5 times.

C Loomis asked if Supt Putney had heard anything on the new truck. Supt Putney reported that he had a preinstall meeting tomorrow @ 9:30 for all the harnessing. They are not sure when the dump box will arrive for installation.

The highway department put up the Christmas decorations. Supt Putney noted that the churches that are put at the town square are in very bad condition. Letters were sent out to the churches to see if we could get them revamped. There was no response. They will probably not make another year. Karen Thew has asked that the department bring one down to the hardware store after Christmas and they will see if they can do something to them. C McKnight stated that Brody Baldwin is looking for an Eagle Scout project. This may be a possibility. He will reach out to him. Supt Putney also noted that the wreaths and candy canes that are hung from the poles are also getting in rough shape. The Town Clerk came out to the barns and we went through all the decorations to make sure the lights etc. were all working. Some of the sockets in candles on the wreaths trip the breakers on the pole. National Grid came and checked all the drops. These decorations are at least 25 years old. We should look at starting to replace some of them. The clerk noted she would like to see some of the new silhouettes with the LED lighting. Supv Hammond asked her to do some research and get some prices.

Gallery/Clark House: Mark Scott reported that the gallery has been working hard considering the circumstances. Their last exhibit was a success and they brought on new members. The tree lighting took place on Main St. Thank Putney Tree Service for putting the lights on the trees. There will be a small parade through town on Saturday @ 5 PM. Santa will be on a Fire Truck. There is a Christmas light display contest going on. Lights on the River are in session Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All donations go to the local food pantries. Waddington's pantry is a local recipient.

Moore Museum: James Miller, President of Moore Museum Board spoke to the board concerning an appointment of a new Town Historian. They originally had two candidates for the position. Since COVID they have not been able to meet to discuss the hiring. Since then the candidate that they wanted is no longer interested. They are putting forward Kathy Putney to be appointed as town historian. They are confident in her ability to run and maintain the Moore Museum.

Resolution #67

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Kathy Putney to serve as the Town Historian. Ayes: All

Radio Tower Update: Supt Putney reported that the installation of the tower is complete except for a few items. Once it is complete Matt will have to go back for more funding to install the antennas. C McBath asked if the highway antenna was one of the ones to be installed. Supt Putney noted he wasn't sure. He will get in contact with Matt Denner to see where things stand. The Board further discussed contact with Matt. A motion was made by McBath seconded by Hammond to make Supt Putney the direct contact person with Matt Denner. Ayes: All

Local Government Task Force: Supv Hammond reported that he and Mayor Zagrobelny attended the NYPA annual meeting via zoom. Supv Hammond told the Power Authority that going into the season he has requested NYPA and DEC to help solve the problem with the seaweed at the beach. Brian Terry has been tasked with the project. He asked about the annual payment which has been sent to the County Treasurer. We should receive payment

from the County at any time. The Massena intake project is moving along well. The boat launch is double the size. There is a small and large pavilion. The restrooms are up but the insides not completed yet. The pier pilings are driven in and the docks are being fabricated on site. Completion date is set for May 2021.

Community Planning Group: Kevin Kitzman reported that the final draft from the Community Planning Group has been sent out to the Board Members. He felt that attendance at the meetings was good. The first meeting had 30 people, second 15, and third 15. The top choice of projects was the Island View Marina Expansion, 2nd was Brandy Brook, and 3rd was Whittaker Park improvements.

C McKnight thanked Kevin for volunteering his time. He wondered how the project would work with the Village. They are using grant money received. Would NYPA allow us to use funds for a project that other funds are being put into? No other projects had funds put in from another source.

C Loomis noted he thought the Brandy Brook project would serve more people. The marina would serve boats only. Brandy Brook would serve boats, kayaks, canoes, and hiking.

C Prentice said that access was important at Brandy Brook. There is a lot of use from the campground and overflow from the boat ramps downtown.

Mayor Zagrobelny noted he asked if it would be feasible to combine projects and NYPA noted there would be a way to make it work.

C McBath thanked Kevin for his work and thought it would be a good idea for the town and village boards to sit down together to discuss the options. Mayor Zagrobelny stated he would be receptive to that. The boards will look at dates to get together.

Baildon Update: The Clerk noted that there wasn't anything to report at this time. They were due in court on Friday.

RFP Generator: There were no responses received for the generator RFP. C Prentice and McBath thought it was a hard time of year to expect responses. Companies are busy and it is the holiday season. The board discussed and would like to put it back out for return in February. They would like to see if we could get it out to a broader range like Syracuse/Plattsburg area.

A motion was made by Hammond, seconded by Prentice to put the RFP back out for quotes. Ayes: ALL

Old Town hall update: The sidewalk has been completed at the old town hall. The drain tile has been routed into the existing drain tile. Supv Hammond reported that Brittney Bush and Toby Bogart have done a great job decorating the building for Christmas. Supv Hammond reported that he has collected all the keys for the building that were being held by other groups. He felt that with the uptick in COVID the building shouldn't be used by anyone. The Board agreed.

Court Security: Supv Hammond reported that he would like to set up a dated to meet with the Town Justice and the Court Clerk to discuss the court security proposal. He would like to get everyone on the same page/timeline. This meeting would be to dive deep in the specifics for the position. Discussion held and the meeting will be Monday, December 21, 2020 @ 7PM via zoom.

Local Law Property Maintenance: The Board discussed the local law from the last board meeting. There are still some concerns about the details. A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hammond to table the discussion to the January meeting. They will request the Code Enforcement Officer be in attendance.

Decommissioning Plan: The solar company has requested that the board approve their updated decommissioning plan. This is the 2.5 mw project. They would also like approval for ½ the price of decommissioning that was submitted by the 5 mw project. The Board noted that they didn't receive the email. A motion was made by Hammond, seconded by Loomis. There were no other approvals at this time.

National Grid Net Metering: C Prentice reported that the town can only make changes to their net metering from the solar project once a year. He would like to include the other accounts held by the town. They include the sign, gazebo, cottage, and Howard Park. He will be removing the library because they have a line item in their budget for utilities. This has to be signed and returned by the end of the year.

Resolution #68

Motioned by: Prentice

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the changes made to the net metering to include the sign, gazebo, cottage and Howard Park. Removal of the Library.

Ayes: C McKnight, C Mcbath, C Loomis, C Prentice.

Opposed: Supv Hammond

Tree Request: A request has been submitted for the planting of trees as a buffer between the library and the house next door. The library board doesn't have a problem with this as long as it doesn't interfere with snow removal or maintenance of the building. Some of the trees discussed will be part of the Village's tree plan. Richard Hough is the coordinator of this program. C Prentice asked if there are setbacks from the property lines that need to be followed and who will maintain the trees as they grow? Discussion was held and the board noted they should talk to the Code Enforcement Officer and also have some kind of agreement in place for maintenance.

River Rd Speed Request: Supv Hammond reported that the Town has received correspondence from the Department of Transportation concerning the Town's request for speed reduction on the River Rd. They DOT will do a traffic study in July/August of 2021 to determine if the road necessitates a speed reduction.

Communicable Disease Plan: C McBath reported that there was an article that he sent to the board with details that the State will be requiring Municipalities to put a communicable disease plan in place. He stated that there is one town that has already put one together. Possibly Canton. The Town should start work on this.

Supt Putney noted he is in the process of putting a plan together in the event that the entire highway department is out due to COVID. He has spoken with the County Highway Supervisor and the State DOT. The Town has a shared services agreement with the State and if this were to happen they would help to pick up the slack. He is still gathering information.

Supv Hammond noted he would contact the Canton Town Supervisor to see if they have done it and to get a copy.

Tree: Supt Putney told the board that the big maple tree in the front of the municipal building should be removed. He has shown the deterioration to both C McBath and Prentice. There is a big hole in the back of the tree. If it comes down it will be taking out primary wires etc. He would like to have something done before the new parking lot is blacktopped. The Board asked him to get a quote.

Post Office Box: The Clerk reported that the Municipal Building is now on a rural route through the post office. She would like permission to install a mailbox and be able to have it delivered directly. If the Town keeps our post office box there will be a fee at our next renewal because it is available rural. Supt Putney has located the post for the box and the Postmaster has approved the installation location. Mail will not be delivered on Saturday to avoid any mail sitting in the box.

Resolution # 69

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the installation of a rural mailbox at the Municipal Building. Ayes: All

Budget Adjustments:

Resolution #70

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the following budget adjustments to be made by the Town Bookkeeper:

Increase A1420.4 Attorney Contractual by \$2,252.50 from A1990.4 Contingency

Increase A1620.4 Buildings Contractual by \$917.12 from A7550.4 Celebrations contractual

Increase a1680.4 Automation contractual by \$419.94 from A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual

Increase A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance by \$822.29 from A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual

Increase: A1930.4 Judgement & Claims by \$350.00 from A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual

Increase A4540.4 Ambulance Contractual by \$2932.00 to reflect payment received from NYPA

Increase A8810.4 Parks Personal Services by \$278.64 from A8810.4 Parks Contractual

Increase A9060.8 Health & Medical Ins by \$938.30 from A9053.8 HRA

Increase DA5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual by \$13,080.38 from DA5142.1 Snow Removal Pers Serv

Increase DA9052.8 HSA by \$2,217.00 from DA5142.1 Snow Removal Personal Service

Increase DA9060.8 Health & Medical Ins by \$6,241.33 from DA5142.1 Snow Removal Pers Serv

Increase Da9070.8 Uniforms by \$289.37 from DA5142.1 Snow Removal Personal Service

Increase DB5112.2 CHIPS by \$53,534.45 from DB5110.4 General Repairs \$3,249.44 and \$50,285.01 from reimbursement from State

Increase DB9052.8 HSA by \$2,098.00 from DB5110.1 General Repairs Personal Service

Increase DB9060.8 Medical & Hosp Ins by \$2,889.20 from DB5110.1 General Repairs Pers Srvc

Increase JR7265.1 Skating Rink Pers Service by \$149.90 from JR7265.4 Skating Rink Contractual

Ayes: All

Shoreline Stabilization Committee: Supv Hammond reported that on Wednesday Jim Houmiel submitted his resignation as the representative for the Town and Village on the shoreline stabilization committee due to technical problems. Meetings are all held digitally and he is not proficient in this. This is a three year appointment. Jim has fulfilled one year and there are two left. Supv Hammond reported that the Village Board has appointed Janet Otto-Cassada to fill the unexpired term. He requested that the Board do the same. This is time sensitive because the next meeting to review applications is on December 17th and 75% of the applications have been submitted by Waddington residents. The Town should have representation there. It was asked if these meetings were open to the public. This question would be asked. Discussion ensued and the following resolution passed.

Resolution #71

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Janet Otto-Cassada to the shoreline stabilization committee to fulfill the unexpired term of Jim Houmiel.

Ayes: Supv Hammond, C McKnight, C Loomis

Opposed: C McBath, C Prentice

Food Drives: C McKnight brought it to the attention of everyone that Lights on the River is an excellent food drive for our local pantries. The St. Lawrence County Young Farmers are also holding a food drive. They will be holding 10 days of collections. Drop offs are in Madrid, Canton, as well as McKnight's farm stand. It is on Facebook and North Country Now. There is a tremendous need.

Organizational Meeting: Supv Hammond would like to schedule the organizational meeting for January 4th @ 7PM via zoom.

Citizen's Comments:

Ed Rider asked if the town had zoning guidelines for solar design. Supv Hammond told him that the town had a moratorium up until last year. The language is in the development code. The Clerk noted he could get a copy at the office or it was posted on the website.

Ed also spoke to the issue of the shoreline stabilization behind the homes on Nell Manor Dr. Currently the water is so low they have beach front property. Now would be a good time to have this done without aquatic disruption. He also noted that Senators Gillibrand and Schumer have reached out to the IJC concerning the wildlife being affected by this plan such as the beaver and muskrat.

Marjorie Todd asked for clarification as to why the library appointees needed to be discussed in executive session. Supv Hammond asked C McBath what the reasoning was. C McBath noted that it is the towns prerogative and within its rights to do so. Marjorie noted that she is concerned about the precedent being set towards the library by the town board.

Mayor Zagrobelny told the board that their next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5th so that Rita Curran, County Legislator can give updates. They could start the meeting early if the Town Board wants to meet at that time.

Edith Ashley asked if the August meeting minutes could be corrected. She stated that in those minutes it was stated that the town has never shoveled the library steps. In the mid 90's the town did shovel them and she would like them corrected. Possibly stricken from the minutes.

Mark Scott asked if there would be any action after executive session. Supv Hammond noted the only business that would be conducted would be the appointment of the library positions if the board chooses to do so.

Mark also noted that he couldn't understand why the satellite account of the library was removed. If it is a savings to the library it is a savings to the town. He doesn't understand all the animosity between the town and library boards.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to enter into executive session @ 10:04 PM to further discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal. A motion was made by McBath, seconded by McKnight to return to regular session @ 10:48PM. Ayes: All No action was taken during executive session.

Resolution #72

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint June Dumas to fill the unexpired term of Colin Grant and Re-appoint Tom Tomlins for a full term. Ayes: All

Bills: A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Prentice to approve bills #20-00021 - 20-00124 in the amount of \$66,202.92. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Loomis to adjourn the meeting @ 11:00PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk