

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, February 14, 2022 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building. The meeting was held in person as well as via Zoom.

Present were: Supervisor Alex Hammond and Council Members: Travis McKnight, David McBath, and Thomas Hunter.
Councilor Kelly Tiernan was not present.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Jon Mayette, Patty VanPatten, Julie McBath, Kathy Putney, Historian, Aynsley French, Devin Sharlow, Colby Beldock, Tanor Harvey, and Cole Odendahl. Via Zoom: Kevin Acres and Bonnie Sabatini.

Call to Order: Supv Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moment of Silence: Supv Hammond asked that the group remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of Stella Burns.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to approve the regular, organizational, and special minutes as submitted. Ayes: All

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

Committee Reports:

Highway: C McKnight reported that the Highway Department has been doing general maintenance on trucks, plowed, and sanded 30 times, moved snow of main street 2 times, put away the Christmas decorations and churches. Jay Tiernan is fixing catholic church. They are also treating salt.

Supt Putney reported that he had no update on the loader. They are still thinking June. He is looking at a card reader for the gas/diesel. He will have more information next month. C McBath noted he has had two inquires about putting the loader up for auction. There has been no talk to do this. The board discussed the option of selling outright or trading as discussed. They decided to stick with the original plan of trading in when the new one is ready.

Supv Hammond noted that as of last Thursday the State has rescinded mask mandates in common spaces. He also noted that it would be up to the individual to wear or not to wear masks. Whatever feels right for you is best. He also noted that C Tiernan has been excused from the meeting due to her daughter's playoff game this evening.

Rescue Squad: Julie McBath noted that she hoped everyone read the article in the Waddington Recorder concerning the Rescue Squad. She has received some feedback both good and bad. At this time the Rescue Squad is down on EMT's. They are trying to figure new ways to recruit them. They have gotten a couple more since the holiday but there is only one EMT during the day. Julie McBath is the only one in town during the day and if she is not available people need to realize that there will be longer wait times from other agencies. This is not just an issue in Waddington. It is happening in other towns, counties, and on state levels. The Squad is looking at an EMT that would be paid on a per diem basis. This is just one option they are exploring.

Julie also suggested that all public buildings be equipped with AED's and the public/personnel should be trained in CPR and how to use these machines. It could mean saving someone's life. Jen Collins who is a Rescue Squad member is also a CPR instructor. The Librarian has volunteered to have the AED in her building and take the training.

Julie reported that they have a nationally certified EMT as a member of the rescue squad. Ed Sheffield sent in his forms to the State to have his certifications moved to NY. He received a letter back from the Department of Health that would make him jump through hoops to practice in NYS. She distributed the letter to the board and encouraged them to share this with

any State Politicians so they can be aware of the issues facing the EMT's. The State needs to come up with some sort of incentive for people to become volunteer first responders.

Supv Hammond asked Julie what the percentage of calls is that are not true emergencies. Julie noted that less than 50% are actual emergencies. She also noted that the Rescue Squad has put the search for a new ambulance in 2022 on hold. They are going to wait a year to see where things go. Supv Hammond thanked the Squad for all they do and to please keep them advised of the situation.

Rescue Squad Contract: Supv Hammond reported that the Rescue Squad contract was up for renewal. They are not asking for an increase. There were a couple of word changes to the document such as dates and that either party may notify the other in writing on or before the 1st day of August that it elects to terminate or modify the contract on December 31st of that year.

Resolution #19

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to renew the contract with the Waddington Rescue Squad for a period of three years commencing 1/1/22 and ending 12/31/24. Ayes: All

Rescue Squad Lease: Supv Hammond reported that the Rescue Squad lease with the Town was originally signed in 1993 for 10 years. It was renewed in 2009 and then as specified in the contract would renew every three years after. He spoke with Julie, and they thought that the three years would be good as it would run parallel with the contract. The only other change they have requested would be that the town take over the maintenance of the roof on the new addition that was built when they moved into the building. The board had a discussion as to what constitutes the outside of structure of the building. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by McBath to table a decision until the March meeting. The board members will do a walkthrough to see the condition of the building.

Volunteer Services Tax Credit: It had recently been brought to the attention of the members of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department that there is a tax exemption that they can apply for on their taxes. This has been in effect since 2006. It was noted that the exemption on taxes amounted to approximately \$93. There is also an exemption that a volunteer can receive on their state income taxes which credits them with \$200. The Assessor was contacted regarding these exemptions. Upon his research of the local law and State tax exemption it was determined that a volunteer can not take both exemptions. It is one or the other.

Library: Bonnie reported that she has volunteered the library to have an AED in tis building. Employees would be trained in the use of the machine. She also has a medical background that would help in these situations. She reported that the HVAC system is being installed. The library received \$3,500 from Mark Walczyk's office. It is called bullet aid and was deposited directly into their account. After discussing with the Bookkeeper, they decided to transfer it into the Town Hall/Library improvement account so that it doesn't directly affect their budget. It will be used when paying for the HVAC system. She has been busy with the annual report. She has received a \$2,000 stipend for classes for seniors. She is piggybacking with Kathy Putney to do some ancestry training. They received a \$500 grant from NCLS for the story walk. She is again working with Kathy Putney to make a permanent story walk that is interactive for kids with the history of Waddington and the Seaway. She is in the planning stages of the teen maker space. She has talked with Russ about the summer reading program and will be working with them on this.

The boiler is working. The pail is not filling up with water. Frank Davey changed the filters. The valve was rusted, and he decided to wait until warmer weather to replace it so that it didn't break. She has contacted Barkley's for an estimate for a security panel temperature gauge that would sense extreme heat/cold.

They have put out a general survey to the community looking for information about programs, schedules etc. for the library. It can be filled out online or in person at the library.

Grants/Alternative Revenue: C McBath reported that they will be installing the fire alarm system beginning this week. They will meet Supt Putney tomorrow. They were able to pull equipment from another job to install ours.

USDA Grant: working on the paperwork for the application. He gave the clerk a list of items they will need. Financials, bank quotes etc. It will take a couple of weeks to get this all together.

Resolution #20

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Supervisor Hammond to sign grant paperwork to apply to the USDA for the purchase of a new payloader. Ayes: All

ARPA: C McBath reported that he attended an ARPA webinar slide program. The final rules are more lenient than originally reported. The drainage plans have been received from Rob Campany. The Board discussed putting the project out for bids. The inside work will be the only thing bid. The Town will be doing the outside work.

Resolution #21

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to solicit sealed bids to do the interior floor drain work in the town barn. This will consist of removing the existing drain and slab and installing new drain and slab as per the drawings from Fourth Coast Engineering. Bids will be received until 7PM, March 14th at which time they will be opened and read publicly allowed. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Ayes: All

Iroquois Land: C McBath noted that he had read through the SEQRA that had been submitted for the Iroquois lands. There were several items he noticed that he had questions on. He listed the items and page numbers.

Page 2: other agencies need approval from ST Lawrence County and Town Planning Board not checked.

Page 3: C4C- lists the fire department but not the rescue squad.

Page 5: new sewer water lines may run through wetlands. There are no lines proposed for project.

Page 11: Didn't carry over

Page 12: protected habitat site for bald eagle/northern harrier.

Supv Hammond asked C McBath to send a list and he will get Rob on a phone call to talk about the issues.

The board discussed the updated swallow bluff owned by the DEC. It was noted that it is now 175'. It was suggested that Supv Hammond get an overlay on the map of the suggested subdivision to be sold.

C McBath submitted the updated survey that the board had discussed. The clerk reported she had gotten a mailing list of parcels from Real Property. After taking out the duplicate properties there are 1112 parcels. To mail with our regular mail it would cost \$590. The Town receives a reduction of .05 by using the postage meter. If we look at bulk mailing it wouldn't be feasible because there is a \$265 fee just to get the permit that is charged annually. With the fee and the postage, it would cost approximately \$620. Supv Hammond noted that the Waddington Redevelopment Association has a bulk mailing permit. He will contact Mark Scott to see if he would be willing to allow the town to use their permit.

Cemeteries/Safety: C McKnight noted they have tried a couple of times to get together but couldn't set it up when everyone was available. They will try again this month.

Recreation: The Committee met 1/31/22 Items discussed were cheerleading/ballet, summer reading program, summer recreation program (including the beach), Whitaker Park/Arena updates, the walking trail and skating. There will be several positions posted for the summer programs. Thanks to Rob Arquiett and Mike LeClair for helping with the outdoor ice rink. Chris Reagan has resigned from the Committee and is recommending Jeff Rupert as a replacement.

C McBath asked where we stand on the weeds at the beach. If the weeds are not taken care of the beach will not be able to open this year. Supv Hammond reported that he has brought this up at the Local Government Task Force meeting. The Town of Massena is on board with the project. They are having issues as well. He has spoken with both Jeff Farrell and Bryan Terry. They are working with the DEC. He will follow up with Rob Daley from NYPA.

Museum: Kathy Putney reported that they have completed the cleanout of the Moore House. The garbage has been taken away. The St Lawrence Skiff has been taken to Jeff Tiernan's Barn for safe storage. They will have the grindstone and anchor moved over to the Episcopal Church. They have been going through boxes and organizing and scanning picture. She is looking at a software named Pass Perfect. It is used by museums. They didn't have meetings in January and February but will resume with their meeting being March 15th @ the old town hall. They will be setting up an executive committee that will be working on plans specifically related to the new museum. She has been working with Bonnie at the Library to put together some programs for adults and story walk programs. The Historical Association has been meeting to develop a calendar of events for the year.

Local Government Task Force: Supv Hammond reported that the Local Government Task Force met for the first time in 2022. Mayor Zagrobelny has been voted in as Chairman going into negotiations with NYPA. Louisville Supervisor Larry Legault has been voted Vice Chairman. New members include Mayor Greg Paquin, Massena and Supervisor Sue Beller, Massena.

Court Security Officer: C McBath reported that the new Court Security Officer Scott Hough met with Justice Robinson, and Kerri O'Bryan to discuss some standard operating procedures and how they would like to handle court sessions. Everyone should be screened; bathrooms should be checked. Scott has some good ideas for the streamline process and standard operating procedures to maintain order. The Town Attorney should review the operating procedures.

Generator Update: They are still waiting for the switches. They should be here in March.

Old Town Hall elevator: The Clerk reported that she had been told they would have an affirmed date for repair within the next two weeks.

Christmas Church Displays: The Town Clerk reported that she had sent letter to the churches and put an article in the Town Recorder to try to find someone to repair the churches used at the four corners. Jay Tiernan has taken the St Mary's Church for repair. Toby Bogart volunteered to do the work for the rest of them. He asked if the Town had a budget for supplies. The Board noted they should have Toby look at them to see what needs to be done and come up with a cost estimate. They also discussed the possibility for a scout to do them as an Eagle Scout project.

Recreation Resignation: Chris Reagan sent a letter of resignation from the Recreation Committee. He has suggested Jeff Rupert to fill the position since he has three boys in the recreation programs.

Resolution #22

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Chris Reagan from the Recreation Committee.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Jeff Rupert to the Recreation Committee for a term of 5 years. Ayes: All

Grievance Board: Supv Hammond reported that Don Verville has contacted the Clerk and noted he did not want to be reappointed to the Grievance Board. The board will have to find someone to replace him as soon as possible as they must attend training and Grievance Day is in May.

Justice Audit Committee: Supv Hammond reported that he is looking for a couple of board members to conduct the annual book audit with the Town Justice. C McBath noted he would be willing as he did it last year. C Tiernan also noted she would work with him. Supv Hammond thanked them.

Dog Pound Contract: Supv Hammond reported that the dog pound contract was up for renewal. He noted that he has had people complaining that the Town takes our strays to a place in Gouverneur when we have the Potsdam Humane Society close by. He noted that the Town of Madrid just signed a contract with the Potsdam Humane Society in the amount of \$2925 per year. This allows any residents in Madrid to turn in an animal without a fee. The current contract with Moyer in Gouverneur only charges if we bring a dog in. It is \$15 per day. They are held for 5 days and if the dogs are not claimed they are adopted out through another agency. The board asked how many dogs have been taken to the Pound. Clerk noted there were 2 dogs taken. Discussion was held and the board noted that the fee through our current pound is quite a bit different than Potsdam.

Resolution #23

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to renew the contract for dog pound services with Daniel Moyer. Ayes: All

Agricultural Land Bids: The clerk reported that the Agricultural land permits were due to expire and should be bid for the March meeting. They are rented for a 10-year period. They currently are 2 years over due to meetings and regulations with Covid. The board asked if the properties were all owned by the Town. The clerk noted some are still in Power Authority hands but have been contracted for agricultural. Supv Hammond noted that there is a parcel right on the river that would make a great spot for dry camping. C McKnight noted that the town should get one project completed before we make a hasty decision on a second one. We should see how the Leishman Point campsites go first. The board held further discussion. The clerk will post the parcels on the website so the public can see what is available. A motion was made by Hammond, seconded by McBath to table a decision until the March meeting.

Christmas Decorations: The Board has been asking the Clerk to get some estimates for replacement of the Christmas decorations on the telephone poles. She reported that the company that they have dealt with over the years is having a 33% off sale that ends February 28th. To replace the 31 pole decorations with new silhouette LED decorations would cost \$12,200. The Clerk reported that she purchased the decorations that we have now in 2002 & 2003. At that time, they cost approximately \$6,500. Discussion was held.

Resolution #24

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the purchase of 31 new silhouette LED pole decorations in the amount of \$12,200;
FURTHER RESOLVED, that because this is a one time purchase the money will be taken from the NYPA Money Market Account in Upstate Bank. Ayes: All

Third Party Audit: The board discussed having a third-party audit done for the Town. The last NYS audit was done in 2000. The annual report is submitted yearly. The Comptroller's Office reviews and determines if a town is financial trouble and will schedule an audit accordingly. Over the years the Town has screen shot audits on by the Pinto Associates in Potsdam. The Clerk will contact them to see what an audit would consist of and an estimate so the board can make an informed decision.

NYS Woodburning Legislation: In 2019 the DEC suggested reducing wood burning by 40% by the year 2030. There has been talk that this issue is on the State Assembly floor for consideration. C McKnight would like to see the Town pass a resolution opposing such legislation. Discussion was held and Supv Hammond and C McKnight will draft a letter to be sent to the Assembly, Senate and Governor's Office

Resolution #25

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVE, that the Waddington Town Board opposes NYS wood burning legislation. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments: Patty VanPatten reported that this year's homecoming theme will be "Rockin the River".

Bills: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Hunter to pay bills # 22-0028 – 22-0099 in the amount of \$132,096. Ayes: All

Executive Session: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to enter into executive session @ 10:00PM to discuss matters relating to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law and discussion relating to proposed, pending, or current litigation. Ayes: all

A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by McBath to return to regular session @ 11:10PM. Ayes: All No action was taken during executive session.

Adjournment: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting @ 11:15PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk