

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 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, Scott Schluter, US Fish & Wildlife, Mark Scott, Shaun Frusco, RIC Energy, Andy Henry, Bailey Giorgi, Patty VanPatten, Kathy Putney, Historian and Phyllis Acres.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan with the correction made. Ayes: All

### **Citizen's Comments:**

Andy Henry introduced himself as the President of the Waddington Resource Center. He told the board that the center is no longer affiliated with the church. They are now under the St. Lawrence County Community Development program. They provide food and services to those in need in the surrounding community. They have a thrift store that helps fund the food purchases, they purchase through the Food Bank, vegetables are purchased through the Adirondack Greenhouse, and there is a program through Jaco in Malone which provides food items free of charge on a bi-weekly schedule. Olivia Martin is gracious enough to go to Malone to retrieve it for them. The local IGA helps with discount prices to provide hams/turkeys for the thanksgiving and Christmas boxes. McKnight Farms donates ground beef with is extra valuable. They have also had USDA certified venison donated. This has also been an immense help. In 2023 they served 2,870 individuals providing 39, 205 meals. He would like to thank Elaine Patraw the director of the center. He also encouraged the community to shop the thrift store. There are a lot of good items there. Many with tags still on them. They are always looking for volunteers as well. The board thanked him for his update and continued work for the center.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** Supt Putney reported that the Highway Department has performed general maintenance on trucks and equipment, plowed and sanded 21 times, patched potholes, cleaned the Christmas decorations and dielectric fixtures, added two new signs on Hanlon Rd stating no parking violators will be prosecuted, removed snow from Main Street, and used the new machine with mulching head on Buck Rd along with chipping brush. Supt Putney requested permission to submit a request to GSA for a D6N dozer. It would be 2% of the acquisition cost or \$14,500. If he were to secure the machine he would sell the D7 dozer on Auctions international. It would bring between \$35- 40,000. This would be used to pay for

the D6N and the balance into the equipment reserve account. The D7 was acquired through GSA. The town must keep the equipment in service for 18 months and then is eligible to sell it if they wish.

#### Resolution #14

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby grant permission to the Highway Superintendent to submit a request to GSA for a D6N dozer. Ayes: All

**Library:** C Martin reported that the library board has received a letter of resignation from Marjorie Todd. Bonnie Sabatini has been appointed President and Linda Henry, Treasurer. The library board would like to renew the MOU between the library and the Town. The board members asked if there were any proposed changes to the MOU by the library. It can be reviewed and proceed from there. The library board is also concerned about inspection of the handicap elevator. They can't seem to find anyone to inspect it. A discussion was held and the Clerk will investigate who can do it. The Town Board had the same problem when it came to the old town hall.

#### Resolution #15

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Marjorie Todd from the Library Board. Ayes: All

**Cemeteries:** C Hunter reported that the meetings will start back up next month.

#### **Grants/Alternative Revenues:**

Radio tower discussion – request we discuss in Executive Session negotiating a new contract for the radio tower with the county in 2024 and potential for future added revenues. The current contract expires in December 2024 and requires 6 months' advance notice to county.

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

Confirmed with Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) – they will do presentation to Board at March mtg to discuss potential services they could offer to the town (including any grant research / preparation).

Attended US Dept of Treasury Webex about ARPA grant reporting on Jan 17. I will need to know if we earned any interest in 2023 on any ARPA grant funds we received, and if so, how much was earned before the grant was exhausted? This will have to be reported in our annual report.

Researched inquiry from Councilwoman Martin regarding possible state grants *“to reimburse municipalities for expenses related to lifeguard compensation to help expand operating hours, increase staffing levels for swim programs, and widen access to public beaches and pools throughout New York State.* This is a 2024 **budget proposal** by the Governor. No application information is available unless/until 2024 state budget is passed. From the Governor's website:

RVRDA - January 23, 2024, RVRDA meeting was postponed. RVRDA grant applications not out yet – should be out any time now for 2024 We discussed at January meeting putting in a grant to build a food prep area in the old town hall.

Resolution #16

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to have C McBath apply to the RVRDA for a food prep area in the old town hall. Ayes: All

Registered for a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) webinar to discuss the 2024 “Catalyst Program” - \$50 million dollars in federal funds available for eligible projects (Leishman campground project may be eligible under this program).

**Museum:** At the last board meeting the Town approved the appointment for Nicholas Moquin. Unfortunately, he will not have the time to serve. They have requested the board appoint Larry Blakemore Jr.

Resolution #17

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Larry Blakemore Jr to the Waddington Museum Board. Ayes: All

**Historian:**

I sent in final yearly report to the State of NY and provided one to the St. Lawrence County Historian, Nancy LaFaver.

I continue to work on filing and sorting pictures, letters, and documents in the museum.

I will be working with some of the Clarkson Honor students again in March. They will be helping to continue with scanning and organization of the pictures and files.

The museum received an item donation from the estate of June Young. It is a printing plate of the portrait of George Redington that was printed in the history of Saint Lawrence County Book 1749 to 1878. The plate itself is in pristine condition and was donated by Anne Marie young.

I have been talking to the North Country library system about getting access to ancestry.com at the museum. Hepburn library already has access to this and because we are only a few houses away I wanted to see if we could possibly also receive access. I haven't heard back yet.

As far as the plans for Saint Paul's rectory and the new museum building are concerned, we had a telephone meeting with Randy Crawford who is a historical restoration architect. His firm out of Syracuse has drawn up some preliminary ideas to look at restoring the old rectory and using it as a portion of a new Waddington Museum. The sketch also includes a new addition off the back. We will be creating a strategic committee to talk about these new plans and see about going forward. The village has hired a grant writer, and they will see about finding some money to pursue our new ideas and construction.

The Waddington Historical Association asked the village for permission to have the historical organ situated in Saint Paul's church to be Repaired and kept in good running condition. The village approved this, and the Historical Association will pay to get the work done.

I continue to have open museum hours on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 and I can make special arrangements if someone would like to come to the museum on a different day.

I attended the WHA meeting in January, and we are working on the calendar of events for the whole year. They have plans to have the concerts in the Saint Paul's church venue again this year, starting in April. They also will be adding a lecture series this year with the first lecture being Friday March 15th in the Old Town hall at 6:30.

This lecture will feature Derek Pitts, who is the head astronomer at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia PA. Derek will be speaking about the upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8th.

All the events will be posted on the museum's Facebook page and website and will also be shared with the village and town site and North Country Now.

The next meeting of the Museum Board is scheduled for Weds. February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 in the Old Town Hall.

And the next WHA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Old Town Hall

**Rescue Squad:** C Tiernan reported 24 calls in January-6 outside of district (mostly Madrid) 3 dropped calls. 1 already on another call and 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance was on loan to Lisbon.

**Recreation:** C Martin reported that the Recreation committee is in the initial stages of planning the summer programs. The skates from the arena will be donated to the Lockwood Arena in Ogdensburg. The committee is looking to rent a couple of hours of ice time for Waddington Residents to skate for free.

#### **Iroquois Land Next Steps:**

Supv McKnight reported that the Board had received an email stating that the funding has been secured by a land trust for the property @ Iroquois Dam. The Board has discussed this issue numerous times and wants to be sure that the public is fully informed about the project. He noted that public use of the property is the primary goal of the Town Board. The Board asked Scott Schluter if it would be possible to erect a pavilion sometime down the road. He noted that there will be no permanent structures. Who would maintain, clean up the garbage etc. Supv McKnight noted that during the spring and fall the board closes the entrance gate to try to prevent damage to the land during mud season. Will this be a problem? Shouldn't be some boulders along the edge of the road to keep vehicles out of this area?

David Putney asked about the horse trail that goes through that section of land. Scott Schluter noted that the land trust may prohibit this from happening. They had an instance where there was a horse trail and someone got hurt and tried to sue them. He noted that if the horse association was an actual group and carried insurance this may be a possibility. They will have to go back to the land trust to confirm.

Phyliss Acres asked the board what the reason for going this route was. Supv McKnight reported that the Board originally started to try and get the land back on the tax rolls. They wanted to sell lots and were hit with snags from the Dept of Health, PA stating no docks allowed in the area, and the lack of funding by the towns to install infrastructure for the property. Scott Schluter talked to the board about the importance of the muskie spawning area and its importance to the ecosystem of the river. There is still acreage west of the road that can be used and developed at some point.

Scott Schluter told the people present of the importance of this area for the fish population. He will come again in May and give a presentation for the public. The board will advertise this so that they can get the word out to the people of Waddington to keep them informed. If it goes through and a resolution passed to proceed it will be subject to permissive referendum. The board discussed a couple names for the project. Suggested Waddington Fish & Wildlife Preserve.

**Iroquois Vandalism:** Supv McKnight reported that he was subpoenaed to go to court for the case and at the last minute the defendant took a plea deal. He has not been informed of the deal yet. The Town has asked for restitution of \$7,620 to repair the damage done.

**Local Government Task Force:** NYPA is looking to install electric car charging stations at municipal facilities. They are looking at the municipal building and the beach which is NYPA property. He noted that he made the executive decision to have them look at the municipal building for installation. NYPA will be purchasing the chargers with energy efficiency funding and the town will pay to install them. More information to come.

**Joint Town/Village Website:** C Martin reported that she met with Benny Fairchild, Mayor Zagrobelny, and Amber Ormsbee to come up with a design. She will have something for the March meeting.

**Plow Truck Discussion:** The board had a discussion to purchase a snowplow truck. Supt Putney noted that it would be 2 years out before the truck will come. But to order now will allow the Town to beat the new emissions regulations coming out in 2025. It has been quoted @ \$271,000. It could increase by 3-4% before the truck is ready to be delivered. Currently the Town has a loan with the USDA for \$128,000 @ 2.5% interest for the payloader and \$159,900 @ 2% interest for the snowplow truck. Currently there is \$187,229 in the equipment special reserves bank account. Currently this account is earning 5.26% w/NYCLASS. There is enough to pay for either vehicle at any time. C McBath noted the current rate for the USDA loan is 3.5%. If the board were to apply for a loan for the new truck and the rate goes down at the time of possession, the Town would be able to take advantage of the lower rate. The rate can't go up once it is locked in. Further discussion was held. C Tiernan noted that she would be comfortable with ordering the truck because we could pay something off but feels that we should leave the money where it is gaining the interest. She asked Supt Putney what truck this new one would replace. He noted it would replace the 2007. The next oldest would be the 2010.

#### Resolution #18

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve sending a letter of intent to order one (1) 2024 Mack Granite GR6F with options listed in the proposal prepared for the Town of Waddington by John Soderquist using Onondaga County Contract Pricing of \$170,143. Body and plow equipment provided by Viking Cives for contract price of \$101,715.00. Total price: \$271,858.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the submission of a loan application to the USDA.

Roll Call Vote:

Supv McKnight:	Aye	C. Tiernan:	Aye
C. McBath:	Aye	C. Hunter:	Aye
C. Martin:	Aye		

**Solar Escrow Percentage:** Sean Frusco, RIC Energy addressed the board concerning the proposed solar local law update. He asked the board to consider a lower fee to be held in escrow. Questions and comments were discussed between the two. The Board noted that the public hearing will be held next month. The Town Attorney has given the board his opinion and will be present at the meeting to answer questions.

**RFP Building Project:** Supv McKnight noted that he had composed an RFP for the building but forgot to print it. He noted that during the insulation process he wanted to have at least 25 random inspections of different spots to be sure the depth is correct. Sometimes this is an easy place for contractors to skimp on the job. Supv McKnight told the board he would send the email with the RFP specs and if there were any concerns they could discuss it. He would like to be able to open them at the next meeting.

Resolution #19

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the posting for an RFP for the municipal building energy efficiency grant contingent upon the email sent by Supv McKnight.

Ayes: All

**NYSERDA Round 3 Grant:** Supv McKnight reported that the municipal building project was in the round 1 grant series of NYSERDA. They are currently in round 3. The town is already a green energy community but will need to complete one more high impact item. The Town may be eligible to add solar arrays to our existing solar. Rob Campany is looking to see what the town will need to do for this. He will keep everyone posted.

**NY School Funding Decrease:** C McBath reported that the Governor's state budget is shifting the way school funding will be distributed. Madrid-Waddington is one of the schools that will be affected by this change. He has drafted a letter to the State Senator's for the Town to submit stating that they are opposed to any funding cuts to the schools. He sent it electronically to the board members. They have all read and agree that it should be signed and mailed to our Senators.

Resolution #20

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the mailing of the letter drafted by C McBath in opposition to any school funding cuts in the State budget. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:** Patty VanPatten asked if the small community solar project going up in Madrid near Roddy Burns is the same size as proposed here. She was told it is a 6.5-7 MW project. The board is not sure of Madrid's code. Supv McKnight noted that Eric Gustafson looked at theirs and they are all about the same.

Mark Scott said he was talking with the historian and she noted that the area was also known as Point Rockaway. Maybe this could be incorporated into the name.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to enter executive session to discuss matters related to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law @ 9:20PM. A motion was made by Martin, seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @10:00 PM. No action was taken during the executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Hunter, seconded by McBath to pay bills # - in the amount of \$.  
Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Martin to adjourn the meeting @ 10:05PM.