

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, July 11, 2022 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building and via Zoom.

Present were: Acting Supervisor Travis McKnight and Board Members: David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Patty VanPatten, Kathy Putney, Sue Papazian, Kevin Liddell, Janet Cassada, and Phyllis Acres.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Supervisor Leave of Absence: Acting Supervisor McKnight read the following statement: Effective July 8, 2022, Alex Hammond will be taking a leave of absence to fulfill his call to active military duty. He is afforded a legal leave of absence being an active military member. The town being his employer must abide by USERA law and Military Law Section 242 which provides protection to public officers and employees that receive deployment orders. The deployment does not create a vacancy on the board. In the absence of the Supervisor the appointed deputy assumes the duties and responsibilities of the supervisor. There is no vacancy to fill so in Alex's absence the board will remain the same.

We understand this may seem abrupt and fast but for various reasons such as AUSERA Law and certain NYS Employer laws the town was not able to describe the fact that Alex was leaving until his orders were cut and filed with the Town Clerk, which they were the end of the first week in July. Due to the holiday weekend the clerk waited to put out the press release informing the public on July 5th.

Citizen's Comments: No comments were presented at this time.

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

Committee Reports:

Highway: Supv McKnight reported that the Highway Department has been doing general maintenance on trucks and equipment, cold patched some potholes, started roadside mowing and have completed the lower end of town. They mowed the camping area, walking area, and part of Leishman Point. Two trucks were sent to Madrid to blacktop for one day. They changed three road crossing culverts on Pork St and one on the Allison Rd. They built up the end of Allison and SH 345 approach. Regraded and rolled both roads for paving. Trucks from Norfolk, Madrid, and Lisbon helped haul cold pave. One truck and loader along with three guys were sent to the beach to remove seaweed.

Rescue Squad: C Hunter reported that the Rescue Squad has had a busy month. They have had 19 calls. They are meeting this evening.

Library: C Tiernan reported that 367 people used the library, 47 used the computer, there were 8 tech consultants, and 5 programs hosted. They now have movie certification and will be holding movie nights. JAB the governing body for the library systems have required libraries to forgive fines that are more than 6 years old. They have passed a resolution stating they will not fine for children's books. The Library Director position is still open. They have had three applicants. None are from Waddington. There are a couple potentials but they will be leaving the application time open in hopes of getting more. Bonnie is done at the library August 12th. They have had an issue with the air conditioning going off and on over the last couple of weeks. They are contacting Aeon to look at it.

The library just received information about the grant applied for. They had included repointing of the building in the application. They were told that this is no longer an expenditure allowed with the grant. They are looking at alternative funding for this. The total request in the grant

for repointing was \$54,000. The south side of the building has some cracks along the base and water is running through. They are looking at grants for historical buildings. It was mentioned that the Rock Charitable Foundation has grants for this type of work. Supv McKnight noted that he will look at the building and see what temporary work can be done before winter.

Grants/Alternative Revenues:

RVRDA grant –

2022 submission - New RVRDA grant was submitted April 14 – RVRDA meeting to review all applications Wednesday July 13. Winning Awards are scheduled to be announced in July 2022.

USDA Grant:

The Supervisor accepted the offer via email June 8, we were all copied on the correspondence. The town received a \$22,000 rural development grant for the new payloader and a Rural Development Loan (2.5% - 15 yrs.) of \$128,000. This will no longer be an agenda item for this committee report.

ARPA Grant:

Highway department floor drain work completed and a bill has been submitted. The quote was for \$44,000 and the bill was for \$48,620 (\$4620 over what was budgeted – additional work required to be done which was discovered once the demolition occurred). Proposal made to take this extra amount from the ARPA grant and adjust/reduce the phase three portion of the budget accordingly. The town will need to continue to maintain our due diligence and take before and after photos for the ARPA grant file on all work being done. (Highway Supt Putney has been advised of this). Copies of all receipts for materials / supplies for the project need to be stored in the ARPA grant file with the town clerk. Detailed records on in-kind services (labor / equipment) on all project work and the dates they were performed also need to be maintained and filed by Supt Putney. The town needs to define a timeline for the separator installation and completing the rest of this project. With inflation and the changes in asphalt pricing, there will likely be a budget shortfall for the paving portion of the project.

C McBath asked if the Town should purchase the water separator at this time before the prices keep going up. Supt Putney will contact Jefferson Concrete to see if the price still stands.

Iroquois Land:

At the June meeting it was discussed that Supervisor Hammond had sent all the application paperwork for this subdivision to the Planning Board. Codes officer also recommended we consider residential zoning for these parcels and put it in place before any sales are made. The Town Clerk advised the next planning board meeting to discuss this would be on July 18.

HIP CAMP:

Two more firepits were poured when cement was poured for highway garage and have been placed on the campsites. Each site has a picnic table now. George Lefleur has delivered the 3 new picnic tables as discussed at last meeting. HIP CAMP website has Waddington Leishman Point listed on it as an option for camping. Website has photos and a positive endorsement by the camper who used it in April 2022. Website and rental language have been provided to Supt Putney to be placed on a sign at the site, and each site has been numbered with a corresponding sign. An article will be drafted for the Waddington Recorder. Campsite information will be posted on the town website, Facebook “Wonderful Waddington” site, and local media. The campsites are open for business.

Solar Power:

CCA has had no further correspondence regarding solar power with any Board member. This agenda item will be dropped from the next committee report.

Zero Emission Vehicle Grant:

Everyone received grant sheet via email prior to board meeting. \$5 million available, can apply for up to 250k, one application for each location, covers up to 80% of installation costs, requires a local 10% “match”, applications open to 9/30/22. Discussion indicated no interest for the town to pursue this grant. This will be tabled until the next meeting to think about spots where it can be installed.

Cemeteries: Supv McKnight reported that the trees have been planted at Union Cemetery. They look good. A bill will be coming from Northrop’s in Massena in the amount of \$2,500. The bill has not been received yet but requested permission to pay if it is submitted before the next meeting in August.

Resolution #54

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve payment of \$2,500 to Northrop's Nursery, Massena. Ayes: All

Recreation: C Tiernan reported that they are in the process of completing the survey to be sent out. They have included the questions that the mayor has requested. They will sit for one more meeting to approve. Supv McKnight reported that the Local Government Task Force is in the process of discussing projects and ideas for the upcoming NYPA review. They would like to have the Town/Village input after Labor Day.

Supv McKnight reported that he had been working with Bryan Terry from NYPA about the seaweed issue at the beach. He told them of the concerns the town had with using herbicides. There are other alternatives to get rid of them such as mats that are put down. Unfortunately, we needed a solution that day. The DOH would not let the beach open with the weeds as they are. Kris Weston came with his harvester as soon as he could. He just finished a clean up on Black Lake and his harvester had to be decontaminated and inspected by the DEC to make sure there was no cross contamination. He came and cut the weeds. The highway department removed a full dump truck load of weeds. He suggested that to keep a thumb on them we should probably cut them again at the end of August.

There are some picnic tables in the pavilion that have been deemed unsafe. Supv McKnight will contact George LeFleur to see if he can put some x bracing in them so they won't lean side to side.

Gallery/Clarke House: There were no representatives from the organizations in attendance.

Museum: Kathy Putney reported that she attended the town/village meeting, museum & historical association meetings in June. They have put in over 30 hours at the church getting ready for the garage sale. They brought in \$475 at the sale. There are still some items for sale, a few sinks, doors, stair rail and spindles, set of kid's golf clubs, board games and numerous religious story books. She asked if anyone knew of where they could donate the story books. They are all in good shape but most are religious. Several suggestions were given at the meeting.

She has logged in 45 hours rewriting the Village walking tour. The hop is to have it done for this Friday @ 4:00.

They held their second strategic planning meeting. They had a good meeting and talked about starting a fund raising. They looked at some design plans that Kaitlyn Osoway drew up for them. They are only ideas at this point.

The meeting for the Museum Board has been changed to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. July meeting is the 19th @ 6PM and the WHA meeting is July 26th @ 7PM.

Old Town Hall: Supv McKnight reported that he is going to meet with Frank Davey later this week to prioritize some projects that need to be done. They will look at the worst spots. We can't do it all at once. Frank is concerned about the bidding process because you don't know what you will get into when you start tearing apart. We will have to set a budget for time and materials. He won't be able to get to the major work until next summer but can look and repair the areas that need to be fixed before winter.

He is also working on the handicap bathrooms for the municipal building. He has some concerns with the plans. They will meet and go over the layout before the next Town meeting.

Generator update: Supv McKnight has talked with Mike Christy. They are still waiting on 2-100-amp breakers for the Fire Department. They were supposed to be here last week. Once they are installed the generator will be on automatic switch over.

Supv McKnight asked if there was any other old business. C McBath noted that there were a few items from last month he would like to address. Audit discussion and work with Gray & Gray. Gray & Gray will be discussed in executive session. Food trucks should be put on for the

September meeting so we don't get it sidetracked. The trees out back were approved to be cut. Have they been taken care of yet? Not yet but on Putney's list for removal. River Rd Speed Zone? Temporary signs have been installed by the County until the permanent signs have been made.

Justice Resignation: A letter of resignation from Justice Robinson effective July 7, 2022, was received by the Town Clerk due to relocation out of the area.

Resolution #55

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Justice Robinson effective July 7, 2022. Ayes: All

A resolution from the Fourth Judicial District Court was read appointing the Hon Elizabeth Sharpe, Town Justice from Madrid to fill the vacancy through December 31, 2022, unless terminated sooner by Administrative Order.

Radio Tower: Supt Putney has noted that the highway repeater is not working well on the new tower. Supv McKnight distributed a copy of the lease with the County and excerpts from the minutes in which the tower and repeater were discussed with the County. The lease ends 2024. If the board sees any changes that need to be made let him know. Discussion was held and they will contact Matt Denner to let him know that the antennas are not located in a good place on the tower. They will also discuss with our County Legislator Rita Curran. After the discussion it may be necessary to follow up with a letter.

County Highway Plowing Contract: Supv McKnight and Supt Putney attended a St Lawrence County Supervisors meeting in Potsdam with Alex. The group had discussions concerning the 2023 contract for snow plowing County Highways. They found that some towns don't plow county roads. Waddington is #2 on the list of number of miles plowed on County Roads. There will be three supervisors in negotiation with the County. They will have to come up with agreements with the towns before going into negotiation. Supt Putney will total his costs for plowing the County Roads. The current contract states a cap on fuel @ \$2.75 per gallons. Fuel is now \$4.56 per gallon. There is no out for the municipalities in the contract. The County however has at least 5 ways to get out of the contract.

Last winter the highway department plowed 77 times. With the modification to the fuel price, it was an extra \$1100 for the whole season. Not even close to the cost. A call will be put into Don Chambers, County Highway Superintendent to discuss modifying the contract followed up by a letter of request.

Community Bank: It was reported that Community Bank will close its branch in Waddington in September. The town was notified in a letter sent to all depositors. The mayor has written a letter to Community Bank stating his dissatisfaction. The Board discussed and will also send a letter.

NYSERDA Grant: Supv McKnight reported that he is turning the NYSERDA grant for the heat/cooling pumps over to C Hunter. This is in the realm of C Hunters expertise and with C McKnight taking over as Supervisor will not have the time to put into it.

NYPA Maintenance & Operations Contract: Supv McKnight reported that he has learned a lot about the NYPA maintenance & operations contract while working on the seaweed issue at the beach. NYPA pays the Town to maintain and operate its facilities in the Town of Waddington. A budget was passed in 2012 when the contract was signed. Each year the payment increases by 1-2% based on inflation rate. This year we saw an increase of 5%. 2023 could see an increase of 5-10%. We will be going into negotiations with NYPA for this contract. Supv McKnight has given the board members a copy of the contract and budget for review.

Budget Resolution:

Resolution #56

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the bookkeeper to make the following budget adjustments:

Increase buildings contractual A0-1620.4 by \$69,620 to reflect fire suppression system \$21,000 and ARPA trench work \$48,620

Increase Town Hall Building Improvement A0-1620-41 by \$1603.52 to reflect elevator repair/floor refinishing

Increase Unallocated Insurance A0-1919-4 by \$1125.38 due to unemployment payment/increase in liability insurance

Increase Ambulance Contractual A0-4540-4 by \$2,932.00 to reflect grant received from NYPA.

Increase Celebrations Contractual A0-7550-4 by \$12,140.27 for purchase of Christmas decorations purchased Ayes: All

The Board discussed the bill submitted by Kris Weston for the seaweed removal at the beach. The original estimate from last year was \$5200. This year it is \$5,400. The board discussed and was decided to take the money from the economic development line in the budget.

Property Request: The clerk noted that she had been approached by the new person who purchased the house next to the Town square monument. They have requested the Town sell property located next to the monument area because they don't own the driveway that goes to their house. The Board looked at the sketch and discussed. They noted that this is not in the best interest of the town and they are not interested in selling it.

Mileage Reimbursement: C McBath reported that as of July 1st the Federal Government has raised the mileage reimbursement rate from 58 ½ cents per mil to 62 ½ cents per mile for any employee using their own vehicle for approved business. He felt that the Town should adjust ours as well.

Resolution #57

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby modify resolution # 3 of the year 2022 to increase the rate of mileage to 62 ½ cents per mile for any employee using their own vehicle for approved business. Ayes: All

C McBath noted that he had received a phone call from our County Legislator requesting that the Town change the night of our monthly meeting due to a conflict making her unable to attend our meetings. The Board discussed and will think about the request.

Citizen's Comments:

Patty VanPatten reminded everyone about the Lyle Lakins memorial to be held Saturday from 1-4 at the pavilion in Island View Park.

Janet Cassada noted that when she was mayor the Village met quarterly on a Tuesday so that the County Legislator could attend.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to enter into executive session @ 8:30PM to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to appointment, promotion, demotion, discipline or removal. Ayes: All

A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @ 9:25PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to pay bills # 22-00432- 22-00500 in the amount of \$266597.43. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Hunter, seconded by McBath to adjourn the meeting @ 9:35PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk