

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, July 8, 2024 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Phyllis Acres, and Patty VanPatten.

**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 Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to approve the minutes as submitted. Ayes: All

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

### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** Supt Putney reported that the highway department has been doing general maintenance on equipment, working on Lisbon/Waddington Town Line Road and Buck Road changing culverts getting ready for cold paving, patched potholes, dug 1 grave and 1 cremation, hauled 2 loads of sludge for village, finished campground, first round of roadside mowing complete, mowed Leishman point half a day, mowed New Brookside and catholic cemetery with roadside mower, mowed lookout twice, placed rocks up on blacktop we had moved for paving, took down fence along road at Scotch Presbyterian cemetery and hauled seaweed from beach with loader and truck.

C McBath noted that the campground looked good. He asked if we had spent the \$15,000 needed to get reimbursed by the RVRDA grant. Supt Putney stated that we had. He is just waiting on the bill for the rental of the dozer. Once that comes in we can submit for the reimbursement.

**Library:** C Martin reported that the library had a few questions from their meeting. Will there be paperwork from the lift inspection and was the emergency lift key ordered? It will be sent once the company has it. They also wanted to know if they could purchase printers/copiers from state contract? The clerk noted that she has her printers/copiers through Advanced Business Systems out of Watertown. She has lease contracts through them. They might want to contact them to see what they can do.

They discussed who installed the stakes for the story walk in the past. Supt Putney stated that the highway department has never taken care of this. It has all gone through the library.

They further discussed the pointing on the building. Supv McKnight told C Martin that there will not be anything further done until next year.

**Cemeteries:** C Hunter reported that there is no update on the cemeteries.

**Museum:** There is no meeting in August.

The following was reported by Kathy Putney, Town Historian.

I helped work on the 2nd Annual Citizens Ball put together by the WHA. They had a wonderful turnout with over 80 people attending this year and 75% were dressed in 1920's garb. Everyone had a great time and look forward to next year.

The WHA held the last spring concert in Old St. Paul's Church Venue on June 15th to celebrate Flag Day. They had a great group from Fort Drum that performed for the people that showed up. The concerts will resume in the fall.

Worked with WHA on the first Trivia contest held at the American Legion, it was a great success. They had 15 teams take part with 85 people making up the teams. Zachary and Caitlyn Dupray did a great job at running the contest.

I met with Nancy Lafaver the St. Lawrence County historian about possibly expanding our historical district to include more homes and the rest of Main Street.

Will be meeting next week with Kate Kruger from Clarkson, about honor students coming over to help with more museum things.

Working on the Golden Agers Luncheon for Homecoming, returns are coming in slow.

Changing the exhibit in the museum for Homecoming. We will focus on past Homecomings celebrations and the Boat Races; Lots of pictures people haven't seen in years.

Mayor Mike can bring you up to date on the Museum Grant.

We will not have a museum meeting in July, the WHA will meet on July 23rd at 6:30.

I decided to have museum hours only on Wednesdays from 10- 4:00 or by appointment.

**Rescue Squad:** C Tiernan reported that the Rescue Squad answered 29 calls during the month of June. 2 in Madrid, 1 in Lisbon, and 7 in Massena. They are on dual dispatch with Madrid for the summer. There was a solar farm fire in Waddington and they have some concerns about training for this so they can treat people if injured.

**Recreation:** The summer programs started on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The beach looks good with the weeds cut. She thanked Supt Putney for switching the schedule to cut the weeds on Friday. Ryan Hayes reported that three kids were stung at the beach today. The bees are near the bathroom vents and the little library. It was recommended to call Jock Pest Control.

C McBath drafted a letter to Senator Stec and Assemblyman Gray requesting their support for enhanced funds for OPR to conduct the expansion of the Brandy Brook Boat launch site or the transferring of ownership to NYPA to maintain the facility as they do the other water related recreational facilities in Waddington. A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Martin to send the letter drafted by C McBath to Senator Stec and Assemblyman Gray. Ayes: All

**Grants/AlternativeRevenue:**

**RVRDA Grants –**

**2023 grant –** with work complete, we can now submit paperwork to RVRDA for reimbursement for new campsites (\$15,000 was awarded).

**2024 grant** - RVRDA grant application paperwork to build a prep kitchen upstairs at the Old Town Hall has been submitted. Town received a \$10,000 award in letter dated June 26, 2024. We asked for \$15,719 to support a \$19,648 project proposal.

**Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant** – Travis is meeting with Tom at DANC to move the engineering plan forward.

**Clean Energy Communities Grant 3.0** – managed by NYSERDA – conference call scheduled on July 16 at 1pm to determine if a solar array upgrade would be eligible for reimbursement. Waddington would need to complete one “High Impact Action” and submit documents of completion prior to 9/30/24 to be eligible for a \$10,000 grant.

**NY SWIMS grant** – Phase 2 was announced and is focused on lifeguard hiring / retention / compensation for CY 2024 and 2025. The county must apply for all the eligible jurisdictions, and there is only \$50,000 available for the entire county. The Town of Waddington grant application was submitted to the county on Friday June 21 (Board members were copied). Requested \$200 for advertising for lifeguard positions each year, and \$2000 for supplementing lifeguard wages/expenses for off season state mandated training. The total request was \$4400. County will notify us if/when we receive an award.

**Leishman Point Campground** – several bookings continue on the Hipcamp website into the end of July. Details were forwarded to Gwen and Jack at the beach on 6/26 and the Board was copied.

**USDA Grant application (plow truck)** – application partially completed and forwarded on June 7 to Town Clerk for help in gathering financial and other town business documents and information that needs to be included with application submission. USDA advises that grant funds for the current fiscal year have been exhausted. The Town will apply after Oct 1 this fall when grant funds are expected to be replenished in the next Federal fiscal year.

**Radio Tower space rental** - County announced on June 28 (NCN news article was forwarded to board members) that they are looking at a one-year contract with a company to lease vacant tower space to commercial carriers on the county radio towers. This company will get 20% of all revenue generated. Per our current lease agreement, the town is supposed to receive one half of any income received if space is rented on Waddington tower. This will be an agenda item when we meet with the county about the radio tower.

**Iroquois Land Next steps:** Supv McKnight reported that he has had no luck with Eric. He is at least two weeks out. He has spoken with Attorney Nash and he will make the changes in the purchase offer for permissive referendum and no full warranty deed. The board may have to hold another special meeting. He will keep everyone informed.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv McKnight reported that there is still no update. They are waiting on NYPA’s Attorneys. C McBath suggested that they contact FERC to report the issue. Supv McKnight noted that it would be the task force’s decision but he would bring the recommendation to them.

**Campground Preliminary Engineering report:** Supv McKnight reported that he is waiting for Tom. He has been training for the last couple of weeks. He will be setting up a meeting to begin the process.

**Dog Pound Fee:** Supv McKnight reported that he didn't get to check with all the municipalities concerning the bill for the dog pound improvements. Three towns have paid \$1500. The work is scheduled to be done in August. He spoke with the Town Attorney and was told it was legal to pay if there is an itemized bill. The money was budgeted in the 2024 budget. Further discussion was held.

Resolution #46

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to pay their portion for the upgrades to Moyer's Kennels upon receipt of confirmation that the improvements have been made to the satisfaction of the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets not to exceed \$1,500.

Ayes: All

Supv McKnight will contact Moyer to let him know.

**NYSERDA Insulation project:** Supv McKnight reported that Frank will be starting the insulation project this week. There are four windows on one side of the building that should be replaced and one on the side along the road. One is broken and the others are in rough shape. Frank has some used windows from a job that he did that will fit nicely and are in good shape. The current windows are 5'x 5'. The replacements will be 4' x 4'. He will charge \$500 per window.

Resolution #47

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board will have Twin Cedars Construction replace the five windows in the municipal building at a cost of \$500 per window. Ayes: All

**RVRDA Grant/Award:** Supv McKnight reported that the Town has been awarded an RVRDA grant to build a prep kitchen upstairs at the old town hall. The board requested \$19,648 but was awarded \$10,000 leaving the project \$9,648 short. The board discussed the equipment that was quoted in the grant. It is possible that costs can be reduced. We have until December 2025 to fulfill the project. If needed we can budget for it in 2025. We have not received the grant award paperwork yet. Supv McKnight will contact Kim Gilbert @ the County IDA. The board will table until the next meeting.

**Letter of Support:** The Mayor has requested the Town to submit a letter of support for a grant to restore St Paul's Church. A motion was made by Tiernan seconded by Hunter to submit a letter of support to the Village. Ayes: All

**Solar Fire:** Supv McKnight reported that there was a solar panel fire at one of the facilities here in Waddington on Saturday. It wasn't large but a fire just the same. The Fire Department stayed outside the gate. The person from the solar company stated to go inside and cut the red and black wires on the panel. This was not done. The rescue squad and fire department have real concerns about procedures for this type of emergency. C McBath noted that the new solar laws that we just passed don't have emergency operation plans in it. The battery storage law does. The board discussed another moratorium on solar. The board could also outreach to the companies with their concerns. Supv McKnight noted he would contact the Code Enforcement Officer to get his opinions. He has taken classes on solar and it knowledgeable. He will also

contact the Town Attorney to talk about another moratorium. The board will table until next meeting.

**Chase Mills Sidewalks:** Supv McKnight reported that the Town Attorney has spoken with the County Attorney. Th final decision is that it is not the town or county's responsibility for the sidewalks. There are no records. He noted that he also spoke with Supt Putney to discuss a shared services effort with the County to remove the sidewalks and let the homeowners finish the yard work. Supt Putney noted it would take one day to remove & one day to restore. There is still a lot of leg work to do but this is a start.

**Citizen's Comments:** No comments were had.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to pay bills # 24-00376-24-00443 in the amount of \$209,825.10. Ayes: All

A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by McBath to pay the bill for rental of the dozer for the campground project so that the town can submit for reimbursement of the grant money from the RVRDA. Ayes: All

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk