

## 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 June 8, 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 allowed to join the meeting from their homes.

**Present were:** Town 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, Trevor & Jasmine Johnson, Jason Ladouceur, Mark Scott, Kevin Acres, Team Ashley, Tenley & Allen Amo, Joseph Burley, Matt Rose, and Rita Curran, St Lawrence County Legislator.

**Call to Order:** Supv Hammond called the meeting to order @ 7:05PM.

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

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

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

Jason Ladouceur spoke and asked the board to consider the other options on the table for the cabins, Brandy Brook and the Town Beach vs Sucker Brook. The Board members noted that there has been non answer from NYPA and that they are no closer than they were last month to making a decision. Jason thanked them and just asked them to keep the other options in mind.

Kevin Acres addressed the board concerning their timeline discussed for the cabins. He told the board that they efforts will be a failure on the Board's part and that they will lose a years' worth of time for the projects. He told them that they should pool with the Village for more docks or something at Whittaker Park. If they were to go with the Village they could at least go to the constituents and say they accomplished something useful.

C. McBath noted that he had a constituent leave him a message stating that the Town should consider adding a boat ramp and 12-14 docks at the Sucker Brook Outlook area. He noted it's not something he is suggesting but just making a point that there are other options available. Tenley Amo stated that wouldn't be a good fit at the Sucker Brook area. C McBath noted that he is not proposing this. It is something that was brought to him.

It was asked when the next task force meeting will be. Supv Hammond noted that they hadn't met since April. They had a conference call. He will contact Steve O'Shaunassy to try and get one set up as soon as possible.

Tenley Amo stated that she agreed with what Jason said earlier that the beach would be a better place for the cabins. She also wanted to know who she could speak to help move the Task Force along for a meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Recreation:** Russ Strait reported that the Recreation Department is trying to deal with a different situation with the COVID-19 regulations. There is no summer reading program this year and no bus transportation. The beach pavilion is closed at this time along with the jungle gyms and parking lots to the beach to try and maintain social distancing. They will try to open the beach after July 1<sup>st</sup> depending on the Governor's mandates. All the lifeguards are hired and on standby for the exact date. He and the Highway Supt are working with the County Highway Department to get a traffic counter for the road going to the top of Leishman Point. There will be a dog waste container installed at the top of the hill at the beach. They are working to have a morning recreation program in place using the guidelines from the Governor and NYS Department of Health for Covid. They are discussing a pickle ball court in the civic center. They are also requesting the speed limit be reduced along the River Rd. They also wanted to know if

the walking path along River Rd will be cleaned this year. It hasn't been swept yet and there are a lot of people that use this.

Supv Hammond reported that at the last Village Board meeting they heard concerns from people about no ice in the arena for the winter. Russ noted that natural ice is no longer feasible in the area. The weather is just not there. If they got 10-12 good days of ice this winter it was a lot. The amount spent compared to the amount of time used just doesn't match up. He did note that there is a new artificial ice that comes in sheets that you can store. It might be a possibility to look at. They are also looking at alternative uses for the building. There have been numerous studies conducted.

**Rescue Squad:** C Prentice spoke with Julie. She noted that calls are up again with the lifting of restrictions. He asked about an update on the power. Supt Putney reported that Craig was here and plans on starting Friday. He will bring the wires over the office and breakroom. He will need a lift. We had Haggett's lift here all winter and he just picked it up 2 weeks ago. Supt Putney will get one from Watertown. He thinks it should be switched over by the middle of next week.

**Library:** C McBath reported that the board met by Zoom on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be no in person summer reading program this year. They are looking at a possible story walk. They haven't figured out what that would entail yet. Curbside library services will begin in phase 3 approximately June 15<sup>th</sup>. They have updated their emergency/disaster safety practices to include pandemics.

**Campground:** C McBath reported that after the last board meeting he contacted the Campground Committee just to let them know what happened so they weren't blindsided if someone approached them. There has been no meeting and no action taken.

**Cemeteries:** C McKnight reported that he is working on information to give to Dave to write the grant. He has been through two cemeteries so far getting headstone counts and driveway measurements. It will be a project throughout the summer. Supv Hammond asked if Witherbee and Whalen repair stones yearly or is it a certain process. C McKnight noted that it was a one-time project with money received from the Haggett family for Old Brookside. They repaired, treated, and cleaned stones. There will be a specific number of stones to be done in each cemetery through the grant being applied for.

**Highway:** The Highway department has been busy chipping brush and cleaning up downed trees. The water is turned on at the beach. They have cleaned up and organized the backyard at the barn for the emergency tower. They have been maintaining equipment and helped the Village put the docks in. They used the ditch witch to dig the trench between the salt she. They started mowing roadsides and had one burial.

Don Chambers, St Lawrence County Highway Superintendent called Supt Putney and said that the DOT inspected the bridge on the Halfway House Road and has posted it for 9 tons. The County won't be able to do anything with it until next year. They will have to make a turnaround for the town because the snowplows won't be able to go over it.

Jarrod from the NYS DOT said there is still no word on the CHIPS funding. The Governor hasn't made the announcement as to how much funding the Towns will receive.

The surplus equipment auction took in a total of \$4,663. He put some small stuff on the auction along with the grader. Suggest that we get rid of everything that was on there. Supv Hammond asked if he had a list of the items that were in the auction. Supt Putney stated there was an old drag box that had been buried under tires out back, the wing off the grader they got from Fort Drum, some old truck tires w/rims, an old plasma cutter, and a JD Lawnmower 46" deck.

#### Resolution # 42

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the sale of surplus equipment through Auctions International in the amount of \$4,663. This will be put into the equipment maintenance fund. Ayes: All

Supt Putney told the board that the Village picks up their garbage and our garbage all goes in the fuel pump building. When the garbage is picked up from the village parks sometimes people put fish in the bags and when it sits in the barn for a week it is pretty nasty. They had to clean out the barn and Clorox the area. The Village has proposed the purchase of an 8x10 shed to put the garbage in. The Village approved their share. Dave got a price locally and it is \$1350 for an 8x 16 shed. C Prentice asked if it will be just for garbage. Supt Putney noted that our garbage man doesn't have covered dumpsters. This will come from the building maintenance fund. Garbage is brought by the Village, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and Town.

#### Resolution #43

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the purchase of ½ of a 8x 16 shed not to exceed \$750. Ayes: All

#### **Agreement to Spend Highway Funds:**

#### Resolution #44

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to spend \$174,276.73 for general repairs on 41.82 miles of town roads. Ayes: All

C Loomis asked about the truck computer quotes. Supt Putney spoke with C McKnight and they have decided not to go forward with the purchase. C McKnight noted there is only one person who can use it. It isn't something that anyone can be easily trained on. If the Town puts all the money into the diagnostic equipment and he leaves the town is stuck with a bunch of expensive tools that no one else can use. If we need diagnostic services we can continue to have the company come and hook up the equipment.

**Gallery/Clark House:** Mark Scott reported that the gallery will reopen on Friday with all the safety precautions in place. They will open 11AM – 3PM in retail space. Any programs are on hold until phase 4. The Clark House opened last week with the precautions necessary. Masks need to be worn when coming in with hand sanitizer.

Mark noted that the virus is still out there. We have two people in Waddington that are in the ICU. One is not doing well and is not expected to make it. He noted that everyone needs to be very cautious when out in public and take all the necessary precautions. The virus has not gone away.

**East Coast Watercross:** Supv Hammond reported that there is no update. Hopefully the event will take place on September 19<sup>th</sup> if all is a go.

C Prentice things seem to be cancelled except the possibility of the East Coast Watercross and BASS Masters trying to do something. Like Mark stated the virus is still out there and we need to give due diligence to continue with hygiene efforts and masks. If the exposure is there we will be right back where we were in the beginning. Supv Hammond noted that he is optimistic that things may be able to take place in August or September but again it will be a matter of where we are at that time and we definitely need to take the steps necessary.

**Radio Tower Update:** Supt Putney met with Matt Denner last week he was waiting on the proposal from the contractor. Talked with National Grid they are waiting on the County. The

lease has been signed. We are just waiting on a copy to be returned to the Town. Backyard is all cleaned up. Supv Hammond asked if there was any earth that needs to be moved. Supt Putney told them that the place where the culvert pipes were stored they will take down about 2' so water can run away.

**Solar Project:** The Clerk reported that the Planning Board has met and approved both solar projects. The information has all been sent to the Town Attorney to work with the PILOT payment.

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv Hammond noted that the update had been discussed in the citizen's comment period. He will reach out to Steve O'Shaunessy to set something up sooner than later.

**Chase Mills Clean Up:** C Loomis reported that he had spoken with the Town Attorney concerning the cleanup at the Baidon's in Chase Mills. They had called and requested an extension due to COVID-19 and had a hard time cleaning up. He gave them a two month extension till the middle of July. There has been no response from the people on the corner.

**Paid Family Leave Act:** An employee of the Town has requested to participate in the paid family leave act. The Town is not required to participate in the program and the previous board opted out of the program. C McBath did some research on the program and reported that because there is a union this item is subject to collective bargaining. The program allows the employee a 12 week leave for certain family issues. This could cost the town extra money should it occur in the winter when they are needed for plowing. The program requires a deduction out of the employee's payroll. It is an all or nothing program. Everyone must be enrolled. They reached out to Brian with Teamsters who noted he didn't have to be in negotiation for this.

There is also the Federal Family Leave Act but the Town doesn't qualify for this because you must have 50 or more employees.

Further discussion ensued and the board decided that there needed to be more research done on the subject.

**COVID- 19 Discussion:** Supt Putney and Clerk Burns both reported that things are still being run the way that we have since the beginning. The FEMA application has a \$3300 threshold to meet before you can make any claims. This includes hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, disinfectant. It also covers employees overtime directly related to the COVID pandemic. The town may not make the threshold but the clerk will submit the application so we will be in the queue.

**County Legislator:** Rita Curran reported that there would be a USDA surplus food grant held on Sunday 9 am – Noon. There are 4500 gallons of milk, dairy boxes, and vegetable boxes available for anyone to pick up. It is at the Massena School. She told the Town & the Resource Center they could send a truck down to pick up boxes for distribution.

Rita also told the board that Ogdensburg has given a year extension on the current sales tax agreement. She also reported that sales tax is down about 16% at this time. The Board asked her if the County had paid family leave act. She told them that they do. They also asked if she had any information on BASS masters. She said she has only heard through the rumor mill and articles. They are not sure how it will be determined.

**River Rd Walking Trail:** C McBath reported that there was a recent incident involving a golf cart on Franklin Rd which resulted in a head injury and medivac to Syracuse. He brought this up because the Town has the walking trail along River Rd in which there are golf carts and motorized vehicles running on it. What are our liabilities with this? Can we put up signs that state pedestrian traffic only- no motorized vehicles. The Clerk will contact the insurance agent and town attorney regarding this.

**Citizen's Comments:** Kevin Acres reiterated his statements from the beginning of the meeting concerning the cabins.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session @ 8:46PM to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof. A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Prentice to return to regular session @ 9:15PM. Ayes: All No action was taken during executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by Hammond to pay bills # 13403 – 13455 in the amount of \$38,803.55. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by Loomis to adjourn the meeting @ 9:20PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk