

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, June 12, 2023 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: D Supv McKnight and Council members: David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter. Supv Alex Hammond was in attendance via zoom.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Alexander Butler, and Phyllis Acres.

Call to order: D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:01PM.

D Supv McKnight reported that the purpose for the special meeting was to hold a public hearing for local law #2 of the year 2023 entitled "A Local Law Adopting a Moratorium on Certain Solar Energy Uses".

The clerk read the legal notice published in the paper.

D Supv McKnight opened the public hearing @ 7:02PM. He asked if there were any public comments to be had. None being made the public hearing was closed @ 7:03PM.

D Supv McKnight then asked if there were any comments or concerns from the board members. None had the following resolution was passed.

Resolution # 46

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve Local Law #2 of 2023 entitled "A Local Law Adopting a Moratorium on Certain Solar Energy Uses". Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by McBath to adjourn the meeting @ 7:03PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: D Supv McKnight and Council Members: David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter. Supv Alex Hammond was in attendance via zoom.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, William and Rita Jackson, Phyllis Acres, Rita Curran, County Legislator, and Dan Andress.

Call to order: D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:03PM/

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to approve the minutes with the change in wording to resolution #43. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comment: Mr. Jackson addressed the board concerning his request for the purchase of the property in front of his home. D Supv McKnight told him he was on the agenda under old business.

Dan Andress addressed the board stating that he had heard that Supv Hammond was accepting a job in Albany and would not be here to fulfill his Supv duties. D Supv McKnight told Dan he could address his concerns after Rita Curran gives her report.

County Legislator report: Rita Curran reported that the County is fiscally ahead over 11 million in the unassigned fund balance. This has been achieved by departments not spending their entire budget, not purchasing in excess, and by not hiring new employees. They have lost employees through attrition and there is just not enough people to hire to fill the positions. D Supv McKnight asked Rita at what point does the count say they have enough fund balance. Rita noted that due to the fund balance they have been able to reduce the county taxes from \$8.52 per thousand to \$7.90 per thousand. They are also looking at some new programs in healthcare. They are looking at incentives to pay some student loans for qualified people in EMS, Dentists, and Speech pathologists.

The other item that came out of their meeting was a report of a Supreme Court Case in which a person's home was repossessed and sold at an auction. The house sold for \$100,000 and there was an outstanding bill of \$50,000. The owners sued for the remaining \$50,000. The Supreme Court said they were entitled to the balance after all the bills were paid. She noted that any extra money that is made on parcels sent to auction is used for blighted properties that need to be torn down. If the County is no longer able to keep this money they won't be able to attend to properties that they have taken over in disrepair. The County will be monitoring the progress. The County Attorney is looking at what else can be done if we need to.

D Supv McKnight asked Rita if there has been any resolution to the repeater on the radio towers. She told him that they will be putting new equipment on the towers and they will raise the town's repeater when they have the company in the area. She said they are going with low band repeaters. D Supv McKnight noted that the Town has high band radios. He wondered if the radios could be reprogrammed. She noted that he should contact Matt Denner on this.

Supv Hammond: Supv Hammond addressed the board and citizens to describe what is happening with his National Guard duties. He noted that he was recently on a 9-month deployment to Germany. During this time D Supv McKnight filled in for him doing the day-to-day duties of the Town Supervisor. He returned on May 12th and will take over the Town Supervisor duties as of May 15th. On deployment he was ranked Captain. Since then, he has been upgraded to Major in which he must take training for during the month of June. He will be deployed to Fort Jackson North Carolina for phase 1 of his training which will be for two weeks. His second phase will begin June 16th and end June 30th. Once this is completed he will come

home to get things in line and will start in Latham on a temporary assignment till October as a State Casualty Affairs Coordinator.

Dan Andress noted that he was elected to serve the taxpayers of Waddington and if he can't be here then he is not providing the person service he was elected to do.

Supv Hammond noted that he had already thought about this and stated that when he was elected to the Supervisor's position he was still a full-time college student and not here full-time. He also noted that he had yearly active guard duties for two weeks at a time, was on active-duty orders during covid and ran the COVID center in Potsdam for 6 months. He was still able to fulfill his obligations as Town Supervisor. He told them that he would like to be able to give it a fair shake to do both jobs and if it doesn't work out he would let them know.

C Tiernan asked him about attending board meetings while on active duty because he wouldn't legally be able to do them via zoom. He noted he would be able to schedule leave to attend board meetings.

Dan Andress reiterated that he was hired to show up and do the job he was hired for. He noted that he needed to be boots on the ground same as is expected in the military. He needs to be here to do the job properly.

D Supv McKnight asked if anyone else had any questions of Supv Hammond. None had he noted that we would proceed with the rest of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Library: Library's main focus currently is hiring a new director. 4 interviews were scheduled immediately prior to the last meeting. 2 were no shows. She noted that Ashley is covering but is not interested in the position.

Expecting more to be scheduled before the next meeting. The library's electric bill was back to zero.

Recreation: The Recreation committee is finalizing the flyer and the rec program details. There was a meeting tonight at 6 with rec staff and at 630 with library. They are trying to determine the location for reading program pavilion vs. library.

D Supv McKnight reported that the seaweed has been harvested. The day had to be switched but it was a calm day when they did it. He went further out in the channel and there was one payloader bucket full. They are hoping that this will get us through to the end of the year. If it doesn't he will come back.

Highway: The highway department has performed general maintenance on trucks and equipment, cleaning up and chipping brush from the winter storms, hauling stone for road projects, dug three graves and one cremation, hauled a load of sludge to the transfer station for the Village, cleaned the gutters at the library with the lift, took the air conditioning plugs out of the ceiling in the library, 1 man went to Lisbon and did rebates, Lisbon moved the D7 to the gravel pit for cleanup, fixed ruts at New Brookside cemetery and Seaway Lawn hydroseeded it, changed one driveway culvert, installed dead end sign on the Carr Rd, mowed the lookout twice, 3 trucks went to Lisbon for six days doing cold paving, sprayed dust control on Halfway house and Irish Settlement Rd, 3 trucks worked with the County for four days cutting shoulders on CR 28, truck and loader did seaweed at the beach, and they had a track hoe from the County at the gravel pit for two days.

The department also had one man and one village man put up the Veteran's Memorial banners in the Village. The Board should thank Frank Davey who donated his lift to put them up.

Cemetery: D Supv McKnight reported that the Patriot Marker service went well. There were 15 organizations involved and 69 people were in attendance. Seaway Valley Lawncare did an excellent job getting the cemetery ready for the service. Northrop's Greenhouse has replaced three of the trees that were planted there. Tom and Susie have been watering the trees. Sandy Wright is painting the signs in the cemeteries. Al and Tenley Amo cleaned the stones and mulched the trees. The next cleanup in the cemeteries is scheduled for the fall.

Grants/Alternative Revenues:

2022 RVRDA grant – Town Hall stonework – Still need to draft contract and set dates for work to be done? Funds must be used by Dec 2023. The Clerk will look in the files from the last time that Evan's did work for us to see what we used.

2023 RVRDA Grant application – (\$20,000 for Leishman Point Campground)

Awards are to be announced sometime in July/August 2023 timeframe.

ARPA Grant: Of the \$129,948.33 awarded, a total of \$107,812.19 can be moved to town funds. 10,821.20 is obligated to finalize phase 1 and phase 2 work, and the remainder of 11,314.94 will be available for phase 3 (paving). I suggest we create a work plan and timeline to complete phases 1 and 2 work and decide on how we will fund the remainder of phase 3 paving (estimated paving shortfall of about \$25,000 we will need come up with).

LEISHMAN POINT CAMPSITES:

Jim Thew and Carol Burns have been working to finalize bank deposits from last year into town account. As of June 12: We have 7 ratings (100%) and 5 reviews on the website, all positive.

2023 current reservations (all on site 1):

May 14; May 20-23 ; May 27-28; June 16-18; June 23-25; June 25-27; July 1-2; July 19-21;

Sept 12-13

Energizing Rural Communities / Municipal Solar Project – Upon reviewing this application and its' requirements in depth after the last board meeting, it was going to be impossible to meet all the application requirements by the submission deadline of May 24. Dep Supv McKnight was advised. We will continue to seek similar grant opportunities related to solar development by the town in the next grant cycle.

Iroquois Land: What are our next steps after the 5/22/23 presentation by Scott Schlueter?

Department of Energy Grant: C McBath reported that this is a federal grant with no match. This could be used for municipal solar funds. The pre application needs to be submitted by July 24th. He has requested the Board's permission to engage with Rob Company for this purpose. A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter for C McBath to talk with Rob and to submit a pre application for this project. Ayes: All

Historian:

Provided April Report to Village and Town.

Delivered a short history talk at First Sunday concert at St. Paul's

Attended St. Lawrence County historian meeting in Madrid on May 6th.

Zoom meeting with Madrid historian, Tracey Putney, and WHA to plan school Decoration Day/Memorial Day presentation.

Still working on the walking tour script for on-line tour.

Took part in the school presentation on May 18th, presented talk to three different groups of first and second graders.

Attended Museum meeting on the 17th.

I started museum hours Weds. & Saturdays in May, we have had a few visitors.

Received a few donations from Marion Hill of Waddington in the month of May.

Gathered information on the McKnight and Bill Dalton farms for a special Dairy Month exhibit at the county Courthouse during the month of June.

The County Historian will have a special reception for the exhibit at the county Legislature meeting on June 5th at 5:00 at the courthouse, public is invited.

The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of June.

Worked on gathering items for the Memorial Day Exhibit on the town square after the parade and service.

Worked with the WHA on the Citizens Ball.

Received our new map cabinet, started working on filling it up with our older documents.

Took part in the Memorial Day parade.

Next museum meeting is June 21st 6:00 at the Town Hall.

Next WHA meeting is June 27th, 7:00 at the Town Hall.

Iroquois Land: Scott Schlueter sent D Supv McKnight a text asking if the board had made any decision concerning the Iroquois land. The Board noted that they thought it was in his court to

see if there was any interest from the land trusts. They will talk to the Assessor to see if he can give them an idea of the value of the land on the left side of the road.

Iroquois vandalism: There has been no progression on this. They are positive that the person no longer lives at the address registered on the plates. D Supv McKnight talked to the officer this afternoon. He is off until next week and will try to get some more information. He will talk to the witness and then turn it over to the local troopers to find out more information. The Board asked if they could claim a civil suit against the owner of the truck. We have videos and pictures. D Supv McKnight will reach out to the Town Attorney.

Bathroom Project: D Supv McKnight reported that Frank will cut the doorway tomorrow and Barkley's will install the new door on Thursday. A new drop box has been ordered and the floor will be completed next week when the door is finished.

Municipal Solar Project: D Supv McKnight reported that he had spoken with Rob Company on the municipal solar project. He noted that Rob stated there are other funds out there now to help with this type of project.

Local Government Task Force: D Supv McKnight noted that the last meeting was not a long wone. NYPA only had one person on the zoom meeting. A heated discussion was held as to why they were not attending the meetings. They changed the schedule to the 3rd Wednesday to accommodate the municipal task force members. They discussed getting the attorney involved if they need to. It is a FERC requirement to attend the meetings. They might even send a letter to them.

The shoreline stabilization projects that were delayed due to no frost are completed. They are three years behind in these projects but can get the updated power line projects completed on time. The Iroquois Dam survey is done. They should have the legal and engineered plans in place by the next meeting.

County Snowplow Contract: The Supv Association met with the County representatives on the County Snowplow Contract. It will be presented to the County Legislature for approval.

Jackson Property Purchase: Mr. Jackson presented the board with a new map that had the dimensions of the property he is looking to purchase. It is a piece that is 53' x 32'. C McBath noted that we would have to sell it for fair market value and would have to be appraised. It was also noted that during the Memorial Day dedication there were people standing in that area. Mr. Jackson noted that it wasn't in the area he is proposing to purchase. Supv Hammond noted that historically it has been for the public to use. D Supv McKnight noted his concern is that if the board sells it the memorial will not be able to expand in the future. Further discussion ensued and the board noted that they really can't tell where this falls without looking at it. Supt Putney noted that he would make sure there were stakes there and the board would come and look at it. The Board discussed and will meet at the Jackson's property on Monday, June 19th @ 7PM to look at it. The Clerk will advertise in the newspaper.

Uniform Contract: D Supv McKnight reported that the uniform contract has been signed with Unifirst. They are now fitting the guys with their uniforms. Our representative is a local guy from Massena.

Municipal Parking Lot: D Supv McKnight has spoken with the mayor and the Village Board has approved the parking lot/road details if we get approved graded plans from an engineer. Kevin Smith can't do the engineering due to a conflict of interest with his job. He works for the State DOT.

St Lawrence Engineering, an extended arm of 4th Coast- Rob Company has started working on it. They will schedule the milling of the code pave and chip seal on top.

NYCLASS: The Clerk reported that the accounts have been set up and money moved to NYCLASS.

Volunteer Exemption: The board discussed the volunteer exemption and would like to make sure that it states in our local law that the fire department and rescue squad must submit a list of eligible volunteers to the local assessor. D Supv McKnight will contact the town attorney regarding this.

New Business:

LWRP: The mayor has approached the town to do an update to the joint local waterfront revitalization program. It was adopted in 1991. There are grants available to do the updates. It is a 75% grant with a 25% match. This would be split between the town/village. It won't be released until next year so it can be budgeted for 2024.

Car Charger: The Town received an email that the contract for the car charging station would be expiring. They sent a proposal that would cost \$689 per year for both chargers. The board discussed it and will look further into it. We have not paid any fees since it was installed.

Right of Way Request: A letter was received from Jill Michno a licensed real estate salesperson who works for Fiacco Realty, LLC. She is requesting the town give something in writing or an easement for the property located @ 36 Main St. This house sits right next to the old town hall and over the years people have parked in the driveway between the two buildings. The house is for sale and there is concern from interested purchasers that there is nothing in writing allowing this practice. The Board discussed the situation and noted that they did not want to put something in writing due to the liability with the close proximity of the buildings. They will have the attorney send a letter.

Citizen's Comments:

Phyllis Acres asked D Supv McKnight when the Local Government Task Force meetings were held. He told her they are the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 4:30PM in Waddington's municipal building.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to enter executive session @ 9:10PM for discussions relating to proposed, pending, or current litigation and discussions for the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation or relating to appointment, demotion, discipline, or removal.
A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to return to regular session @ 10:10PM. No action was taken during the executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to approve payment of bills #22-00328 – 22-00401 in the amount of \$117,677.04. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by McBath to adjourn the meeting @ 10:12PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 7PM in the municipal building.

Present were: D Supv McKnight and Councilors: David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk and Kevin Liddell

Call to Order: D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Legal notice of advertisement was read by the Clerk.

Letter of Resignation: A letter of resignation was read by the Clerk from Supv Alex Hammond stating his last official day would be June 30, 2023.

Resolution #47

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Supervisor Alex V Hammond effective June 30, 2023. Ayes: All

A letter of resignation was read by the clerk from Councilmember Travis McKnight effective date June 30, 2023.

Resolution #48

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Councilmember Travis S McKnight effective June 30, 2023.

Ayes: McBath, Tiernan, Hunter Abstain: McKnight

Supervisor Appointment:

Resolution #49

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

WHEREAS, Town Law §64, subdivision 5 authorizes the town board to fill a vacancy should one occur;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Travis S. McKnight to fill the vacancy of Town Supervisor effective July 1, 2023. Ayes: McBath, Tiernan, Hunter

Abstain: McKnight.

Citizen's Comments: There were no comments.

C Tiernan reported that the people involved with the morning recreation program were going to be certified in CPR/First Aid through Kathy Valancius at the MW School. They will try to do it this week and payment will need to be made to her after. This will be before our next board meeting. The cost will be \$83 per person for 6 kids.

Resolution #50

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve payment to Kathy Valancius in the amount not to exceed \$550. Ayes: All

C. McBath reported that the Village held their first local planning committee meeting for the NY Forward Community grant. This grant can be applied for by the town for a project within the perimeter of the Village grant area. The old town hall is in this block. Projects for consideration must be submitted by July 31st with awards in October/November. The board discussed and would like to submit for the work at the old town hall.

Alex informed the board that he had spoken with the Board of Elections. Travis will be on the ballot for Supervisor. He is already on the ballot for Town Council so his vacancy committee will appoint someone to run on that ticket. Of course, there could always be a write in campaign. Alex suggested that the board put out an advertisement requesting resumes for anyone interested in sitting on the board as a councilmember. He offered to write a press release for this and the resignation/appointment of the Supervisor. He will send it to the board for approval and the clerk can put it out.

D Supv McKnight noted that the Board was going to move the remainder of the meeting to the Jackson residence located @ 122 Lincoln Ave to look at the parcel of property that Mr. Jackson is interested in purchasing. No decisions or other business will be made during the visit.

Adjournment: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to adjourn the meeting @ 7:45PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk