

Regular Meeting

A meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Shaun Frusco, RIC Energy, Rita Curran, County Legislator, Adam Rutherford, Justin Norman, Anthony & Janet Hill, and Phyliss 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 Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to approve the minutes as submitted. Ayes: Martin, Tiernan, and Hunter. Abstain: McBath.

Citizen Comments:

Anthony & Janet Hill addressed the board concerning the sidewalks in front of their house in Chase Mills. The section of sidewalk in front of their home is in real bad shape. Janet told the board that they had done some research on the sidewalks and was told that the County put the sidewalks in but no one had any record of it and they denied owning them. They had a family member fall and broke her arm on them. They would like them fixed or removed so they are not a liability.

Supv McKnight reported that he had spoken with Don Chambers, County highway Superintendent and no one seems to know for sure they belong to. They have determined that the County put them in a long time ago but are not going to maintain them. He has spoken with our Town Attorney and would suggest that we make a local law pertaining to sidewalks that would take the town out of the equation and allow the homeowner to either remove or repair. He told the Hill's he will get some more information and see where the Town can go from there.

Public Hearing: Local Law #1 Amendment to Town Development Code. Supv McKnight opened the public hearing @ 7:10 with the Clerk reading the published legal notice. He asked for public comment. Justin Norman noted that he was concerned about the proposed solar farm that will use 550 acres of tile farmland near Jenner Rd. He noted that in our proposed local law it states that a project can use 35% of well drained land. The Town of Oswegatchie's local law states that they can only use 10%. He asked if the Town could look at the lower percentage rate for their local law. Supv McKnight noted that a project 20MW or larger to avoid tile drained farmland will come down to the Town and County Planning Board's approval. They will do all they can for the best interests of the Town. No other public comments were made. Supv McKnight closed the public comment period @ 7:20PM. He then asked the board if there were any further discussions. The Board discussed the change requested by Mr. Norman. While they feel he has a valid point the solar moratorium will expire at the end of June and the Board can't extend it without having another local law in place. He would really like to have the new regulations in place before the moratorium ends. The Board will talk with Code Enforcement and the Town Planning Board to see what they suggest. In the meantime, they could pass the local law as submitted, do the research, and make changes later. The Board agreed that this would be the way to handle it.

Resolution #41

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve local law #1 of the year 2024 Amendment to the Town Development Code Solar. Ayes: All

Resolution #42

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby rescind the moratorium on solar projects in the Town of Waddington. Ayes: All

Local Law #2 Battery Storage law: Supv McKnight opened the public hearing for the Battery Storage law @ 7:40PM with the reading of the published local law. No comments were made. The public comment period was closed. He asked the Board if there was any discussion. C Tiernan noted that battery storage makes her nervous. We don't have any in Waddington but this law will regulate them if they do make an application. This can also be revisited if necessary.

Resolution #43

Motioned by: Martin

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby pass local law # 2 of the year 2024 entitled "Battery Storage Law". Ayes: All

County Legislature update: Rita Curran was in attendance to update the town on what is happening at the County level. She told them that the sales tax should be right on par. Someone made a back payment of \$5,000,000 on their sales tax putting us right where we need to be. The County is doing extra roads this year. None of them are in Waddington. Supt Putney asked why the County didn't continue their work on CR 28. They stopped at CR 31 in 2023 and should have continued to State Highway 37. This is the worst end of the road. He noted that the other end of County Route 28 towards Ogdensburg has been completed three times. Nothing has been done at the Waddington end. She noted that she will talk to someone and request information on it. She noted that the County will be scheduling meetings concerning the towers. They are usually Thursday/Friday Mornings @ 8AM. Supv McKnight noted that they had a meeting scheduled to discuss the tower but had to be cancelled. The County is revisiting the EMS Advisory Board. Nothing has been done. They have a new head and would like to get some fresh blood on the board. If the Board knows anyone who would be interested please let her know. They meet every other month for approximately 1 ½ hours in Massena or Canton. They are discussing how to recruit new people and how to pay for them. A new airboat has been purchased. She would like to see Waddington, Louisville, and Massena learn how to use the boat since it would be most likely to be used in these communities in an emergency due to the river's proximity. The Board thanked Rita for attending and giving them an update.

Committee Reports

Highway: Supt Putney reported that they have removed the cover on the air conditioner at the library. He also hopes to finish the campground at the beach this week.

General Maintenance on trucks and equipment

2 trucks from Norfolk hauling stone for 1 day

2 trucks to Norfolk blacktopping 2 days

Hauling stone for buck road and Townline road construction

Loading out surplus equipment that was sold at auction

Turned on water for caretaker's beach shed

1 grave and 1 cremation

Excavating road for campground

Grading dirt roads

Library: C Martin reported that one of the little libraries has been damaged. The library is requesting that the town fix the doors on it. Unfortunately, the Highway Department is in full swing on road repairs and does not have time to fix. The Board suggested that they contact Brody Baldwin the Eagle Scout who constructed them. They are sure he would be able to help. The Clerk noted that someone had called the office stating that they needed to talk with someone about the little library that was damaged. She gave the call to the mayor since it was in the Village. He was going to contact them. She will check to see what he found out.

C Martin also submitted the final draft of the Library MOU passed at the last board meeting.

Recreation: The Recreation Committee talked about the NY Swims Grant. C McBath noted that the Town couldn't apply for this portion of the grant because it is for capital improvements. The Town does not own the land on which the beach sits. It is leased from NYPA and we can't make improvements to their land.

Cemeteries: C Hunter reported that the action grant check was received for \$3000 from Alcoa last week. We are on the list for the Alcoa Action Grant for 2025. The grant money check was taken to Carol.

The committee is currently deciding on planting 5 new trees at the Union Cemetery this year. The rule signs are being placed in the cemeteries. The flag was up between the Catholic and Old Brookside cemeteries before Memorial Day weekend.

Grants/Alternative Revenues:

RVRDA Grant –

2024 grant - RVRDA grant application paperwork to build a prep kitchen upstairs at the Old Town Hall has been submitted. Applications will be reviewed and awards are anticipated to be announced in July 2024.

Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant – Strategic Plan Teams meeting June 10.

Clean Energy Communities Grant 3.0 – managed by NYSERDA – new announcement recently released by Governor. Waddington needs to complete one “High Impact Action” and submit documents of completion prior to 9/30/24 to be eligible for a \$10,000 grant. More work will need to be done on this in the coming weeks/months if we want to apply. Supv McKnight noted that his representative Nancy suggested that we add one more table to our solar array or replace the current tables with new ones to increase productivity.

NY SWIMS grant - This program was funded in the 2024 state budget. Research was conducted and information forwarded to board members on May 7. \$150 million is available for municipalities and not for profits for a competitive grant program that requires a 20% local match of whatever is applied for. First round of funding will be between 60 and 90 million available for construction or renovation of “municipal swimming facilities” in “underserved communities” across the state (per the grant guidance, on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), Waddington is a “4” on the poverty level). The State Office of Parks and Recreation will manage this program. Expansion or renovation of public restrooms, bathhouses, showers, shade structures and pavilions are all eligible expenses. Applicants must own or have a long-term lease (“site control” per the grant) on the property where the project will take place. Must provide a copy of a minimum 10-year lease from the time the application is submitted. A grants online seminar with additional information will be held between now and May 15 (date to be announced). Applications must be received prior to 5pm 07/12/24. Info forwarded to the Rec Committee liaison.

USDA Grant application (plow truck) – application partially completed. Will need Town Clerk's help in gathering financial and other town business documents and information that needs to be included with application submission.

Reviewed County Planning Office grants document forwarded by Town Clerk.

Museum: Historian Kathy Putney submitted the following.

I attended the Village board and Museum board meetings in May.

I continue to be open on Wednesday's 2:00 – 4:00 and will be adding Friday's 2:00-4:00 Starting June 14th.

I am still working on sending invitations to those 75 and older to come to the Golden Agers Luncheon on Thursday August 1st, Homecoming Weekend.

I worked with the WHA and Tracey Putney on the Memorial Day projects. Both projects went very well, and we had lots of positive feedback.

We had the 2nd concert at Old St. Paul's venue, and everyone enjoyed the music of Whiskey Room. We had about 40 turn out for this concert. The next concert will be the Fort Drum Brass Quintet starting at 6:30 on Sat. June 15th. Please spread the word.

We are having the 2nd Annual Citizen's Ball this coming Sat. night 7:00 – 11:00.

The DJ will be Todd Truax and we will have beer and wine by donations and snacks. There will also be a silent auction with lots of great things. This year's theme is the 1920's and 30's. So, get your outfits together and come out and enjoy a fun night.

There will be a Trivia night on Friday June 21st at 7:00 at the American Legion put on by the WHA. Get your team together and join in and test your knowledge. The cost will be 25.00 per team.

I held my first walking tour last Saturday and only had two people, but they had fun learning about the village history. Next one will be at the end of June.

There will be no museum meeting in June, but we will meet in July.

Museum: C Tiernan reported Museum meeting was May 15th.

Concerts at the church continue. Approximately 40 people attended the last one.

Planning the Golden Ages luncheon-102 invites

John Ogden was interested in taking his family's ashes from the Ogden vault. Currently cannot get in the vault, but this would be referred to the Town if he pursues this.

Fort Drum brass playing June 15th

WHA trivia night June 21st

Planning a fall history day in October

Village applying for restore NY grant for church and rectory work

Next meeting September 18

Rescue Squad: C Tiernan reported that the Treasurer report was reviewed.

Membership-2 removed and one probationary driver approved

They need EMT's!!

Still lacking coverage and discussion around attendance to calls. Paid EMT discussion tabled until fall.

Discussed July 4 and Homecoming parades

May 23 calls. 6 dropped.

Old Business:

Iroquois Land Next Steps: Supv McKnight reported that a purchase offer has been submitted. He is awaiting feedback from the Attorney. He will keep everyone posted as things develop.

Local Government Task Force: They are still waiting for NYPA attorneys to finish the final draft.

Campground: Supv McKnight reported that he has talked Tom Hines and will set up a meeting with DANC to get the engineering report going.

Campground Construction Progress: Supt Putney reported that he has gotten the road in to the sites. The utilities have been stubbed in under the road. He used 30- 35 loads of sand and topsoil. Some road scrapings. He had to purchase gravel and stone from Curran's. The RVRDA grant is \$15,000. We will have spent all of this. It just needs to be hydroseeded. He got a quote from Jason Curran for \$2,500. He will be able to do it Saturday if the board approves.

Resolution #44

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to hire Jason Curran to hydroseed the campground area in the amount of \$2,500. Ayes: All

Speed Reduction Request:

Supv McKnight has been contacted to request a speed reduction at the corner of CR 31 & CR33 (Chipman Corners). This request would be for each side of the intersection. The board discussed and the following resolution passed.

Resolution #45

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Martin

WHEREAS, the current posted speed limit at the intersection of County Route 31 & County Route 33 is 55 MPH (also known as Chipman Corners); and

WHEREAS, Both County Route 31 & County Route 33 are heavily traveled roadway used by passenger cars, large commercial vehicles, and all sorts of slow-moving agricultural equipment; and

WHEREAS, visibility to turn onto County Route 31 from County Route 33 is limited due to the curve at the intersection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board requests that the speed limit in the vicinity of the intersection of County Route 31 and County Route 33 be reduced for a distance of one-half mile or farther on each side of the intersection. Ayes: All

GL & Cities Initiative: C McBath noted that the board had received an email from a representative from the GL & Cities initiative. He would like to hear what they have to say for the town's current coastal hazards and needs. The Board discussed and will set something up.

Dog Pound Fee: The Town has received an invoice from Dan Moyer for \$1,500 to make improvements to the pound as required by the new Ags & Markets laws. He has asked that each town/village he represents contribute this amount. Supv McKnight noted that the consensus at the County Supervisor's Association was no. He will reach out and see what they are all thinking at this time and discuss at the next meeting.

Citizen's Comments:

Phyllis Acres asked if the draft from the NYPA attorneys will review the projects and money to be spent. Supv McKnight noted that the public will learn when the final draft is complete. The Local Government Task Force needs to see and approve first.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Martin to enter executive session @ 9:05 PM to discuss negotiations associated with the Taylor Law. A motion was made by Hunter, seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @ 9:55PM. No action was taken during the executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to approve bills # 24-00314 – 24-00375 in the amount of \$128,928.22. Ayes: All

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

Respectfully submitted

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk