

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** Supervisor Alex Hammond and Councilmembers: Travis McKnight, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Bob Sessions, Gehrig Putney, James Miller, Patty Vanpatten, Katelyn Agen, Lilly LeMere, Lany Tiernan, Rita Curran, St. Lawrence County Legislator, and Sue Duffy.

Via Zoom: Jon Mayette, Mark Scott, Tenley Amo, Kevin Acres, Michelle Jones, and Rick Mayette.

**Call to Order:** Supv Hammond called the meeting to order at 7:04PM.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Hunter to approve the minutes as submitted. A motion was made by Hammond, seconded by Tiernan to approve the minutes from the special meeting held on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Ayes: All

Supv Hammond reported that Councilman McBath would not be present at the meeting. He is Florida watching his daughter play softball for Clarkson University. He wished them luck.

**Citizen's Comments:** Mark Scott told the board the deadline for articles in the Waddington Recorder will be April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Jon Mayette had questions about the ag lands bid. He asked if the bids were awarded by total dollars bid or by parcel. The bids are awarded by individual parcel. He also asked when the bids would be due. The clerk told him that bids must be to her before the April meeting begins. He could bring it in @ 7PM if he wished to do so.

Gerhig Putney stated that he had heard the town board was entertaining a campground on the point. Supv Hammond noted that they were not going to do anything like that. They have too many irons in the fire to do that currently. The lands will be bid strictly for agricultural purposes. Gehrig also noted that the board should consider whether the person bidding on the lands has the equipment to maintain the property or it will grow up to scrub. The Power Authority property is fenced and made for grazing.

**Floor Drain Bid:** The legal notice was read by the clerk. The board received one bid from AJK Site Development in the amount of \$44,000. The Board discussed aspects of the project. It is being paid for with ARPA money. We have received the first payment. The board asked Supt Putney if the oil/water separator was included in the work bid. He told them the Highway Dept was going to install that. It is having to be ordered and is another \$10,000. C. McKnight stated that he was happy with the price and the longer the town waits the more it will cost. C. Hunter noted that the sooner we get started the better.

### Resolution #27

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the bid from AJK Site Development to install the new floor drains in the highway department in the amount of \$44,000. Start of the project will be coordinated with the Highway Superintendent. Ayes: All

**Solar Permitting Fees:** C. McKnight reported that he had spoken with Tony regarding the solar permitting fees. Tony was unable to make the meeting. C. McKnight requested that the Board put a moratorium on any new solar projects submitted until the next board meeting when Tony can get information to all the members.

## Resolution #28

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby place a moratorium on any new solar applications submitted through April 11<sup>th</sup> when the full board will be available, and information brought by the Code Enforcement Officer for consideration. Ayes: All

**St Lawrence County Legislator Report:** Rita Curran was present to update the Town Board about activity on the County Government level. She told them that last year the County budgeted \$60 million for sales tax and received \$72 million. The County is applying to keep the 4<sup>th</sup> penny from sales tax permanently. The first three cents 83% stays with the County the remaining is divided with the City of Ogdensburg, towns, and villages. Sales tax is up the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter due to inflation and higher gas prices. The County has taken their windfall and has paid off some debt. C McKnight asked if there is any talk of lowering the fuel tax should the prices keep going up. Rita noted that Harry Wilson, candidate for Governor has challenged the governor to remove the sales tax and use some of the 10 billion slush fund for a while. She reported that the DSS investigation continues. They are working on policy and procedures. If there is anyone that has had a problem with DSS now would be the time for their problems to be heard.

Covid transmission rates are low. The County continues to hold clinics for immunizations and boosters. They have changed the Covid map that reports the cases.

She asked Supt Putney if the problem with the antennas has been resolved. He noted that the reception is not any better than it was. He said the antennas are not high enough on the tower.

Rita told him she will contact Matt Denner to see what they are going to do about them.

Rita also reported that the County had been able to lower the tax rate to \$8.02 per thousand for 2022. Supv Hammond stated that it was great that they could lower the taxes but how had they done it? Was it sales tax? Rita noted that due to the increase in sales tax they were able to pay off some long-term debt saving on spending.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** C McKnight reported that the highway department has been doing maintenance on trucks and equipment, plowed, and sanded thirty-two times, have done snow removal on Village streets two times, and thawed three frozen culverts. NCC installed the fire alarm in the Town Barn and Municipal building.

Supt Putney reported that fuel is the big issue at this time. They have spent \$7800 more this year than at the same time in 2021. February and March 2021 they plowed and sanded 18 times as opposed to thirty-two times in 2022. The total spent considers the number of times out and the increase in fuel prices. He is looking at getting on the County bid for fuel. They get a rate locked in with MX Fuels. The Board noted they would have to keep an eye on this. It was figured out that the Town should save approximately \$23,000 by changing health insurance to the Teamster's policy. This will help the budget.

Supv Hammond reported that the Teamster's contract has been settled and a new contract is in effect for the highway department for the next three years.

**Rescue Squad:** C Hunter reported that the rescue squad responded to 19 calls in February. They continue to look for volunteers and EMT's. Julie McBath said they are looking into options of an EMT on a per diem basis.

C McKnight and C Hunter did the walkthrough of the Rescue Squad on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The building is in good shape. The windows on the far end of the building will need to be addressed. On Monday the furnace quit. They called Larry Wright, Wright Choice Furnace repair. There was a faulty switch. The Rescue Squad will pay for the service because we don't have a signed lease. The Board discussed what should be the Town's responsibility for the building. C McKnight noted that it should be just like someone renting an apartment. They are responsible for any inside updates, furnishing, and cosmetic painting that they want to do. The Board will be responsible for the building and furnace.

Julie and the Town Clerk have been discussing the possibility of the Squad jumping on the Town's wireless since we are all in the same building. The clerk has contacted our new IT

people to see what we would have to do. He will get back to her on this. C Hunter noted that we should do what we can to reduce the stress on the volunteers so they can concentrate on their task they are contracted to do.

C. McKnight noted that expenses would be taken from the line item that is used for the rest of this building. The Board may need to revisit the budget as needed. They will also look at the windows and address at the next board meeting.

#### Resolution #29

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to renew the lease with the Rescue Squad with the following amendments:

The Rescue Squad (tenant) will be responsible for any inside updates, furnishing, and cosmetic painting that they want to do. The Town (Landlord) will be responsible for the building, roof, and furnace. Ayes: All

**Library:** Supv Hammond reported that he was going to contact a snow removal company that does Community Bank. They do commercial snow removal. C Tiernan asked if Bonnie was still doing the snow removal. Supv Hammond noted she was. Hopefully we are done with snow for the season.

C Tiernan reported that Bonnie submitted her financial reports, activity use for the library, and updated the board on the grants she is applying for. She has also submitted her annual report. She contacted the elevator company about the inspection. They will be getting back to her when the phone line is restored. The HVAC system has been installed. Supt Putney noted that the company must come back and install the unit outside.

**Grants/Alternative Revenue:** C McBath submitted the following report:

**RVRDA Grant:** The fire alarm system installation is complete. He spoke with Supt Putney who stated that they did a good job. He spoke with Robert Crump at NCC and an invoice will be sent to the Clerk for payment. Once the bill is paid, the paperwork for the RVRDA can be completed and we can be reimbursed.

Supv Hammond noted that the period for applications to the RVRDA is now open. He asked the board if they would like to apply and what would they like to apply for. The board discussed and thought we should continue with the old town hall. Repair of the steeple, steps, or windows. The Clerk will pull the previous submission for the old town hall. All the information needed should be able to come from there.

**USDA Grant:** C McBath has forwarded all the paperwork, completed as far as he could take it. The clerk is working on the list of documents needed. One of the documents required is the final budget numbers for 2021 town budget. He noted he would like to get a copy of it just to see where we ended up. He thinks that the town might be challenged before the end of this current budget cycle because of inflation and rising fuel costs. One the documents are together Supv Hammond can sign it and it's ready for submission. We approved to submit at the last meeting. (Resolution #20)

**ARPA:** C McBath is waiting for the Assoc of Towns to release the draft template for the April 30 report for the ARPA grants. During the AOT webinar he previously attended on ARPA they said they were putting one together. He plans on getting together with Supt Putney to finalize the numbers for the ARPA report due in April.

**Iroquois Land:** C McBath spoke with Supv Hammond to review the sections of the SEQRA that he had questions on. He was going to discuss with Rob Campany and should have an updated plan. If the SEQRA has been updated, he suggests the board move to the next step and send it to the planning board with a copy of our concept drawings to keep the process mobbing.

Supv Hammond reported that he has spoken with Rob Campany, and he has made the corrections that we discussed. The Town Planning Board will be the lead agency on the SEQRA. The board discussed and would like to have the Town Attorney review and then get it together for submission to the Town Planning Board.

A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Tiernan to send the SEQRA Part 1 to the Town Attorney for review. Ayes: All

Supv Hammond noted that we need to make sure that the HIP Camp site is up and actively running. Once we are sure we can put a link on our website.

Rita Curran noted that the Youth Advocacy Grant application period is now open. This money can be used for your recreation programs. She will get the information to the Clerk. She also noted that she is trying to get additional money to supply towns with an AED machine.

**Cemeteries:** C McKnight reported that Tracey Putney filled in form him. They had a discussion with Tenley Amo. She was able to secure the community action grant through ALCOA. This will provide 8 workers for a total of 32 hours and \$3,000 to do whatever needs to be done in a designated cemetery. They are looking at Chamberlain Corners Cemetery. This would bring this cemetery up to standards. Tenley is looking at May 7<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 14<sup>th</sup>.

Resolution #30

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Tenley Amo to sign the paperwork and application to accept the money and help from the ALOCA Community Action Grant. Ayes: All

**Recreation:** C Tiernan reported that the arena is going to be opened on Saturday from 1-3PM for walking, basketball, and pickleball. They had some problems with kids climbing on top of the warming room and skateboarding in there. C McKnight asked if there were cameras in the arena. There are none. They have advertised for the summer recreation positions.

Supv Hammond reported that the Recreation Commission has requested cameras for the beach. He has been talking with Bryan Terry from NYPA.

C McBath's report noted that he continues to have concerns about the weeds at the beach. April is only a few weeks away. He sent an email a week ago with some contractors that do that type of work, and examples of two counties in the state that have equipment that the county uses and maintains and operates to do this work on the lakes in their counties. Supv Hammond reported that NYPA is willing to pay for the service, the Town needs to find someone. He will try to contact some of the contractors from C McBath. The Board discussed goose control. At one time we had it at the beach but no longer do. Geese seem to be an issue again. The clerk will contact the company that used to do it to see what they charge.

**Gallery/Clarke House:** Mark Scott reported that the Gallery has remained open during Covid. They have 11 members and look forward to a good summer. They have several exhibits planned. They will be doing some print advertising to try to bring more people to the area. Supv Hammond reported that the Clarke House is in the final stages of a grant from Patty Ritchie's office from 2017. This grant is for \$100,000. They are discussing what to do next. He suggested that they finish the main floor where you first come in. They still have sub flooring, and some windows need to be replaced.

**Historian:** James Miller submitted the following report for the historian. The historian has put in around 50 hours during the months of January and February. The moving, cleaning, and finishing up at the Moore Museum house has been completed. She attended the Village and Town Board meetings in January and February. She attended the meetings of the Waddington Historical Association. Met with Bonnie at the library to talk about a program for the spring helping people discover ancestry.com. They also talked about adding a historical element to the story walk in the park for the summer reading program. Kathy would like to thank Jamie Tiernan, Sue & Tom Hunter, Maryann Martin, Noah Dupray, Patty Vanpatten and Mary Hamilton for helping to finish up the last items at the Moore House. They received a few small donations in January and February. Some paperwork, postcards, and pictures from Sue Byrd. An old St Lawrence County book donate by June Dumas. A lace parasol donated by Mrs. Huntley, Canton. She will continue to work at organizing and finding legion items for the exhibit we will put together for Memorial Day.

**Historical Society:** James Miller reported that the Moore House is back on the market after the prospective buyer backed out. The Village hopes to acquire St. Paul's Church by the end of this month. It had to go to the NYS Supreme Court for approval for a municipality to take over a

church. The Waddington Historical Association and the Waddington Public Museum will create a Joint Committee on long range planning. There will also be a strategic planning committee for the purpose of designing a new museum. Officer nominations are as follows: President: James Miller, Vice President: Patty VanPatten, and Secretary: Betsy Mott. Elections will take place next month. There are two members whose terms expire April 30<sup>th</sup>. Betsy Mott has expressed interest in being reappointed. The other member was not at the meeting. They will contact them to see if they will be reappointed. Reappointments and new additions will be sent to both Town and Village for final action for April meeting to ensure a smooth transition. The next meeting will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> @ the old town hall.

Resolution #31

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby reappoint Betsy Mott to the Waddington Historical Society. Ayes: All

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv Hammond reported that the work continues on the marina project. They are going through a federal process to determine which type of break wall is better for the project. One is stone from the bottom of the river and the other is steel halfway down, a floating system. Steve Shoenweiser, NYPA has been on top of the project. Rob Company is working to free up some of the Ready money to replace some of the docks. He has spoken with Bryan Terry concerning the seaweeds and cameras for the beach.

**Court Security Officer:** C McBath's report noted that he had set up a date to sit down and rough out the SOP's but had to reschedule. It will be a work in progress between now and the next board meeting.

**Court Audit:** C McBath is trying to find a date convenient for everyone prior to the end of March to sit down and get the audit done. He anticipates it will be done before the April meeting.

**Old Town Hall:** The elevator has been repaired. There was a bad sensor. The doors wouldn't open because the batteries were bad. He showed Supt Putney where the batteries were. Supt Putney noted they can probably be purchased at the electrical supply companies. They are like the ones in the emergency exit lights.

**Generator:** Supv Hammond reported that he didn't have an update for the generator. He will send an email to Mike Christy.

**Agricultural Land Bids:** Supv Hammond noted that they had discussed the Agricultural bids earlier. He asked the board if they wanted to send them out for bid to be opened at the next board meeting. They will be posted on the website, available in the Town Clerk's Office, and legal notice posted in the newspaper.

Resolution #34

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the advertisement for bids on the Agricultural lands to be opened @ the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ayes: All

**Third Party Audit Discussion:** The Clerk submitted a letter from John Saucier from Pinto & Associates concerning third-party audits. He gave them three different levels of auditing. He suggested that the Town go with the Agreed Upon Procedure method. This was done by the town back in 2010. The Clerk will email the board a copy for their review. The clerk will ask John to attend our next meeting so they can ask questions.

**Board of Assessment Review:**

Resolution #35

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Russell Strait to the Grievance Board of Assessment Review for a period of 5 years. Ayes: All

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** There is still a vacancy on this board if anyone knows someone interested.

**Cottage painting:** The caretakers for the beach had requested that the cottage be repainted. It was built in 2015 and could use some touchups. An estimate was received from Dakota Matthie. He had been appointed as a preferred construction company for the library if she needed something small fixed. It is under the threshold of \$3,000. His estimate was \$2250. Which included two coats of paint and all materials.

Discussion was held concerning why it was necessary to paint the walls. C McKnight and Supt Putney will do a walkthrough to see any damage. A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to table until the April meeting.

**Liability Insurance:** The Clerk reported that the liability insurance for the Town is due to renew in June. The Board wanted to get other prices as well. She told the board there is only three insurance companies for municipal insurance. Our insurance agent will get prices for all and bring before the board once he has them completed. The board noted this would be good.

**Consolidation Resolution:**

Resolution #36

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the consolidation of line items A9061.8 Dental Insurance and A9045.8 Life insurance into one account called "supplemental insurance". New code number will be 9045.8. Balance of Dental insurance \$2442.02 will be moved into new code. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:**

Patty Vanpatten had some questions with the old town hall. She noted that as you head towards the elevator and turn around there is a 3x3 cubby door. She wanted to know if that can be changed to a standard size door to provide more storage under the stairs. She also asked if the room that goes to the attic could be cleaned out. It is chocked full of junk. Supv Hammond noted that there are some historical parts for the building in there he doesn't want to see gone but most of it probably can be cleaned out.

**Bills:** A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Tiernan to pay bills \$22-100 – 22-182 in the amount of \$120,970.70. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Hammond to adjourn the meeting @ 8:50PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk



