

## Special/Regular Meeting

A special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 6:30PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** D Supv McKnight and Council Members David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk and Charlie Nash, Town Attorney who attended the special meeting via phone.

**Call to Order:** D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 6:30PM

D Supv McKnight reported that the special meeting was to talk with the Town Attorney concerning the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or relating to the appointment, promotion, or demotion, discipline, or removal. A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to enter executive session @ 6:30PM. A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to return to leave executive session @ 6:55PM No action was taken during executive session.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to adjourn the special meeting. Ayes: All

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 7:00PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** D Supv McKnight and Council Members David McBath, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Shelby Milburn, Molly Bogart, Natasha Pearson, Destiny Bailey, Gehrig Putney, Kevin Putney, Phyllis Acres, and Rita Curran, St. Lawrence County Legislator.

**Call to order:** D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:05PM.

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

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

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

**Local Law #1 of 2023:** D Supv McKnight opened the public hearing for Local Law # 1 of the year 2023 @ 7:06PM. He reported that the local law will establish a no-parking, no-standing zone, or no-stopping on a portion of the Hanlon Road and the Brown Church Road, (also known as Brown Church Road Extension). The Clerk read the legal notice. No public comments were had. The comment period was closed.

D Supv McKnight asked the board if they had any further questions or comments on the law.

### Resolution #22

Motioned by: Hunter

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve Local Law # 1 of the year 2023. Ayes: All

**County Legislator Update:** County Legislator Rita Curran addressed the board with issues that are happening on the County level. The Governor is proposing raising the County's share of Medicaid. This could cost the County an additional 3.25 million. When the County sells foreclosed property at auction whatever money they receive above the taxes owed goes into an account that is used for blighted properties. The state is proposing the County forward any money received above the taxes due to them. The State has raised the hourly rate on indigent

defense attorneys. With the proposal of fees to the State the County will shortfall taking care of roads etc. Last year the County was able to do 27 miles of roads. The bridge list will be available shortly with the order in which they will be repaired/replaced.

She also reported that the County has started the smile program which will provide painting of fluoride on the younger children's teeth to prevent tooth decay of baby teeth and promote healthy habits. Once the children turn 5-6 they can have fluoride sealants applied.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** Supt Putney gave the board truck quotes from four different companies. He noted that these are for informational purposes to try and keep on a rotational schedule. The companies won't give exact quotes due to the price of the emission changes due in 2024. He noted the Mack quote also has the equipment costs listed. So any of the trucks listed will need to have that added to it. The truck that we purchased in 2021 has gone up in price by \$30,000. In 2026 there will be a complete overhaul of emissions increasing the cost of the trucks by \$60,000. D Supv McKnight noted that the last truck purchased in 2021 has a bond for 15 years. We have paid two years on the principal. He also noted that we can pay early but it must be in full. We can't make additional principal payments.

D Supv McKnight reported that Supt Putney has been trying to obtain a fuel system from the prison system that at the Ogdensburg site which has been closed. He has contacted DOCS and our state representatives. A letter has been sent as well. Senator Stec's office responded that the state is trying to attract a buyer for the Ogdensburg prison and feels that the pump system is an asset so they are not interested in removing it at this time. C McBath asked if this was like the system that Supt Putney has talked about. The quote he received for this was \$17,000. Further discussion ensued.

Supt Putney also supplied the board with the total cost of a new full-time employee to consider for budget in 2024.

**Library:** Aubrie applied for 3 new grants in the past 2 months (youth philanthropy, dollar general summer reading program and Stewarts)

Parts have been ordered for fire alarm system and installation will be scheduled when they arrive (Barkley's)

NCLS transition to a new circulation/catalog system in April. Staff will attend training

Annual Report completed and under review /out for approval

488 patrons used the library last month and Aubrie continues to push community programs and involvement.

Board members completed trustee training and asked about timing of the sexual harassment annual training-Carol is working on getting this scheduled

No financial report as they did not receive the financials from the Town. Carol is getting them their reports.

Aubrie will attend the rec committee meeting to discuss /coordinate summer reading program. They haven't received any solar credits on their National Grid bill. D Supv McKnight noted it is because of the winter and the aging of the panels. Once the sun gets stronger they will see them again.

**Recreation:** Committee would like to open the beach July 1<sup>st</sup> this year, with rec program slated to start July 5<sup>th</sup>

Discussion regarding reading program. Aubrie Liddell (library) and Nicole Weakfall (school) to attend next meeting. Discussed altering schedule to accommodate school program.

Madrid planning to attend program this year.

Committee inquired about phone line (phone was not working last year and this needs to be fixed) Question if Jacks has spectrum extender?

Also inquired about the status of the volleyball net/court

Discussed contacting staff from last year and telling them positions will be posted and they should reapply if interested.

Discussed recertification program for returning staff.

### **Alternative Revenue/Grants:**

2022 RVRDA grant – Town Hall work

Fielded call from contractor on RFP, assisted in setting up site visit. RFP's to be opened at tonight's meeting.

2023 RVRDA Grant application open – Board needs to decide if they want to apply and if yes, for what project. Deadline for application to be filed is April 14, 2023.

The Board discussed possibilities for grants. Quotes need to be received for the projects in the following order: old town hall steps, campground, and handicap bathroom. There is a \$100 application fee.

#### Resolution #23

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the payment of \$100 application fee for the 2023 RVRDA grant project to be determined. Ayes: All

#### ARPA Grant:

Annual report due in April 2023. I would like to schedule a brief meeting with the Acting Supv, Highway Supt and Town Clerk to go over expenditures and purchases to date, determine next steps, revise budget, and complete annual report before deadline.

#### LEISHMAN POINT CAMPSITES:

We need to discuss if Highway Superintendent is planning to change the footprint of the campsites at Leishman Point (relocate to be parallel to the shipping channel vs as they are now, as was discussed at Nov 2022 mtg). The campsite footprint and numbering will need to be revised on the website for 2023 rentals. We also need to decide when the campsites will open and close for 2023 and update the website.

Supt Putney noted that they were still on track to make the changes. He also noted he is waiting for a quote from Richardson's to install electric to the top of the hill. It will come from the end of the St Lawrence boathouse. The highway department will dig the trench and lay the sand. Richardson will quote the rest of the work.

C McBath asked when the board wanted to open the campsites so the HIP camp site can be updated for reservations. The campsites will open May 22<sup>nd</sup> and close October 1<sup>st</sup>. The fee schedule will remain the same.

Energizing Rural Communities – I sent the board the weblink to this information on March 3. Grant applications opened March 1; applications due by May 24. Could possibly tie into expansion of current solar array that town owns, or assist in a project to bring solar to Iroquois land?

The Board discussed both options. D Supv McKnight will contact Rob Campany to see what can be done with the solar out behind the town barns.

**Cemeteries:** D Supv McKnight distributed the proposed cemetery bylaws. He noted that he had emailed them a few months ago but it had fallen through the cracks. C McBath asked who was on the cemetery committee. Tracey & David Putney, Al & Tenley Amo, Sandy Wright, Sue Papasian, and Travis McKnight.

The board reviewed the proposal and made a couple of corrections.

#### Resolution #24

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the cemetery bylaws with the corrections made. They will be sent back to the committee for revision. Ayes: All

**Museum:** D Supv McKnight reported that the mayor is having a budget workshop this evening and would like to increase the Historian's salary to \$4,000 per year with the equipment line remaining @ \$2,600 for a total of \$6,600. This would be \$3,300 each for the Town and Village. The board had questions concerning the fee paid in 2023. After they get the information they can decide on the increase.

D. Supv McKnight told the board that the Mayor also addressed the fire protection plan in his email. He stated that the fire protection won't be raised at this time but he wanted to let the town know that the fire department is up for a new pumper in 2026. They will request a raise in the future.

**Iroquois Land:** D Supv McKnight noted that an email has been sent to the board from Scott Schlueter with Fish and Wildlife concerning proposals for Whitehouse Bay after he was here at

the February meeting. D Supv McKnight asked him if he would be willing to come back to present a public information meeting @ the old town hall. He would like to do it in May or later since he will be in the area for his work. The board discussed and thought it would be a good idea. It would give them time to get in the Waddington Recorder and the town website. D Supv will ask him for some dates and promotional information.

**Solar Project Update:** D Supv McKnight reported that he has sent the board the correspondence between RIC energy and the Planning Board for the proposed solar project on Rt 37. He noted that this is just for informational purposes. The Town Board doesn't have any input at this time but he wanted to keep them all informed through the process. The board asked if there were any discussions for a solar project at Iroquois. D Supv McKnight noted he has been talking to RIC about this.

**Local Government Task Force:** D Supv McKnight reported that the Task Force met in February. The marina project was receiving bids for the floating docks due February 28<sup>th</sup>. The engineer and design bill was \$80,000. They are waiting on payment from NYPA. They will complete the shoreline stabilization project in Massena that was started in February. In the third quarter of 2023 they will pick the next three sites for stabilization. The Whitehouse Bay design work will be done before July 2023 and the work will be done in 2024. The boat ramp designs have been addressed internally. They are looking to fix this season. There have been numerous complaints with Parks & Recreation concerning the fuel pumps and parking lots @ Coles Creek Marina and Barnhardt. The parking lots will be paved after the season. The fuel pumps will be addressed but it isn't as easy as just changing a pump. The high flow money \$398,040 has been sent to the County Treasurer. They will distribute per the agreed upon percentages. They have been able to get the State to recognize hydro power as a renewable source of energy. Hydro is now green again.

**County Snowplow Contract:** The Supervisor Association met with the County again last Thursday. They are trying to get the County to bring us up to Tier 1 in the 1<sup>st</sup> year instead of waiting for the three-year span. They will meet again in another two weeks.

**Payroll Error:** D Supv McKnight reported that the Town has made a mistake when the previous bookkeeper left and we were transitioning to a new one. The previous bookkeeper had a complicated way of calculating payroll of salaried beach employees and this resulted in an error in payment. We have had discussions with our town attorney and per his recommendations we will not be pursuing any legal action to recoup the funds due to the cost associated with such an endeavor. The recreation committee director has spoken with each of the affected employees and they will be contributing extra time and effort during the upcoming beach season.

Resolution #25

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that based on the advice and counsel of the town attorney, the Town Board will not initiate any legal action to recoup an overpayment inadvertently made by the town last fall to town recreation employees, due to the likelihood that the associated cost of legal fees to initiate and pursue such action by the town would cost the town more than the expense of the overpayment itself. Ayes: All

**Town Clerk Annual Report:** D Supv McKnight reported that the Town Clerk and Code Enforcement Office have submitted their annual reports. He asked if the board had any questions or comments.

JANUARY 1, 2022 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

Conservation Licenses	8361.00
Dog Licenses	3426.50
SPCA Redemption	10.00
Marriage Licenses	120.00
Certified Copies	626.70
Misc. Sales	0.00

Building Permits	3520.10
Cemetery Funds	6130.00
Ag Permits (PA lease)	9670.90
Beach Pavilion Rental	<u>1725.00</u>
Total Collected	33590.20

Paid to Town Supervisor	24977.57
Paid to DEC	7974.13
Paid to Ags & Markets (dogs)	571.00
Paid to Dept. of Health (marriage)	<u>67.50</u>
Total Paid out	33590.20

Taxes Collected & paid to Town Supervisor	346,767.00
Interest collected & paid to Town Supervisor	2,222.20
Taxes collected & paid to County Treasurer	<u>1,376,307.30</u>
Total Taxes collected	1,725,296.50

Resolution #26

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the Town Clerk's annual report as submitted. Ayes: All

**Code Enforcement Annual Report:**

There were 28 building permits issued in 2022. There were 5 permits issued for new dwellings. Their estimated assessed value is \$530,000 down \$115,000 from 2021. The remaining 18 permits were issued for alterations, additions, yard barns, barn, garages, decks, and swimming pools.

There was a decrease of 5 building permits from 2021.

The building permit fees collected in 2022 were \$3,520.10 an increase of \$1074.61 from 2021.

Resolution #27

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the Code Enforcement Officer's annual report as submitted. Ayes: All

**Justice Court Audit:** D Supv McKnight asked for two board members to meet with the Court to perform the annual audit. C Tiernan and C Hunter will contact Kerri to set up an appointment.

**County Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The Board was presented with the Waddington portion of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The following resolution was passed.

Resolution #28

Motioned by: Hunter

Seconded by: Tiernan

WHEREAS, the St Lawrence County Office of Emergency Services, with the assistance from Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., has gathered information and prepared the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for St Lawrence County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for St. Lawrence County, New York has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 201; and

WHEREAS, Title 44 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 201.6(c)(5) requires each local government participating in the preparation of a Multi-Jurisdictional Mitigation Plan or Plan Update to accept and adopt such plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Waddington, has reviewed the 2022 St Lawrence County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, has found the document to be acceptable, and as a local unit of government, has afforded its citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input regarding the Plan Update and the actions included in the Plan;

WHEREAS, the Town of Waddington, will consider the St Lawrence County HMP Update during the implementation and updating of local planning mechanisms, and will incorporate the hazard assessment data, hazard vulnerabilities, and mitigation actions in these mechanisms, where applicable;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington, as a participating jurisdiction, adopts the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for St Lawrence County, New York, dated July 2022. Ayes: All

**Property Tax Exemption Volunteers:** C McBath reported that there is a new property tax exemption available for volunteer Fire and Rescue members. There has been some email traffic back and forth between the board and the Assessor. He is working on getting specific language and how it would impact the Town's tax base. The Board discussed and will revisit next month when more information is available.

**Ag Land Lease:** D Supv McKnight reported that at the last meeting the board was given a complaint and pictures concerning the rental of agricultural lands at Iroquois property. C McBath noted that he let Jon Mayette (hereinafter "lessee") know that it would be on the agenda for this evening's meeting. Lessee was unable to attend the meeting but sent C McBath a text message stating that their plan for the property was to start up a bee keeping apiary. Lessee feels that he is not getting a fair shake concerning the property. He would be glad to explain things to the board if they need him to do so.

D Supv McKnight noted that he sent a blank copy of the land lease to the Town's attorney. He was told that the lease would defend any legal challenge if the town wanted to revoke it. He also noted that #1 on the lease states that the permittee may use the said lands for the purpose of growing and harvesting forage crops and/or pasturing livestock with fencing allowed as required and for no other purposes.

C. Hunter also noted that through the years that land has always been used for hay, corn, or pasturing. The purpose of the leases has been to keep the brush down and the land able to be used.

Further discussion ensued. The consensus was that any areas of leased land that had already been being used for agriculture by the previous lessee needed to be maintained by the current lessee. D Supv McKnight noted that the lessee should be given the opportunity to correct the issue. A motion was made by Hunter, seconded by McBath to request the Town Attorney send correspondence to the lessee on behalf of the Town. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:**

Kevin Putney and Gehrig Putney both spoke to the existing conditions at the leased Iroquois property. It has already started to grow back up to brush. D Supv McKnight told them he was not disputing what they were saying but the town should have the opportunity to address the problem with the lease and he should be given the chance to rectify the situation. There is a process that needs to be followed for a paper trail. The Attorney will communicate with the lease and an update will be given at the next meeting.

Phyllis Acres stated that she was concerned about the volunteer tax exemption. She noted that someone could get in the fire department or rescue squad for a couple of months and then get out and still get their exemptions. D Supv McKnight noted that this is a concern and specific language will be used to participate. Rosters will be updated with the Assessor yearly.

Gherig Putney told the board that they might want to have a timber company look at the removal of the ash trees at Iroquois before they are beyond usage.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by McBath to pay bills # 00117 – 00181 in the amount of \$52,353.06. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting @ 8:55PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

Special Meeting

A Special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

**Call to order:** D Supv McKnight called the meeting to order at 7:05PM.

D Supv McKnight reported that the purpose of this meeting is to open bids for the handicap renovations of the municipal building bathrooms.

The Clerk read the legal notice published in the newspaper.

1 bid was received from:  
Twin Cedar Construction  
187 Douglas Rd  
Norwood, NY 13668

Total materials & labor as per the scope of work specified: \$29,680.00

Resolution #29

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the bid from Twin Cedar Construction in the amount of \$29,680 for the handicap renovations of the bathrooms in the municipal building. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by McBath to adjourn the meeting @ 7:20PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk