

## Regular Meeting

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

**Present were:** Supervisor Travis McKnight and Council members: David McBath, Melinda Martin, Kelley Tiernan, and Thomas Hunter.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Tony McManaman, Code Enforcement Officer, Charlie Nash, Town Attorney, Sean Frusco, Kevin Putney, Phyllis Acres, mark Scott, Justin Norman, Gehrig Putney, and Patty VanPatten.

**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 McBath, seconded by Martin to approve the minutes as submitted. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:** Mark Scott told the board that the deadline for article in the next Waddington Recorder will be April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Public Hearing: Local Law # 1 Amendment to the Town of Waddington Development Code.**

The clerk read the advertised legal notice. Supv McKnight declared the public hearing open @ 7:03PM asking if there were any public comments on the proposed development code changes regarding Solar.

Justin Norman stated that there is talk about a solar farm around his property located on the Town Line Rd. He is concerned about the setbacks involved. Tony McManaman stated that the panels need to have a 25' setback. If the project is commercial it needs to come before the planning board. They can request further setbacks, movement of the project on the property, and barriers of tree lines to make the project more aesthetic to the neighborhood. Each project can be different based on the location.

Mark Scott asked what the changes to the law would be. Supv McKnight noted that there were several changes to make it restrictive than the previous wording. Tony noted that since the last solar regulations were introduced there have been many changes based on what the town learned during the first two solar farms installed. What types of vegetation works or doesn't work, different soil designs, and fee structures just to name a few things.

Supv McKnight asked if there were any further comments. None being had the public comment period was closed @ 7:15PM.

Supv McKnight then asked the board if they had any questions or concerns for discussion. C McBath noted in 7.3 Section 3 it states just the code. It should state the Town of Waddington Code.

7.4 Section 2 states that solar panels can't be in the front yard. What if there was no front yard, what would the setbacks be? Tony noted this would be subject to the town planning board's determination.

Page #93 #4 training requirements for the fire department and rescue squads. Tony noted that the storage units must be in containment units. The fire department should not put water on them. If the water overflows from the units it goes into the soil and contaminates it. There is nothing to save once they are on fire so let them burn. He also noted that there are 9 different types of batteries that can be used in these projects. The layout should be in the commissioning plan.

Page #96. Demolition fee schedule. What is the fee? Tony noted that it is \$25 for demolition. This fee can be determined yearly by resolution from the Town Board.

Page 100: Fee Structure: Attorney Nash has suggested that the fee be a flat \$10,000 + \$1,000 per MW of the project. This is placed in an escrow account for the fees incurred by the Town during the process to review a submitted project by a solar company. Once a project is an article 10 project, there are state regulations that must be followed.

Supv McKnight reported that the County Planning Office contacted Attorney Nash and told him the local laws both need to come to the County Planning Board because they are amendments

to the Town's development code. The county may have recommendations but if the town doesn't agree with them they can supersede them with a majority of votes. 4 out of 5. It was also noted that the height of the overhead wires in local law #1 states 18' and local law #2 states 20'. Shouldn't they be the same? Yes, this will be fixed in local law #1 to 20'.

**SEQR:** Supv McKnight asked the board if they all had a good look at the Environmental Assessment Form that was provided for the local law. If they have he would like to declare a negative declaration.

#### Resolution #21

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that upon review of the Environmental Assessment form submitted for local law #1 of the year 2024 the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to declare a negative declaration as there are no environmental concerns with the passage of the local law.

Ayes: All

#### Resolution #22

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve local law #1 of the year 2024 contingent upon County Planning Board Approval. Ayes: All

#### **Local Law #2 of 2024: Battery Energy Storage**

The Clerk read the published legal notice. Supv McKnight opened the public comment period @ 7:43PM. Mark Scott asked about the types of batteries. Tony noted there are 8 different types of batteries used and they would have to be described in their application. No other comments were made. Supv McKnight closed the public comment period @ 7:45 PM. Supv McKnight then asked the board if they had any questions or concerns for discussion.

C McBath noted a couple items. On page 4 it states that they need a building permit. What is the fee for this? Tony noted it would all fall under the solar portion of the law.

Pg 10 -K it states that the wires should be 20' overhead. This was already discussed.

C Martin asked who determines the storage life of the battery system. Tony reported that they would submit a sheet from the manufacturer of the battery stating what type of battery it is, how it operates, its life span, and any other pertinent information. This will be submitted with their application. Most batteries have a 25-year life span.

**SEQR:** Supv McKnight asked the board if they all had a good look at the Environmental Assessment Form that was provided for the local law. If they have he would like to declare a negative declaration.

#### Resolution #23

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that upon review of the Environmental Assessment form submitted for local law #1 of the year 2024 the Town Board does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to declare a negative declaration as there are no environmental concerns with the passage of the local law.

Ayes: All

#### Resolution #24

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve local law #2 of the year 2024 contingent upon County Planning Board Approval. Ayes: All

#### **Bid Opening: Municipal Building Energy Project.**

The Clerk read the advertised legal notice for the municipal building energy project. There was one bid received from Twin Cedar Construction, 187 Douglas Rd, Norwood, NY 13668.

The bid will be to cover the entire building with steel siding and 2' thick close cell insulation as per the specifications put out by the Town Board. Total bid price \$54,546.00

The board received a \$50,000 NYSERDA energy grant and the balance of \$4,546 will be taken from the building line in the budget.

Resolution #25

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby award the municipal building energy project to Twin Cedar Construction in the amount of \$54,546. \$50,000 covered by NYSERDA energy grant and the balance of \$4,546 will be paid out of the building line A1620.4 in the budget. Ayes: ALL

**Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** Supt Putney reported that the surplus equipment that was approved to be listed on Auctions International will be listed shortly. They will be here on Thursday to get all the information.

Supt Putney stated that he has found a 2016 Chevy club cab pickup with 81,560 miles on it. It is one owner, clean with no rust. They are asking \$22,000. He has been looking for the last four years and most used trucks are going for \$28-30,000. He has \$17,000 set aside for a pickup and has \$5,000 left from his equipment line in 2023. The pickup is in Altona. Discussion ensued. C Hunter will go with Supt Putney to check out the truck.

Resolution #26

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the purchase of a 2016 Chevy club cab pickup not to exceed \$22,000. Ayes: All

Supt Putney reported that the highway department has been performing general maintenance on trucks and equipment, plowed, and sanded eight times, cleaned the Christmas decorations and dielectric fixtures, dug one grave, cut trees, and mulched them on Buck Rd between CR 28 and 33, sent one man to Madrid with excavator to replace a road culvert, and started mulching on Town Line Rd Lisbon end. Supt Putney and Steve attended 811 Excavator training.

**Library:** C Martin noted that the library board is concerned about getting the elevator inspected. Supv McKnight noted that Tony said it does not have to be inspected because it is not considered an elevator. It is a lift because it has a rise under 17 1/2 feet. An elevator has a rise above that and must be inspected every 6 months.

C Martin reported that Michelle Patenaude resigned from the board. They don't have a replacement for her yet. They would like the board to appoint Mary Jane Macaluso to replace Marjorie Todd who resigned last month.

Resolution #27

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Tiernan

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby accept the resignation of Michelle Patenaude from the library board. Ayes: All

Resolution #28

Motioned by: Martin

Seconded by: Hunter

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Mary Diane Macaluso to the library board to replace Marjorie Todd. Ayes: All

Kay-C Hayes (Recreation Committee member) and I went through the skates at the arena. We separated them into two piles. The library in Morristown signs out skates using the library cards. I reached out to Ethan and Bonnie, prior to the meeting, to see if our Library would be interested. They said yes! The pairs that would be at the library are going to need to be sharpened. We are in the process of looking into pricing on where to sharpen.

**Cemeteries:** C Hunter reported that the first meeting of 2024 will be on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Grants/Alternative revenues:**

**Radio tower land lease discussion** – attached is a proposed DRAFT letter to send to the county to request a meeting to begin negotiations on a new contract for the radio tower land lease with the county in 2024. The current contract expires in December 2024 and requires 6 months' advance notice to county.

**NY Forward Grant:** Have not heard any updates on the status of our application for stonework on the town hall. Possible spring announcement.

**Development Authority of the North Country (DANC)** – conference call held on March 6 – briefly discussed campground NBRC grant application – after conversation with Supervisor McKnight decision was made to cancel their attendance in March mtg due to length of current mtg agenda – they can/will meet with the Board at a special meeting to discuss services they could offer to the town (including any grant research / preparation). They can be available on March 18 or 19 or March 25, 26, 27. The board will be available on the 25<sup>th</sup> to meet @ 7PM. C McBath will contact them to confirm.

**ARPA grant** - Need information on any interest that was earned on any ARPA grant funds we received before the grant was exhausted. This will have to be reported in our annual report to the US Treasury which is due in April 2024.

**RVRDA Grants** –

2023 grant – need to have work completed at Leishman Point this calendar year. Report and reimbursement request is due to RVRDA by December 2024. Need to decide if we will still make the current camp sites available on HIPCAMP while doing the work on the new sites?

2024 grant - RVRDA grant application has been started. We met at the old town hall on March 6 to discuss layout to build a food prep area. We will need a contractor quote to submit with the application. We should also consider soliciting some letters of support (village government? Others?). The completed grant application must be submitted by 3pm Monday April 15 with a nonrefundable \$100 application fee. Supv McKnight noted that Frank Davey will meet with him this week to look at the project and give us a quote.

**Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant** – application for campground on hold until after the board meets with DANC.

**Clean Energy Communities Grant 3.0** – managed by NYSEDA – new announcement recently released by Governor. Possibility to expand our solar array project?

[Governor Hochul Announces Additional \\$25 Million Available for Local Municipalities to Drive Clean Energy Action and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Governor Kathy Hochul \(ny.gov\)](#)

**USDA Grant/Loan:** Contacted USDA to see if Waddington is still below the new guidelines for median household income. We are just below this so are still eligible for a grant as well as a low interest loan @ 3.75% interest. Once the application is submitted and approved the loan rate will be locked in. It can't go any higher but can go down if that happens. Will need the bid spec sheets for the new snowplow to get the process started.

**Rescue Squad:** C Tiernan reported that the rescue squad met 3/4/24. The biggest takeaway was that the ambulance delivery has been delayed to the end of 2024, possibly early 2025.

Continuing discussions with Madrid, Waddington, Lisbon, and Canton re: employed EMT model. The banquet will be held 5/4 at the American Legion.

**Recreation:** Initial planning of certification of new Lifeguards and recertification.

Ad for guards.

Reading program: July 8th - July 19th (including Fridays)

Recreation July 8th - August 16th

Plan to open beach Saturday June 29th

Ice skates from the arena have been sorted. We are arranging the sharpening of the skates (around 42). The Recreation will pay for the skates to be sharpened. The library will have a system for signing out the skates for the season.

**Homecoming:** C Martin reported that there will be a homecoming meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Historian:** Things are slow at the museum right now. I attended both the Village and Town meetings in February.

I received three requests for family genealogy information and I have been talking to the family members about visiting Waddington this summer.

We are still working on putting together a strategic planning committee for the museum to review the Crawford drawings. Many people have been away on vacation. Hope to get the group together by the end of the month.

I continue to work with the WHA on planning historical events for the year.

Once of the events will be the Golden Agers Luncheon Thursday of Homecoming. This will be a luncheon celebrating present and past residents of Waddington. We will be sending out letters to those that are 75 and older with an RSVP. We have an ongoing list and will be sending out more information on our FB page and in the Waddington Reporter. This luncheon is being hosted by the museum and the WHA.

Unfortunately, my friend Derrick will not be able to do the lecture we had planned for later this month about the Eclipse. He is having some health issues that he needs to take care of.

The first WHA event will be the Easter Egg hunt on the Village square on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11AM.

I had three Clarkson students come over and work on more organization in our storeroom this past Saturday.

The next meeting of the Museum Board will be March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM.

The next meeting of the WHA will be March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM in the old town hall.

**Iroquois Land Next Steps:** Supv McKnight reported that at the last meeting the board was asked to think of a name for the land trust project. Scott Schlueter is looking into the questions we had about the horse trails and picnic area. Discussion ensued.

#### Resolution #29

Motioned by: Hunter

Seconded by: Martin

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board hereby agrees that the land trust project at Iroquois Dam should be named "Waddington Fish & Wildlife Preserve" Ayes: All

**Iroquois Dam Vandalism:** Supv McKnight reported that criminal charges were filed against the person who did the vandalism at Iroquois Dam. He has been ordered to pay restitution. He hasn't received any more information as to when and how much needs to be paid back.

**Local Government Task Force:** There was no meeting. There will be one later this month.

**Town/Village Joint website:** C Martin sent the board a preview of what the website could look like. They estimate it could be completed in a couple of months. There is still a lot of information to be collected and uploaded. The new website would be [waddingtonnewyork.com](http://waddingtonnewyork.com)

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

Patty VanPatten asked if the board would want to consider opening the campsites for the eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Board noted that it could be very muddy at the top of the hill during that time. If someone went in with a camper or truck they could get stuck and must be pulled out. Don't think that is a good idea.

Phyllis Acres asked when the local government task force would be. Supv McKnight reported it will be March 28<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30PM. He noted they also have it on zoom if she would prefer to attend that way. She gave him her email address and he said he would pass it on to get the link to her.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to enter executive session @ 8:55PM to discuss contract negotiations under Taylor Law. A motion was made by McBath seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @ 10:00PM. No action was taken during the executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Martin, seconded by Hunter to pay bills # 24-00110 – 24-00177 in the amount of \$117,861.26.

Ayes: All

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

Respectfully submitted

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk