

## Regular Meeting

Because of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Emergency and State and Federal bans on large meetings or gatherings and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 220.1 issued on March 12, 2020 suspending the Open Meetings Law, the Waddington Town Board Meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020 at 7:00 pm was held electronically via Zoom instead of a public meeting open for the public to attend in person. Members of the public were allowed to join the meeting from their homes.

**Present were:** Supervisor Alex Hammond and Councilmen: Travis McKnight, David McBath, Scott Loomis, and Shaun Prentice.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Kevin Acres, Geeta Taraporewalla, Shaun Taraporewalla, Tenley & Allen Amo, Chris Baldwin, Mayor Michael Zagrobelny, Dennis Satnick Jahan Taraporewalla, Barbara Danko, Russel Strait, Linda & Andy Henry, Marty Haenel, Joseph Burley, Trevor Johnson, Greg Hollis, Jason Ladoceur, Cheryl Smith, Nicky Monty, Matt Rose, Justin Palmer, Mark Scott, Melissa Mayette and Mark Brouillette.

**Call to Order:** Supv Hammond called the meeting to order @ 7:03PM. He set the parameters to be followed for the meeting due to the high number of people in attendance. He asked that everyone keep their microphones muted until called upon. There will be two public comment periods. One in the beginning for anyone who wants to speak on any subject other than the proposed cabins and one at the end for the same purpose. Anyone who would like to speak about the cabins will be asked to hold their comments until the campground committee's report is complete. He will then open to the public. He will be limiting each individual to a time period of 5 minutes.

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

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

**Citizen's Comments:** There were no comments at this time.

**Solar Developer:** Dennis Satnick stated that he was with a solar development company that does commercial solar projects. They currently are working on a large project in Hammond and Oswego. He is interested in working with the Town of Waddington on a solar project that could be located on Whitehouse Bay. He noted that a portion of the solar project that they would do could be community solar and the other portion distribution generation. The commercial portion of the project would be for residents or businesses who wish to participate and receive a savings on their electric bill. He noted that this would be additional revenue for the Town. There could be an annual payment, a PILOT payment, or purchase of the land outright.

C. Prentice asked how close to distribution are the projects that they are involved with now. Mr. Satnick told him that the one in upstate began late last year. They held off on local jurisdictions because of the anticipated new legislation coming out of Albany. They are working on the interconnect application, will upgrade existing feeder lines, and upgrade substations.

C. McBath asked if the town requested an RFP if this was something they would be interested in. Mr. Satnick noted that he hasn't looked favorable on RFP's. A lot of the time they find that the winning bidders aren't able to perform the task. He asked if the Town has to do an RFP. He would consider it if they did.

He told the board that he would be looking for 120-130 acres of land suitable for where an array might go. He would do some work and forward the board a sketch as to where he feels it should go and the board can put their spin on it from there.

C. McBath asked how many megawatts the project would be. Mr. Satnick stated possible 25 mw commercial and 5 mw community.

The Board told him they would be interested in a proposal if he should choose to submit one.

**Committee Reports:**

**Recreation:** C Loomis reported that he was going to turn the report over to the Recreation Board Chairman, Russell Strait. Russ reported that there is a great deal of information that they just don't know as of yet due to the Covid-19. The summer reading program will be dependent on whether the library is open. According to the State summer camps are essential so that pertains to the morning recreation program and not sure of where we stand on the beach. We are waiting until June 1<sup>st</sup> to see what the Governor says. Greg has gone to the beach and put caution tape around the pavilion to prevent people from gathering there. With the weather turning nice we know people will be going up and we are trying our best to maintain the social distancing requirements. He will keep the board informed as thing progress.

**Rescue Squad:** C Prentice reported that he had spoken with Julie. The squad continues to work on the grant for a new rig. They are not sure how fast it will advance during this time. They have one new member who is a former EMT.

The Board discussed the relocation of the distribution lines out back at the Rescue Squad. With the wire relocated it will run from inside the municipal building. This will be an additional energy cost to the town. C Prentice looked at the squad's usage and it is minimal at approximately \$800 per year. If the project is done now it will be favorable at the time of disconnect when the tower is constructed. The squad has offered to pay ½ of the cost of relocation up to \$2,000. C Prentice asked C McKnight if the emergency generator would have the capacity to add on the additional load. He noted that it would. He also told them that with the Rescue Squad tying into the system it would give a better chance for a grant to upgrade to a larger more efficient generator. The quote from CD Electric for the project is \$3736.

Resolution #38

Motioned by: Prentice

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve to proceed with the relocation of the overhead lines to the Rescue Squad through CD Electric in the amount of \$3736. Ayes: All

The Highway Superintendent will contact Craig to get the project on the list.

**Library:** C McBath reported that the Library Board held a meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The library has been closed since the executive order handed down by the Governor. They are in the 4<sup>th</sup> phase of reopening the area. They are hoping for mid-July. Vicki MacDonald has started a project to paint and scrape the windows. She will work on it as the weather allows. They have received a grant for this project. C. McBath told the library board that the sales tax revenues could have a significant impact at budget time.

They are looking forward to implementing their morning reading program once allowed. The library manager is working on a strategic plan for the library and will share it with the town board once complete.

**Campground Committee:** Supv Hammond started the conversation with a quick timeline that brought to board to where they are now. The money available for the projects is through the NYPA recreation funds. Projects must be done on current NYPA recreational facilities. It began with the possibility of the Town purchasing the golf course, then constructing a campground at Leishman's Point. Both projects were shot down by NYPA because they were not on NYPA owned recreational facilities. In January the Supervisor verbally proposed the cabin projects and boat launch expansion with some rough drawings for a go/no go determination by NYPA. They asked for hard copies to review. The committee came up with some draft concepts to submit to NYPA to see if the project fits in their definition of recreation on their facilities. The Supervisor met with NYPA sometime between February and March and was told that the Town couldn't put cabins on the bay behind the beach. The Board still doesn't have an answer from NYPA to allow or not allow this type of project. Once the board was told yes or no their intentions were to bring it to the public for input etc.

C Prentice noted that the timeline has gone on for several years. The original campground committee began with the project on Leishman. They are also looking at a concept for Brandy Brook. They tried to have the land turned back over to the town so we could do more improvements. That was also shot down. Brandy Brook is under Parks & Recs jurisdiction.

C. McBath noted that he is the newest member of the campground committee. When he came on the Board Supv Hammond appointed him Chairman of the Committee. The committee consists of Jan Simmons, who actually ran her own campground for years, Jim Thew, Bruce MacDonald, Marty Haenel, Shaun Prentice, and David Putney. He also noted that he understands the people's concerns and has read all of the emails that have been received. The Board has not approved anything yet. NYPA is in the driver's seat.

C. McKnight reported that he has been on the board for quite a while and there have been talks of river front cabins/camps for quite some time. Mark Scott brought it up years ago. It is also listed in the economic development report.

C Loomis noted that when he got on the board Supv Hammond challenged the members to come up with ways to make revenues to keep taxes down. They have been looking at all kinds of alternatives.

Supv Hammond noted that he was going to allow comments from the people who would like to speak. He will call on them in the order that they signed into the meeting. Each person will be allowed 5 minutes. The following comments are not verbatim. The clerk will touch on highlights from each person's comments in an effort to show the peoples voice.

Kevin Acres stated that he had been in public service for a long time and appreciated the work that the board does. But the area that the board wants to put these cabins in is residential and business is not allowed in residential area. He also noted that the board wasn't transparent with this project. There is a business right up the road that has cabins and they can't keep them full unless it's BASS Masters. He was prepared to build a new home on his property at Clark Point but will not do it if these cabins are brought into the area.

Geeta Taraporewalla noted that her family invested in the Waddington Riverview Motel in 2011 and they have a hard time keeping it full. They love the area and would together for the best interest of the community.

Shaun Taraporewalla thanked Supv Hammond for his service to the country and thanked the Town Board for the work that they do for the community. He noted that he can understand what the board wants to do for the waterfront and the economic benefit but feels that the town must first move forward without community pushback. Everyone needs to work together to make it work for all. He noted that there are 10 acres of NYPA property across from the motel and maybe there would be a possibility of doing something there that would benefit all. Supv Hammond noted that this property that he is talking about is not an established NYPA recreational facility. NYPA will not even consider anything there.

Tenley Amo thanked the board for allowing her the time to speak. She noted that the Clark Point families have sent emails to the board stating that they are disappointed in how the board has handled this project. Instead of making sure things were good with NYPA first she feels that the people who live here should have been asked how they felt first. It could have saved a lot of time and energy. There are 16 homes on Clark Point and they already put up with a lot of nuisance in front of the property. People are at the beach area in front of their homes all summer drinking, loud, leaving trash etc. These cabins will only bring in more of this type of behavior. Tenley also felt this project would devalue their property and suggested the town partner with the Village and spend this money on a project in the village.

Greg Hollis noted that it doesn't sound like the Town will be breaking ground tomorrow but he was concerned because there were pink survey ribbons at the Acres property. Supv Hammond noted that the neither Town nor NYPA has asked for any surveying to be done so they don't know where these have come from. Nothing has been done at this time. Greg thanked him for that information. He went on to say that he was not in favor of this type of activities in their neighborhood. He has four children in his house. The neighborhood is a great place for them to play outside, ride their bicycles etc. There is zero traffic most days and when there is it are usually neighbors that we know. Rentals usually bring in riff raff and we don't want this in our neighborhood. He feels that there are other things that this money can be used for. Maybe more docking in the Village area. There is never enough dock space. If you have ever gone

down to listen to the concert series during the summer you know you can't find a place to dock. People come from all areas to hear the music and enjoy. Greg also said that he heard that the village sewer system was already overtaxed and the Mayor responded that it wasn't. He asked if there were wells drilled on Leishman Point. C McKnight noted that there were four test wells drilled. One of them is not good. They think there is river water seeping in through the stone.

Barbara Danko had no comment at this time except that she doesn't agree with the project.

Andy & Linda Henry thanked the board for listening to them but noted that they were opposed to the project. They don't believe that government should be in the business of renting property for any reason. This would cause extra work and additional costs, more boaters would be at the beach. No one would want this in their backyard. It would get way out of control and people would be complaining to the board all the time. Adding more people to the mix is the wrong answer. He is vehemently opposed to the project. It is unhealthy for the neighborhood.

Matt Rose spoke and supported the neighbors that have spoken already. He also suggested that the town should be looking at projects downtown and in the village.

Trevor & Jasmine Johnson noted that everyone has made good points for economic development and to attract new families but the board needs to think about the families that are already here.

Jason Ladouceur thanked the board for listening. Points that have been made are well stated and speak from the heart. He feels that this will have a negative impact on the community. He hopes that at first look the town felt there was no harm but hopes that after hearing everyone's position on the project the town will realize the impact on the area and take the project off the table. Jason also questioned the legality of the town renting property.

Mark Scott noted that maybe the board could take it off Sucker Brook and move to Leishman Point. It is an attractive area and it would bring in revenue to the town. It does have merit behind it someplace other than Sucker Brook. He also noted that docks are a good idea as well. There are never enough of them. He also noted that maybe the town could work in conjunction with the Village for the breakwater wall and docks at Island View Park. The Village has received a Ready Grant but it isn't enough to do the whole project.

Cheryl Smith and Nick Monty noted that they just recently moved to the neighborhood and love the peacefulness. This project would only create noise and chaos. They have 2 small children who can play outside and not have to worry about who is in the area.

Joseph Burley noted that he read the plans for the cabins and a lot of it didn't make sense. He noted that if they are built it would take away the feeling as to why people build homes here in the first place.

Melissa Mayette was offered the opportunity to comment and declined to comment.

Justin Palmer noted that he has just built his house here because he likes the atmosphere of the neighborhood. He is just getting settled and the atmosphere is changing.

Mark Brouillette noted that he supports the work that the town board does and hopes that there will be a way that everyone can work together for the better of the community. The public comment period was then closed. He also suggested that the town should look at putting the cabins at the Brandy Brook Site near the boat launch.

Supv Hammond noted that there is not a disconnect between the town and Village. The new pavilion, sidewalks, playground, bathrooms and streetlights were all part of the NYPA recreation project. This is what the Village chose as their project. The Town is just trying to get a project that we can use our portion with.

C. McKnight noted that he appreciated all the comments and emails from the folks and that they have been taken to heart. He also noted that several years ago the people who lived on the River Rd packed a meeting at the library stating because they didn't want cabins/campgrounds in the beach area. They were concerned about speeding cars and their children. He noted he is sure the people at the end of McGinnis Rd won't want improvements to the Brandy Brook site due to their property. There are 2200 people in Waddington and it is a tough job to find a balance for all. Several times in this conversation he has heard that people don't want outsiders. Everyone needs to keep an open mind and do what is best for the community.

C Prentice thanked everyone for their comments. There are a lot of people who just moved to Waddington but don't want anyone else to come in. The Town's intent with the cabins is not to bring in riff raff. They want to bring families to the area just like yours to enjoy the river.

C. McBath noted that there are no decisions made in his mind. He understands how the people feel and encourages people to attend board meetings. If they have any suggestions please let us know. There are a lot of challenges and so many restrictions and handcuffs. Please come to the meetings.

C Loomis thanked everyone for their opinions and would like to keep an open mind.

**Cemeteries:** C McKnight reported that the Town had a potential for a grant through Rock Charitable Fund. There is funding for St Lawrence County. Their mission is to help maintain churches and cemeteries with grants up to \$100,000. You have three years to complete your project. The applications are due September 4<sup>th</sup> and decisions are made in early 2021. He would like to submit an application for the driveway in New Brookside, stone preservation, setting, and cleaning in all cemeteries. You could use up \$100,000 easily. There is a money match requirement. The Town has money left in the Haggett Cemetery account that can be used for that.

#### Resolution #39

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize C Mcknight to apply for a grant through the Rock Charities for work to be done in the cemeteries. Ayes: All

**Highway:** The highway department has been performing maintenance on equipment, hauling stone to the yard, chipping brush and cleaning up fallen trees, hauled sludge to the transfer station for the Village, hauled stone for the village, and is getting the rig ready to spray calcium on dirt roads. They have also put down stone on gravel roads and are grading. The grader which the Town purchased from Fort Drum is working good. The guys are back to work full time.

**Gallery/Clarke House:** Mark Scott reported that there is nothing new yet. The Spring Into Art exhibit is on hold. They are working on an online store for purchases and are offering curb side pickup. The Clarke House is in the same situation.

**East Coast Watercross:** Supv Hammond reported that nothing has been signed yet for the Watercross competition. They have cancelled the competition for Father's Day weekend in June due to the Covid-19 pandemic. They are going to try for the fall. The dates would be September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. It would be their national championship. The rescue squad and fire department are still on board for those dates. Supv Hammond asked the board for permission to sign the MOU for these dates. The Board agreed as long as there is wording in the document about cancellation due to the Covid-19 situation.

#### Resolution #40

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Supervisor to sign the MOU with East Coast Water Cross for September 19 & 20, 2020 provided that the document states that the Town is not responsible if cancellation due to Covid-19 pandemic. Ayes: All



**Emergency Tower:** The revised lease agreement between the County and the Town has been sent to the Town Attorney for comments. He has asked to have a draft document without the markups on it. It was very difficult to read. Matt Denner said that one project is moving forward at this time.

C Prentice asked Mark Scott if he had put the project in the Recorder. He said it was in the winter addition.

**Solar Project:** Spoke with Charlie last week. They are waiting on the IDA to get in touch with us to begin the PILOT process.

**RVRDA Application:** The Mayor has requested that the Town apply for an RVRDA grant in conjunction with the Village. They would like to apply to replace the sign which advertises the Waddington Business District. They don't have a specific sign in mind. It would be a permanent structure with landscaping, solar lighting making it self sufficient, and be visible from both ways on Rt 37 as well as Rt 345. He noted that the 2008 Community Development Plan had a specific section that dealt with the gateway to the downtown. The sign could be that gateway. The application is due on Friday.

C McKnight asked if they had any thoughts on the price of the sign. The mayor thought in the \$30,000 range. The maximum grant award is \$20,000. They are putting up \$2,000 from their economic development and \$8,000 in kind services.

C Prentice asked if the sign will be something easily modified. The Mayor noted they are looking at a sign that is not store specific but something to show the services available.

C McBath asked if the Village had an expectation of cash. He also noted as the footprint is developed he would like them to have input from the town during the process.

Supv Hammond noted that last year the Town and Village put in applications for the parking lot and sidewalk at the Municipal Building. Neither of the projects were funded. This project would be geared more towards economic development.

The Mayor said that the application is complete and he would send an unsigned copy to the board to look over.

#### Resolution #41

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to partner with the Village of Waddington to submit an RVRDA application for a business sign at the 4 corners. The Town will be included in the design phase when the work commences. Ayes: All

**Covid-19:** Supt Putney reported that his guys are back on full force. They ride in separate trucks to and from job sites, when they are in close proximity they wear masks, hand sanitizer, and wipe down equipment and trucks.

Town Clerk Burns reported that at this time the municipal building is closed to the public. The drop box has been working well. An appointment can be made if they need to come in person. Once they leave the area is wiped down and sanitized. The Board asked if people can still get fishing licenses. The Clerk noted that at this time the system is down and she has put in three tickets to the DEC for response. She will try again. Once the system is up people can call and she will put the information in the system and have the license ready when they arrive for pickup.

Supv Hammond reported that his orders have been extended until June 24<sup>th</sup>. So he will still be in Utica until that time.

Supt Putney noted that last fall before the Covid-19 he asked the board to go for a ride to see the road conditions. We will be approaching budget time and he would like to do this as soon as possible. C McBath strongly suggested that they do this. If Supt Putney has some dates we can see if we can make it happen.

#### **Public Comment:**

Supv Hammond asked if there were any other public comments not related to the recreation projects.

Mark Scott noted that someone was having a problem at the car charging station on the corners. C Prentice noted he would check the system to see if there were any errors reported. He told Mark that they need to set up an account @ EV Connect.

Mark Scott noted that BASS is on schedule for July 24 – 26<sup>th</sup>. With a large number of people coming in from all over the country could be disastrous to have big crowds without a vaccine against Covid-19. The county Chamber is going to have to think differently how to handle this and conform to the new regulations.

Mayor Zagrobelny noted that there isn't a lot of detail for this yet. It will be controlled by the Phase in put in place by the State.

Homecoming hasn't made any decisions for their weekend.

Christine Baldwin asked C McKnight if he would keep her son Brody in mind when he is working on the cemetery grant. He is on the path towards Eagle Scout and will be looking for a project to do. She knows other Eagle Scouts have done projects in the cemeteries. He noted he would keep him in mind.

Kevin Acres noted that as the Board does their highway trip they should keep in mind that sales tax is down 22% from last year.

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to enter into executive session @ 10:06PM to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; also to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to return to regular session @ 10:20 PM. No action was taken during executive session.

The Board will meet on May 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:00 AM at Whitehouse Bay and immediately enter into executive session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities, or sale or exchange of securities held by such public body, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value thereof.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by Loomis to pay bills # - in the amount of\$.  
Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to adjourn the meeting @ 10:25PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk