

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, November 7, 2016 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: Supervisor Sandra Wright and Councilors: Travis McKnight, Shirley Robinson, Patricia VanPatten, and Shaun Prentice.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Cheryl Dominy, Collin and Matt O'Bryan, Bill Tiernan, Mark Scott, Kevin Kitzman, Vicky MacDonald, Edith Ashley, and Marilyn Burrill.

Call to order: Supv Wright called the meeting to order @ 7PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Citizen's Comments: Mark Scott gave the board an update on Christmas in Waddington. He noted that if anyone was interested in setting up a shop they could go to the website christmasinwaddington.com and click on the link to Nicole. She is the person assigning spaces. The Holiday market will run from December 1st – 23rd.

Public Hearing: Supv Wright opened the public hearing @ 7:05 with the Clerk reading the legal notice that was posted in the newspaper. She stated that she had reviewed the budget line by line at the previous meeting and would just highlight the summary page and questions can then be answered. She stated that the tax rate for 2017 will be \$1.98 per thousand. The 2016 rate was \$1.95 per thousand. The budget remained under the tax cap of .060%.

Line item questions were asked by Mark Scott. He also asked the Board if they had a long range plan to bring in new revenues. He noted that at one point when he was in office there was discussion of a solar project on Whitehouse Bay and that the Strategic Economic Development Plan suggested RV Park. The Board noted that the RV Park was still a possibility but that there needs to be money to invest to make it work. C. VanPatten noted that they are pursuing a trail and boat slips at Brandy Brook that would be rented out. C. Prentice noted that houses are selling in Waddington because people like what Waddington has to offer. This helps with the tax base. The Board is also looking at the sale of surplus property. Bill Tiernan stated that it should be sold back to the landowners and gets it back on the tax rolls.

C. Prentice addressed the library folks stating that it was one year ago that the discussion was held that the Library would look at alternative/additional funding. He asked if they had come up with anything. Edith noted that they had tried the school ballot which didn't work in their favor. There is also a reduction in their utility billing. The new fiber optic internet will also help with this. C. Prentice stated that the money saved equates to the amount of the raises given. Kevin Kitzman stated that they have installed electric hot water heaters and this has helped with the rates because the boiler system doesn't have to run all summer just to heat water. Supv Wright closed the public hearing @ 7:45PM. She then asked the Board if they had any comments or changes that they would like to see in the budget.

C. McKnight stated that he would like to see the town employees receive a 2% raise. They didn't receive anything in 2016 and now again in 2017. The total for a 2% increase for all involved amounts to \$2858.62. The Board would have to pass a local law subject to permissive referendum to increase the salaries of the elected Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk, and Justice due to the timing in the budget process. Discussion was held in favor and against the increase. In the end a motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Robinson to wait until next year and try to include a 4% raise. Ayes: All

Resolution #70

Motioned by: VanPatten

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, the Waddington Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the public notice on the preliminary budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget as revised by the Library Board is hereby adopted as the annual budget for this town beginning January 1, 2017. Such budget as so adopted will be entered in detail or physically placed therein the minute proceedings of the Town board and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of this Town shall prepare a certified copy to the Clerk of the County Board of Legislators.

Roll Call Vote: Supv Wright: Aye C. McKnight: Aye
 C. Robinson: Aye C. VanPatten: Aye
 C. Prentice: Aye

Committee Reports:

Recreation: There was no recreation report.

Tourism: This year the Chambers Great Lighted Pumpkin Contest had 44 entries. Prizes were given to thirty entries. A lot of events are being scheduled for the month of Dec. The Christmas in Waddington event is looking for help in many areas. From making wreaths, putting up lights on Main St., and working some of the pop up shops that will be put in the vacant buildings on the street, including the Clark House making Main St. the focal point. The group hopes to encourage many visitors to come and visit Waddington.

Rescue Squad: C. Prentice stated that the Rescue Squad meeting is being held this evening. They had a special meeting to address the coverage of need submitted by the Ogdensburg Rescue Squad. It basically boils down to billing. They have been assured by Ogdensburg that they will not be coming into Waddington to take their calls unless requested.

Library: C. Robinson reported that the library board met on November 1st. Edith received a call from Rita Heverly Manly. She has several labeled tapes of the Seaway development that she would like to donate. Edith will contact Zach Dupray to see if they should go to the museum. If not they will stay with the library.

Bruce from Maitland's dropped off the flooring for the basement. Edith took 6 boxes of VHS tapes to Best Friends in Potsdam. Two computers and a laptop were ordered in October. The Halloween Party was October 30th. There were 43 participants. The Friends will hold a Christmas Basket raffle. Jason Curran will be asked to clean the snow from the steps. The next meeting will be December 6th.

Cemeteries: C. McKnight reported that the fence at the Chamberlain Corners Cemetery has been removed and all the post holes filled in. The corner markers will be in next week. There is still enough community service left for the person to straighten the stones and power wash them.

Chamber of Commerce: C. VanPatten reported that the Chamber had held its banquet and are debating if the Chamber will remain in existence.

Highway: The sand piles have been prepared in Madrid and Waddington. The air conditioners have been removed from the library windows and the storms installed. The broken sub frame on T-5 has been repaired and plow frame installed. The trucks have been serviced and are being harnessed for snow removal. The harder Sander apron has been extended by 23 inches and installed on T-4 giving it more useful capacity. They worked with the Village removing the docks. The town office door has been repaired. There has been temporary roof repair to the old town barn until a new roof can be installed. The new light has been installed at the foot of the stairs in the old town hall.

Engineer report: Smith Civil Engineering submitted its report and recommendations for repair of the rafters in the old town hall. The Code Enforcement Officer prepared an RFP for the repairs. Discussion was held and the board requested that the Clerk send the RFP to the contractors in Waddington and advertise in the paper for the December meeting.

Discussion was held as to a timeline to remove the suspended ceiling and do the plaster repairs in the ceiling. It was decided to wait until at least March to begin so that it will be warmer for the plaster to set correctly.

A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Robinson to have the Clerk contact Smith Civil Engineering to get a quote to design the heating system that will be needed to heat the building.

River Rd Property Update: Supv Wright stated that the time frame for permissive referendum has passed as of October 12th. The Board can now proceed to begin the sale of the surplus property. She stated that they will have to decide how they will sell. By auction, sealed bids, or purchase offers? The Board decided that it needed to be sold at public auction giving everyone an even playing field. Bill Tiernan stated that he had a list of auctioneers that could be contacted. They do everything from advertising to selling. The Clerk will contact Ray at KT Power to ask for some information.

Resolution #71

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree that the surplus River Rd property will be sold by public auction. An informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 @ 6PM to present the maps and information to the public who might be interested. Ayes: All

NYPA Preservation Power: Karen White from NYPA was present to explain NYPA's proposal for the balance of the 10 million in electric discounts in the 3 county regions. She stated that NYPA had an economic development study conducted and is having a hard time finding the funding to target the marketing suggested. They are proposing taking the balance of the 10 million and using 2 million per year for five years for marketing. By doing this it would end the electric discounts this year instead of 2018. She noted that there are 20 businesses in the Madrid-Waddington school district that receive the discount. The highest discount was approx. \$450 and 13 are \$150 or below. They would work with the farmers to go through NYSERDA for a program.

C. McKnight stated that he has checked with a neighboring farm who has not received their discounts for the last two quarters. He stated that his family farm's discounts amount to \$17,640 per year. That equates to approx. \$1,500 per month. A neighboring farm in Madrid receives \$36,000 from the discounts. He stated that we should be preserving the jobs and businesses that are here now not chasing after businesses that will never come to our region. A question and answer period ensued to Karen White concerning the discount amount stated by C. McKnight.

Resolution # 72

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, NYPA proposes to repurpose the funds being used to support the Temporary North Country Power Discount Program (TNCPDP) to support a collaborative marketing effort working with the St Lawrence County Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) to bring new Preservation Power customers to the region and thereby new good jobs; and

WHEREAS, NYPA proposes to phase out and eliminate the TNCPDP during a three month period beginning in fall, 2016 and anticipates ending the program around the end of 2016; and

WHEREAS, once the phase out is complete, NYPA will use its resources in cooperation with the communities to identify, attract and facilitate the creation or expansion of businesses consistent with the St. Lawrence County Economic Development Study that can be users of Preservation Power; and

WHEREAS, NYPA will support this effort in an amount up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) per year for a period of up to five years, or until contracts for all the available Preservation Power have been executed;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does not support the proposal submitted by NYPA for the discontinuance of the Temporary North Country Power Discount Program (TNCPDP).

Roll Call Vote:

Supv. Wright:	Aye	C. McKnight:	Aye
C. Robinson:	Aye	C. VanPatten:	Aye
C. Prentice:	Abstain		

Howard Cemetery Donation: Supv Wright reported that the Howard Family Trust sent a donation of \$1,000 towards perpetual care at the Old Brookside cemetery. The check was placed in the Haggett Cemetery Account to be used in the cemetery.

Budget Adjustment: Supv Wright stated that there is a shortfall in the highway fund until the Chips payment \$125,000 and NYPA Annual payment \$47,982 comes in in December. She would like to make a temporary budget adjustment until the funds come in.

Resolution #73

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: VanPatten

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the bookkeeper to make a temporary transfer in the amount of \$85,000 from General Money Market to Highway. This will be paid in full + current interest rate in December when funds arrive. Ayes: All

Executive Session: A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session @ 9:25PM to discuss highway negotiations and pending litigation. A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by McKnight to return to regular session @ 9:50PM. Ayes: All
No action was taken.

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

Adjournment: A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by McKnight to adjourn the meeting @ 10:00 PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk