

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, November 6, 2023 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

**Also present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent. Phyllis Acres and Mayor Michael Zagobelny were in attendance after the Village Board meeting ended.

**Call to order:** Supv McKnight called the meeting to order @ 7:03PM.

**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 C. McBath suggested because the board had three meetings in October that the minutes be posted separately on the website.

**Citizen's Comments:** None.

**Sean Frusco- RIC Energy:** Sean addressed the board concerning the adoption of the Canton solar law. He noted that in that law there is a section that addresses article 10 review. This is for projects of 25 MW and above. He suggested that the Town adopt a tier system when it comes to the escrow account required. He noted that most towns require \$1,000 per mw in this type of account. Their project is 3.58 MW. The Board noted that the attorney was working on the update of our solar law. Supv McKnight noted that it should be complete around the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. The moratorium will likely be renewed at the end of December to be sure that the process is complete and lifted immediately after.

Sean noted that he was going to move forward with the waiver option that is in our current law. He based this on two reasons. 1. To secure their position in the cue they have already spent ½ million dollars with interest and 2. The incentives from NYSERDA are a large portion of the financials. The project was introduced February 1<sup>st</sup>. The hardship clause can be put into place. He told the board that he had met with the Planning Board and they are almost in agreement with the project. They requested a few changes in which RIC has completed but it doesn't make sense to go back to the Planning Board until the moratorium has been lifted. The Board suggested that he bring it back to the Planning Board anytime. The Clerk will have to set up the meeting and advertise. It will take a little time to go through the process. They could approve the project pending the lifting of the moratorium.

The Board told Sean that they couldn't commit to any of his requests without talking to the Town Attorney. Supv McKnight will contact him with his concerns.

### **Budget Public Hearing:**

Supv McKnight opened the public hearing for the preliminary budget @ 7:25 PM with the Town Clerk reading the legal notice published. There was no one in attendance and the public hearing was closed @ 7:28PM. Supv McKnight noted that the library has submitted their budget and it is not far off from what he originally had in the preliminary budget. The Board looked over the changes requested. The tax rate will be \$2.23 per thousand with the library changes.

### Resolution # 70

Motioned by: Tiernan

Seconded by: Martin

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 w/adjustments is hereby adopted as the annual budget for this town beginning January 1, 2024. 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:

C McBath: Aye    C Hunter: Aye  
C Martin: Aye    Supv McKnight: Aye  
C Tiernan: Aye

### **Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** Supt Putney reported that the highway department was conducting general maintenance on trucks and equipment, dug one grave and one cremation, and started hauling sand for Madrid. The Department also paved and chip sealed the parking lots. They had two days of milling for the village with two trucks from Waddington and two trucks from Madrid. They changed one road crossing culvert on Coles Creek Rd. Paved with Madrid on the Westaway Rd with 2 men and paver for one day. Paved Coles Creek Rd 4/10 mile with 2 trucks from Madrid, 2 from Lisbon, 2 from Norfolk, and 2 from Waddington. Prepped lookout at Little Sucker Brook for paving and paved lookout for two days with 2 trucks from Madrid, 2 truck from Lisbon, 2 trucks from Norfolk, and 2 trucks from Waddington, 2 men on paver and three men on Madrid paver. Levelled spoils at the gravel pit and Lisbon moved the dozer back to the town barn. 3 trucks hauled sand for Norfolk for two days. Hauled Waddington's sand with three trucks from Madrid, three trucks from Norfolk and three trucks from Waddington, 1 man on the dozer and one on the excavator.

**Library:** C Marting reported that the library had submitted their budget to the Town. They were asking about the monthly reports. The Clerk noted that she had sent them. Supv McKnight reported that the stone repair work had been completed by Evan's Caulking.

**Cemeteries:** Supv McKnight reported that he has had some squawk from people around town concerning the letter put in the Waddington Recorder concerning the request to have the cemetery plots cleared of silk flowers by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Several people were upset stating they couldn't put wreaths etc. on their loved one's plots for Christmas. He assured them that this was not the case. We are just asking that the old flowers be removed so that they are not blowing all over the area. A copy of the cemetery rules will be distributed when someone purchases a new plot so they know ahead of time.

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

**ARPA Grant:** Spreadsheet with the new numbers was worked out with the Town Clerk. Need to catalog all invoices for recent work (oil separator/paving etc.) and finalize spreadsheet and corresponding invoices. This grant has been spent and we can close it out in the federal grant portal at our report in April.

**RVRDA grant for town hall work:** If invoices have been received for work done and paid, we need to submit follow up paperwork to RVRDA to get our grant award reimbursed.

**RVRDA Grant Leishman Point:** Need to give them an update on the work (by the end of the calendar year). Supt Putney noted he hopes to start work up there weather permitted. They have completed hauling sand and need to harness the trucks.

**NY Forward Grant:** All the requested data (work quotes, pictures, etc.) to revise our submission for work on town hall was forwarded via email to the NY Forward reps after our last meeting. There has been no follow up that I have received about this.

**New Plow Truck USDA Grant:** Contacted USDA in Canton (Denise). The current loan rate on new loans as of today is 3.875% interest, subject to change at any time. We would still be grant eligible for a grant for a new truck, but the amount is unknown until we apply and they look at all the numbers. We currently owe approximately \$162,000 on the first plow truck and \$128,762 on the payloader. Our total debt with USDA right now is \$290,762. At our last meeting we committed to \$52,446 per year for 4 years for the new excavator. (\$209,784). Combined right now we have \$500,546 in debt obligations for highway equipment. The decision point for the board is do we want to take on more highway equipment debt, already owing over a half a million right now.

The board further discussed the purchase. Supv McKnight noted that he would look at the Equipment Reserve fund to see what the options are. C Tiernan stated that it doesn't make

sense to take the money out to pay the payloader off when we are earning 5% interest on it. Supv McKnight agreed but noted that he would want to make sure the full amount is in the reserve fund before we make any decisions. The board asked Supt Putney how long the quote was good for. He said Viking Cives was through the end of the year. He wasn't sure about the truck. He would contact them to see.

**Rescue Squad:** C Tiernan reported that their meeting was this evening.

**Recreation:** C Martin reported that the cheerleading program has started and has increased in size. There are 60 participants. The program has now added an additional day. The Recreation Committee increased the pay to \$1000.00 which is paid to the M-W Varsity Cheerleading Program.

**Iroquois Land Next Steps:** Supv McKnight reported that Scott Schleuter has reached out to him. He has not secured all the funding yet. He has three sources he is working with. The next step would be to set up a meeting with the board, the land trust, and himself to discuss what the Board would like to see for use easements on the property.

**Iroquois Land Vandalism:** The case has been sent to the District Attorney to determine if there is enough evidence to bring it to grand jury.

**Local Government Task Force:** There has been no meeting. The next one is scheduled for after thanksgiving.

**NYSERDA Grant:** Supv McKnight reported that Nancy Bernstein the town's consultant is working with him to get the calculations done for the grant. Once they are complete it will be sent over to NYSERDA. We also have a new representative with NYSERDA. Nancy will work with them to help get the project through.

Nancy has also gotten information concerning the car charger on Main St. When the Town got the initial grant funded NYSERDA was paying for the charges and service for the first 4-year years. That time is now up and why we are getting bills from the company for the service. She is working with the company to see if there is a reduced fee for services since the town doesn't charge for its use. We will see what they come back with.

**Joint Website:** Supv McKnight asked the board for a volunteer to serve on a committee to explore the joint website. Benny Fairchild is the Village representative. C Martin and McBath have both offered to work on it.

**SLU Boathouse sign:** There is no update at this time.

**Chase Mills Sidewalks:** Supv McKnight has spoken with Don Chambers two times to see if he has gotten any answers on who is responsible for the sidewalks in Chase Mills. He doesn't have anything yet. Supv McKnight will check in with the Town Attorney to see if he has had any luck.

**Radio Tower:** The Board will meet with Emergency Services Head Matt Denner on Thursday @ 6PM in the fire hall. The meeting will include the fire department and rescue squad. Hopefully we will get some answers on the status of the tower/radios.

**Fire Fighter Exemption:** C McBath asked the board where we stood with the fire fighter exemption. He noted that the assessor told them that they would have to pass a local law. It would replace the current law on the books. Supv McKnight noted he would ask Charlie what we need to do this.

**Budget Resolutions:**

Resolution #71

Motioned by: McBath

Seconded by: Hunter

Increase Buildings Contractual A0-1620-40 in the amount of \$44,000 to reflect parking lot/road work completed.

Increase Unallocated Insurance A0-1910-4 in the amount of \$3,297.10 from A0-1990-4 Contingency to reflect increase in liability insurance.

Increase A0-4540-4 Ambulance Contractual in the amount of \$2,932.00 to reflect donation received from NYPA.

Increase A0-9053-8 HRA in the amount of \$164.50 from A0-9054-8 HRA over 65.

Increase DA-9010-8 NYS Retirement in the amount of \$53.03 from DA-9052-8 HSA.

Increase DB-5112-2 Permanent Improvements CHIPS in the amount of \$130,950.79 to reflect reimbursement received from NYS.

Increase DB-9010-8 NYS Retirement in the amount of \$63.97 from DB-9052-8 HSA.

Increase JR-7180-4 Recreation Beach contractual in the amount of \$1,585.02 from money received from NYPA recreation budget.

Increase JR-7181-1 Recreation Morning Program Personal Services in the amount of \$3,752.50 from money received from NYPA recreation budget.

Increase JR-7181-4 Recreation Morning Program Contractual in the amount of \$340.73 from money received from NYPA recreation budget. Ayes: All

**Surplus Land Beach:** Supv McKnight reported that there is a piece of land just past the St Lawrence Boathouse sign and the drainage ditch that Bill Tiernan purchased when he bought the large tract of land above the beach. He has no use for this small piece of property and he and Marsha would like to give it back to the town. The only cost would be the town's attorney fees to transfer. He will have a map and shade in the area for the next meeting. He just wanted the board to be aware of the offer and we will discuss it at the December meeting.

**Recreation Appointments:**

The recreation commission would like the board to appoint Erin Groebler and Shafique Chaudhry to the committee for a term of five years.

Resolution #72

Motioned by: Martin

Seconded by: McBath

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Erin Groebler and Shafique Chaudhry to the Recreation Committee for a term of five years. Ayes: All

**Supervisor Association meeting:** D McBath attended the County Supervisors Association meeting. There was a representative from the Potsdam Humane Society there who wants to encourage the towns to establish their own kennels for stray dogs.

There was also a presentation from Michelle Capone from DANC. She gave an overview of the projects that DANC is involved in. C McBath noted that she could be helpful in funding to implement the campground. The deal with wastewater, run the Rodman Landfill, and do grant writing.

**Grant writer RFP:** The mayor sent out an RFP this afternoon to search for a joint grant writer. Supv McKnight asked the board to look it over and we will discuss it at the next meeting.

**Citizen's Comments:** none

**Executive Session:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Hunter to enter executive session @ 8:45 for the discussion relating to proposed, pending, or current litigation. Ayes: All  
A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Tiernan to return to regular session @ 10:00 PM. Ayes: All  
No action was taken during the executive session.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to pay bills # 23-00691 – 23-00780 in the amount of \$167,489.38. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Tiernan, seconded by Hunter to adjourn the meeting @ 10:02PM  
Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol A Burns, Town Clerk

