

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

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

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Robert Dalton, Highway Superintendent, Amanda Purcell, Ogdensburg Journal, Jane Layo, Cheryl Dominy, Christy Snider, Marilyn Burrell, Edith Ashley, and Mark Scott.

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 McKnight, seconded by Prentice to accept the minutes as submitted. Ayes: All

Tentative Budget: Supv Wright noted that the Board Members had received a copy of the tentative budget. She also noted that the Library Board was in attendance to discuss their budget. She suggested that the Board begin with the Library so that they may leave if they so choose. She noted that the library had a large renovation project in 2011 and has also had an additional \$3,000 in step repairs, \$3,000 approval for brick work, and \$1,000 for hot water heater. She also noted that there needs to be some cuts made to the library's budget. The Town has some large items that need to be paid. (Truck and solar project) She also noted that even if the library uses every cent of their 2014 budget they will still have a fund balance of approximately \$28,000. Library representatives noted that they will be spending \$12,000 out of their fund balance for the new carpet that is due to be installed. C. Prentice noted that they will need to come up with some creative ways to increase their revenue intake. Further discussion ensued between the two boards and the following resolution offered up.

Resolution #69

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to cut the library funding by 14%. This would equate to a reduction of \$9,700 in appropriations. This can be made up by using fund balance or cutting expenditures. Ayes: All

The library will have to submit their revised request before the next board meeting.

Supv. Wright told the board that Justice Sears came to speak with her after she had the tentative budget complete. He had been out of Town at the time. He has requested to begin to get his salary on target with other justices in the area. This would bring his salary to \$15-16,000. He is currently being paid \$12,000. He is requesting an increase of \$1,500 each for himself and his court clerk. Discussion was held and the board agreed to leave the proposed increase of 2%.

Supv. Wright also noted that she has included an additional \$7,900 in automation for the purchase of a new bookkeeper software program. The Clerk's looked at the new one in 2013 and the company has agreed to honor the price from then. They also offer a two year 0 interest payment plan. C. Prentice questioned the reason for a new system. The Clerk explained that the company that they have been with since 1993 has been sold and a new program has been initiated in its place. The cost for the new program is approximately \$30,000. They have told the Town that they are phasing out the old program and will eventually no longer support it at all. He asked when they will not support it. The Clerk will look further into it. Supv. Wright noted that she would leave it there and if it doesn't get purchased this year it will be available towards next year.

Supv. Wright stated that the bottom line as submitted would increase the tax rate to \$2.02 per thousand an increase of .06 which would equate to \$6.00 on an assessment of \$100,000. The Board further discussed the rate and stated that they would like to keep the rate the same @ \$1.96 per thousand.

Resolution #70

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby make the following changes to the tentative budget that was submitted.

Decrease Attorney by \$3,000 and reduce the bottom line for the library to \$59,581. They also directed the Supervisor to make the necessary changes to the contingency line to keep the tax rate @ 1.96 per thousand.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the tentative budget with the changes noted above as the 2015 Preliminary Budget. Ayes: All

Committee Reports:

Library: C. Robinson reported that the Library Board held their meeting on October 7th. Edith attended a conference in Potsdam Sept. 17th and the annual meeting in Watertown on the 27th. The board agreed to change to the Courier Observer since the Town uses it for notices. The pumpkin carving contest will be October 25th from 10 to 12. The new carpet will be installed in 2-3 weeks and should be completed in three days. The color is greenish blue. It will be purchased from Wilson Tile & Carpet. The friends will provide the food for the Halloween party. The board requested the air conditioner be removed in October instead of November. Edith spoke about funding options and will ask Paulette Roes to attend a meeting to give more information. The Christmas bazaar will be December 6th. The next meeting will be November 4th.

Rescue Squad: Supv Wright reported that the Squad held their meeting on October 6th. Their balance was \$10,315.86. They have purchased a Trophy Boat, motor, and trailer. They will sell the old boat for \$6,000. They have three new members and a fourth who is in the background check stage. Tammy Kocher has taken over the position as Chief.

Highway: Supt Dalton reported that the rebuilding work is completed on the Halfway house Road and Rookey Rd. Some shoulders were reshaped and asphalt mulch was laid net to the new black top.

They also laid 40 tons of mulch for the Village, helped with the installation of two new water lines underneath Rout 37 and Clinton St. The County has agreed to a 7% increase in the snow removal contract for 2015.

The sand screen is nearing completion. Sauna tubes have been installed, structural steel erected; the ramp will be built tomorrow. Once the ramp is complete they can install the screen and load some trucks to see how it's going to distribute the sand in the boxes. This new setup will eliminate a huge chance of someone getting hurt while loading the trucks.

The solar project is coming along. The Highway Department installed the base pads, have helped out with installing the conduits, and helped at other times when possible.

The Department paved approximately 500 ft. of the McKnight Rd after they completed installing the under drain. There are still approximately 500 feet of the road left as gravel until they are sure the drainage is under control in the spring. It will be paved next year.

The old sign has been removed from the four corners and the foundation is ready to pour for the new sign. They have started to cut some shoulders that will continue as the weather permits through the fall.

The department has started hauling sand for winter sanding. They expect to finish hauling Madrid sand tomorrow and start working on our pile. The salt has been delivered from Knowlton in Norwood.

The fall roadside mowing has been completed. They mowed a little extra up around Leishman Point and the old River Rd. In the next few weeks they will be closing up the waterworks at the beach and winterizing the library.

Chamber of Commerce: Jane reported that the Chamber will hold their annual dinner the 1st week of November. They are working on Christmas in Waddington. They will hold an open house on October 19th from 1-3PM. The Great Lighted Pumpkin contest will be held on October 25th. Some of the members attended the Local Government Conference. There will be a

business to business get together at Kanab's in Massena. Jane reported that the Chamber has a good board now. There are a lot of active members.

Solar Project: C. Prentice reported that the project is coming along. The meter needs to be put in. All of the arrays are up as of tonight.

Supv Wright reported that there is a NYPA savings account that is in Community Bank which has a balance of \$19,247.42. She would like to use this towards the payment of the solar project.

Resolution #71

Motioned by: Prentice

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Supv Wright to use the balance of \$19,247.42 towards the solar project. Ayes: All

Life Flight: Supv Wright received the annual request for contribution from Life Flight. Every year the town allocates \$100 towards this cause.

Resolution #72

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: VanPatten

WHEREAS: North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation which is responsible for aspects of patient care by providing medical equipment, training medical personnel and administering the medical portion utilizing the New York State Police helicopter based in Saranac Lake and private fixed-wing aviation resources; and

WHEREAS: The New York State Police aviation resources do not provide a medically trained team or medical equipment for patient transports; and

WHEREAS: The people of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, and St. Lawrence Counties receive a vital emergency medical service for critically ill and seriously injured patients, and therefore municipal governments are asked to pledge monies for this worthwhile program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town Board of the Town of Waddington hereby authorizes the Supervisor to enter into a contract with North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc for the purpose of operating the medical component of the medical program, which will serve its residents and visitors, and paying the amount of \$100 which represents the Town's share for 2015; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the sum of \$100 is hereby appropriated to account no A1010.4 for payment to the North Country LIFE FLIGHT, Inc. Ayes: All

Credit Card payments: The clerk reported that there is a credit card company that is working with the Town's tax software program. They will be offering online credit card payments to anyone wishing to use the service. It is no cost to the town. The consumer will be charged a fee and the company takes care of all the deposits to the Town. They have also offered this service in the office. The Clerk will have a credit card machine available to the consumer. Again the consumer will pay a fee to use the service. She requested permission to use this service in the office.

Resolution #73

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby give the Clerk permission to enter into a credit card agreement with The Satellite.biz to allow on line payment for taxes and also for the Clerk's office. This will all be no charge to the Town for the service. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments:

Amanda Purcell asked for details about the solar project.

Executive Session: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by VanPatten to enter into executive session @ 9:45PM to discuss NYPA negotiations. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Prentice to return to regular session @ 10:00PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Bills: A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by Robinson to pay bills # 747-822 in the amount of \$213,036.34. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by VanPatten, seconded by McKnight to adjourn the meeting @ 10:20 PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk