

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, October 14, 2019 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: Deputy Supervisor McKnight and Council Members: David McBath, Scott Loomis, and Shaun Prentice. Supervisor Hammond was absent due to a business commitment and phoned in from Foxwoods Resort Casino, 350 Trolley Line Blvd, Mashantucket, CT 06338.

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Patty VanPatten, James Miller, Cheryl Carr-Dominy, Julie McBath, Karen and James Thew, Jonnie Claeys, Tim Martell, Mark Scott, Michael G. Miller, and William Tiernan.

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

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: C McBath pointed out that he told the board that they could receive 30-40,000 grant money. It was written as 30-40%. Supv Hammond also noted that in the special meeting it should be stated that Rita Curran stated that she would not vote for the town to lose its sales tax. Corrections being noted, a motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to accept the minutes as corrected. Ayes: All

Public Hearing: Local Law #2 of 2019 exceeding the 2% tax cap:

Deputy Supv McKnight opened the public hearing with the Clerk reading the legal notice. He reported that the purpose for the public hearing was to pass a local law that would allow the town to exceed the 2% tax cap if needed. He opened the floor to public comments. Mark Scott asked what the actual rate is. C Prentice noted it was between 1.7 & 1.89%. Jim Thew asked what the tax rate would be. Deputy McKnight noted that the proposed tax rate was \$2.14 per thousand. An increase of 2%. All desirous of being heard, Deputy McKnight closed the public hearing. He asked the board if there were any further discussion. None being the following resolution was passed.

Resolution #65

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve local law #2 of the year 2019 entitled "A local law exceeding the tax levy limit imposed upon real property pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c(5)";

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby declare a negative declaration on the short environmental assessment form. Ayes: All

East Coast Watercross Competition: Jonnie Claeys presented the board with a proposal to bring the East Coast Watercross Competition to Waddington June 26-28, 2020. The Association has been to Waddington to scope out the water and the location and is very excited to be able to hold the competition in Waddington. She reported that there is a \$10,000 sponsorship fee for them to come and she is putting herself out there to come up with the money. What she is asking from the town is to be able to use the beach for this event, provide parking, self-contained camping, EMT's, and the possibility of a block dance on Saturday evening on Main St. This would bring tourism directly into Waddington at a minimal fee to the Town. The Board had questions like who would be responsible for insurance, who determines if the conditions are right for the racing etc. She stated that she had just received the contract from East Coast Watercross this morning. The director of the St. Lawrence County Chamber was looking at it and then she would release it to the Board for review. After discussion the Board noted that they would be interested but needed some more information and to look at the costs to the Town. She said she would get them the contract. Deputy McKnight asked Jim Thew if he would be willing to help with the campground aspects of the event. He said that he would. The Board will have a decision at the November meeting.

Citizen's Comments:

Patty VanPatten told the board that there is another event that she would like to talk about. The Great Lighted Pumpkin contest is coming up shortly and there is no longer a chamber of commerce to sponsor it. It has been going for 30 years. She is looking for another organization or individuals to sponsor it. She asked Cheryl Carr-Dominy if the Library would be interested in this. She stated that they would talk with her to help out. She asked the Board if they would donate the prizes. She said it has been \$100 which is divided amongst the entrants.

Resolution #66

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to sponsor the Great Lighted Pumpkin Contest in the amount of \$100. Ayes: All

Committee Reports:

Recreation: Nothing to report at this time.

Rescue Squad: C Prentice reported that the Squad had 17 calls in September, they have 2 Jr. Members in EMT Class, there are three out on medical leave, and they are working on classes for drivers. They are down on people who can drive the ambulance.

The man door on the building is in rough shape and needs to be replaced. They asked if it was something that the Town Highway Dept could handle. Supt Putney noted that they didn't have the time or manpower to do this. They looked at a price and it was \$350 w/keyless entry. Deputy McKnight noted that he thinks the door will be covered by the improvements to the building through the energy grant. He will look into it and let everyone know by the next meeting.

Campground committee:

C McBath reported that the campground committee met on September 16th. They did a recap of the work to date, discussed any approvals already granted etc. They discussed past committee work to date and draft document that currently exist- campground phase one layout containing 18 RV Full hook up sites, 4 unit unisex bathhouse, 3 family cabins, and solar array big enough to power the campground and building footprint.

Rough estimate cost: \$611,500 – RV sites and bathhouse, cabins 1200 sq. ft. @\$150 per sq. ft. = \$180,000 x 3 = \$540,000. Ballpark estimate for phase one \$1,151,500 + solar array cost.

The committee's focus for the meeting was to draft a brief document setting out discussion/recommendations related to the development of Leishman Point by the Town of Waddington. This concept would be used for Town Board consideration, for consideration by Local Govt Task Force and NYPA for thumbs up or down on the project concept for use of available funds. If this is approved at multiple levels, the committee will put pen to paper and get specific with the data and turn estimates into hard numbers.

Cemeteries/Safety: Nothing to report.

Highway: The Highway Department completed cutting shoulders on McGinnis and Rookey Rd, helped Madrid pave for 3 days, hauled 1A to chip seal Wayne Hunter Rd, attended the fall safety meeting with Safety Joe, working on Hardscrabble Rd hauling and leveling shoulder dirt, ditching and replacing culverts on Hardscrabble, doing maintenance on trucks getting ready for inspection, and dug three cremations.

Deputy McKnight reported that they had contacted the high bidder for the backhoe on Auctions International and told him that the minimum bid was \$15,000. He has accepted the bid and will be in touch with Supt Putney this week.

C McBath asked when the board would be taking the drive around for the roads. They decided that it would have to be after Election Day because our next meeting is November 4th.

Supt Putney submitted photos of damage to the road and fields up at the Iroquois Dam. Supv Hammond asked him to send them to him so he could see. Discussion was held about closing the gate again before mud season to avoid further damage. The topic was tabled until the next meeting.

Gallery at Lake St. Lawrence: Mark Scott reported that the business members met concerning the sign at the corner of Main & 37. Roy Lawrence is designing a new sign. The businesses have been working on Christmas in Waddington.

Jim Thew reported that the Clarke House Visitor's center has had a lot of activity. The Clarke House is currently shut down this week to insulate the ceiling for winter.

Library: C Loomis reported that the library's 100th anniversary party was held on September 28th. There were approximately 60 people in attendance. A representative from Assemblyman Mark Walczyk's office presented the library with a plaque. Duffy had a display depicting the history of the library.

Sidewalk update: The sidewalk project will be started on October 21st. Dig safe has been marked out as well as the drainage.

USDA Grant: C McBath reported that he had met with Renee from USDA to review the paperwork for the grant. Everything is in order. We just need to get the Supervisor to sign. The grant is based on \$214,000 for a truck from Beam Mack which is under the Onondaga County Bid. USDA will grant the town \$32,000 towards the truck with the balance as a low interest loan @ 3% for 15 years. The grant required us to get two quotes from other banks. We received one from Community Bank which was 2.95% for 10 years and NBT was 4.5% for 10 years. If the town receives the grant we can pay it back at any time without penalty and we also don't have to accept it if we decide not to take it.

Resolution #67

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington does hereby authorize Supv Hammond to sign the grant application to the USDA for the purchase of a new plow truck.

There were no citizen's comments after the approval of the grant submittal. Ayes: All

Citizen/Taxpayer Survey: C McBath reported that he would like to see the board send out some sort of citizen/taxpayer survey asking the community what they would like to see done with the recreation funds from the power authority. Give them the options on the table and ask for other suggestions. This would get the information out to the public that have not come to the board meetings. Discussion was held. The board felt this was a good idea. C McBath will work on the wording and the clerk will get cost information for the next meeting.

2020 Budget: Deputy McKnight reported that the board members have been given a copy of the tentative 2020 budget. He asked if they would like to go line by line or if they would like to do that at a specific meeting for the budget. The Board will have a budget workshop on October 21st @ 7PM.

Deputy McKnight touched on some of the budget items. To balance the budget \$46,000 was used from an unexpended balance in the general fund, \$80,000 revenues from 2020 High Flow monies, and \$36,000 from 2019 High Flow monies.

There is an increase in highway due to an employee who is currently on medical leave. The Town must keep his position open for 1 year. The employee is hoping to come back to work for 8 months before retiring. In the interim the Highway Supt needs to hire someone to fill the position due to upcoming winter weather. This budget is worst case scenario with the extra person.

Increase in the tax rate is 2% bringing the total per thousand to \$2.14 from \$2.09.

Resolution #68

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the tentative budget as presented to become the preliminary 2020 budget. Ayes: All

Car Charging Station: Deputy McKnight noted that he has been receiving comments about the car charging station. People are concerned that there is no fee for a driver to charge their car. C Prentice noted that he can get a report together for the usage of the station. He also noted

that the electric station helped us to obtain Green community status and that while people are there charging their car they will wander down Main St and stop in storefronts that are open to purchase items.

Julie McBath asked the board if there were a way that they can get education out to people about the proposed tower the County is going to erect. The County had put out a press release for comments and the comments from local people on Facebook were not good. They just don't know what the tower is for. Discussion was held and the Rescue Squad will get with the Fire Department to talk to the County.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to enter into executive session @ 8:25PM 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 & 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 Loomis, seconded by Prentice to return to regular session @ 9:05PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Resolution #69

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Supt Putney to hire a full time highway employee. Ayes: All

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

Adjournment: A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Loomis to adjourn the meeting @ 9:15PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk