

## Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, October 11, 2021 @ 7PM in the Old Town Hall.

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

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, David Putney, Highway Superintendent, Patty VanPatten, Tracey Putney, James Miller, Mike Christie, Tisdel Associates, Edith Ashley, Sue Papasian, Tom Hunter, Phyllis & Kevin Acres.

**Call to order:** Supv Hammond called the meeting to order @ 7:01PM.

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

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

**Cannabis Public Hearing:** Supv Hammond stated that it has been in the news and discussed at previous board meetings that Towns can make the decision to opt out of the cannabis law to allow dispensaries within their boundaries. He also noted that if the Town decides to opt out of the law there could still be a dispensary within the limits of the Village unless they opt out also. We are two separate entities. If the Town is going to opt out it must do so by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If the Town does opt out there is an opportunity for them to opt back in at a later time. He then opened the hearing to public comments.

James Miller asked if the Board decides not to opt out by December 31<sup>st</sup> is there a penalty? Supv Hammond noted there are no penalties. It's either in or out. Our decision.

Sue Papasian asked if the State still needs to approve if we don't opt out. Supv Hammond noted that if we do nothing there will be nothing for the State to approve. The State will approve and issue the licenses for applicants to open dispensaries.

Supv Hammond asked if there were any other comments. No comments being had he closed the public hearing on the Cannabis discussion.

**Local Law #4 of the year 2021:** The Clerk read the legal notice for local law #4 of the year 2021 entitled Exceeding the Tax Levy Limit imposed upon Real Property pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c(5). Supv Hammond reported that the Town passes this local law every year during budget time to ensure a safety net should they have to go over the allowable 2% tax cap. He opened the public hearing for comments.

Kevin Acres asked what the 2% tax cap was for Waddington. Supv Hammond reported that the Town had a carryover of \$5,000 + 2% which equaled 2.9% to stay under the tax cap. The tax rate will increase from \$2.14 to \$2.20 per thousand. No further comments were had.

## Resolution #70

Motioned by: Prentice

Seconded by: Loomis

WHEREAS, the Waddington Town Board has met at the time and place specified in the public notice on the local law #4 of the year 2021 and heard all persons desiring to be heard thereon; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby pass local law #4 of the year 2021 entitled 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 for the SEQR portion of the local law. Ayes: All

## Emergency Power Modification Bid Opening:

The Emergency Power Modifications for the Waddington Fire Station and Highway Garage had been posted and there were four bids received. Tisdel Associates held a pre bid conference on October 4, 2021 @ 9AM. The bidding procedures and site conditions were fully reviewed. Bids were received from the following:

Tel, Inc, 4775 NY 812, Heuvelton, NY 13654	\$27,500
Dow Electric, 3874 State Rt 11, Malone, NY 12953	35,000
Kahrs Construction LLC, 27682 Limestone Rd, Redwood, NY 13679	39,000
ENI Mechanical Inc, 39 S Gordon St, Gouverneur, NY 13642	42,984.04

The board noted that Tel Inc was the company that they began the initial project with. The project will use the existing 55 KW generator with transfer switches in the Fire Department as well as the municipal building. If need be the Highway Supt will dig up the parking lot. Time frame for the project is 90 days.

Resolution #71

Motioned by: Loomis

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby award the bid for emergency power modification to Tel, Inc in the amount of \$27,500.

Ayes: Hammond, McKnight, Loomis                      Opposed: Prentice

**Citizen's Comments:**

James Miller reported that the Resource Center is back open for regular hours. They request that you use the hand sanitizer and wear a mask. They will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday 9AM-Noon and Friday 9-4PM or by appointment.

Edith Ashley asked for an update on the Baildon property. They told her that they were taken to court and told that they couldn't bring any more on to the property and had to have it cleaned up. They will have Tony look at it again. The board discussed that they passed a local law that will help with the cleanup if we have to send someone in and put it on the tax maps. They are directing Tony to start the process. The clerk also noted he has been working with another cleanup in Chase Mills and is making progress with it.

**Committee Reports:**

**Highway:** C McKnight reported that the highway department has performed maintenance on trucks to get the NYS Inspections done. They have been using Madrid's boom mower to get brush back off the roads. They finished up screening sand spoils and road millings and have returned the screen to Lisbon. They helped Madrid chip seal roads and blacktopped with them for two days. Graded and rolled the Henry Rd, cleaned and prepped the sand rack for welding, cut brush and weeds on the Ogden vault in Old Brookside for the walking tour, cut the north line at Scotch Presbyterian Cemetery, put corner markers in at new and old Brookside, started ditching and making turn around at the end of Brown Church Rd, and dug one cremation.

**Rescue Squad:** C Prentice had nothing to report.

**Library:** Supv Hammond reported that the library manager will be late for the meeting. She is coming in from the airport. He will put the library report later in the meeting when she arrives.

**Grants/Alternative Revenue:** C McBath submitted the following report.

Iroquois land: Fourth Coast has provided a quote to do the SEQR that the Town needs to have done for the land project. He would like to know what their estimated timeline on completion is before we accept the quote.

ARPA grant Drainage Project: Association of Towns advised the reporting deadline has been extended from October 31 to April 2022 and the feds are drafting additional grant guidance. The Town received a quote from Kevin Smith who has decided he can in fact engineer this project for us. While we think this is an eligible drainage project, it has yet to be confirmed with the feds. He would support hiring Kevin for this work, and submit his project scope to the state/feds to insure we have an eligible project before we go any further.

Fire alarm system/RVRDA Grant- bid was awarded last meeting- the company advises they are having challenges getting component parts due to supply chain backlogs. They are hopeful to complete the project by the end of the year. If by December is not complete, he feels we should send RVRDA a letter just to keep them informed on the status of the project and the parts backlog which is beyond our control.

**Cemeteries/Safety:** C McKnight reported that quotes and pictures of the fencing for the cemeteries have been sent to the board. This is being used to give the board an idea of the expenses that could be incurred and a place to begin to find additional funding. Upon seeing these C McKnight has asked for approval to move forward to find funding. The board unanimously agreed to this.

They are hoping to have the flagpoles installed in all the cemeteries by Veterans Day. The American Legion donated 2 30' poles with lights and flags, Tenley and Al Amo have donated one, and the Sons of the Legion will be donating one to be installed on the property line of the Catholic and Old Brookside Cemetery. Tracey has been working with the Sons of the Revolutionary War for a 2023 dedication of patriot markers.

**Recreation:** C Loomis reported that the weeds need to be cut at the beach. Russ has asked if there has been any movement with NYPA with the cameras that were requested. The recreation committee will be advertising for a new beach director, morning recreation positions, and reading program directors. They are beginning a new cheerleading program. Supv Hammond noted that he had reached out to Bobby Gordon who does weed control on Black Lake. He has two different cutters and is supposed to come over and give us an estimate. We would pay for it and then NYPA would reimburse the expenses. He will contact Bill Dashnaw who is in the Black Lake Association to see where we stand.

**Gallery/Clarke House:** Supv Hammond noted the Clarke House is still open.

**Tourism:** Supv Hammond reported that October Fest took place on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 11Am-6PM. Festivities were conducted down Main St and at the pavilion on the River. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. Brittnay Bush is hoping that the people who served on the committee will remain for the Christmas in Waddington.

**Museum:** James Miller, President of the Moore Museum presented his report. The next meeting of the museum board is Tuesday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6PM. The Waddington Historical Association will meet on Tuesday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM in the old town hall. James recognized Kathy Putney, Historian for all the work she has been putting in to get the museum up and running. He would also like to recognize Mary Hamilton, President of the Historical Association. She has done an incredible job getting the Association up and running.

The Museum board discussed the idea of the museum being located on the grounds of St. Paul's Church as opposed to being inside the building itself. It was decided by the majority of the board members that this is the most pleasing option in terms of aesthetics and the preservation of artifacts. At the last Village meeting they voted to officially begin the process of acquiring St. Paul's Church and the new manse from the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. The museum board stands firmly behind their decision. The St Lawrence Power Museum is looking at acquiring the old depot.

With the resignation of the Museum Board Treasurer it is the opinion of the board that they don't need a treasurer and he has been instructed to draft an amendment to the bylaws abolishing the treasury.

The Museum Board has discussed having a MWCS student serve on the board. The bylaws don't specify an age requirement. The board would request that the Town Board approve the appointment of Molly Bogart, a junior at MWCS as a member of the Museum board.

Resolution #72

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the appointment of Molly Bogart to the Waddington Public Museum Board of Trustees. Ayes: All

**Local Government Task Force:** Supv Hammond reported that he and the Mayor have convinced Kevin Kitzman to conduct a few more community meetings to get the public's input on the NYPA relicensing review. The next meeting will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30PM in the old town hall. The final meeting will be held 2 weeks after that.

**Court Security Officer:** C McBath noted that he had emailed the applicants resumes to the Court Clerk and Town Justice. We received 6 applications. Judge Robinson wants to do interviews of the candidates. C McBath will sit in on the interviews as a board representative. He is working with Judge Robinson to set this up.

**Charter Franchise Agreement:** There will be a meeting with the Town Attorney on Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7PM to discuss the franchise agreement negotiations. The meeting will open in public session and immediately enter into executive session. No other business will be discussed at this meeting.

**Old Town Hall:** The town continues to wait for a quote to fix the façade on the tower. It looks as if a gutter system is needed to keep the water from running down the side of the tower and washing out the mortar. Bertrand's Construction was supposed to look at it while they were in town. The clerk will contact them to see if they are still here.

**Horse Trails:** C Loomis reported that he had received an email from Lowell McAllister with the Horse Club. They have had some trouble with the trails. There have been donuts done in the parking lot where they park the trailers. Some are significant. Someone has also burned the seats that were built around the fire pit. The Board again discussed the gate issue and that there is always someone that ruins it for the others.

**Tentative Budget:** Supv Hammond reported that the Board held a budget workshop and was presented with a tentative budget. Since that meeting there has only been one change made. The Village requested that the Town increase the historian salary to \$1,500. This is what they will be paying her. He increased the salary from the part town money saved from the Recreation reduction. Discussion ensued and the following resolution made:

Resolution #73

Motioned by: Prentice

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the tentative budget to become the preliminary budget for 2022. Ayes: All

Supv Hammond noted he should have mentioned that the preliminary budget is dependent on the library being put back on the solar program. C Prentice noted he would be getting information from the National Grid bills to see what the usage is.

Resolution #74

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize the Library be put back on the solar program. Ayes: All

**Life Flight:** Resolution #75

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Prentice

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 2022; 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

**Dog Control Compensation:** Supv Hammond reported that he had a conversation with the Dog Control Officer. It seems that when we set up the new way to handle dog control all aspects of the job were not accounted for. The new system allows for a flat fee for the call + mileage. Two things not accounted for were court appearances or dog licensing calls when requested by the clerk. These are done on an hourly basis. To date the dog control officer has submitted 8 hours total for these duties. Supv Hammond would like to pay him \$15 per hour for the hourly jobs. Discussion was held and the following resolution passed.

Resolution #76

Motioned by: Hammond

Seconded by: Prentice

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby agree to pay an hourly rate of \$15 for dog control not covered by the set per call basis. Ayes: All

**Library:** Bonnie reported to the board that she had made the changes requested to the MOU. The first item was whether the library employees could be covered under the worker's compensation. The clerk contacted the Worker's comp department at the County and was told that as long as the library employees receive a paycheck from the Town of Waddington they are covered by the worker's comp. It doesn't matter whether they call themselves town employees or library employees.

The other adjustment was that the Town covers the liability insurance and has the right to change it without library approval.

Resolution #77

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Loomis

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the MOU between the Library and Town Boards. Ayes: All

**Citizen's Comments:**

Patty VanPatten asked the Highway Superintendent to bring the stage down to the four corners for the pumpkin contest. It will be held on Saturday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. The clerk also noted that they will do the trunk or treat again this year at the Island View Pavilion.

Kevin Acres asked questions of Supv Hammond concerning the Town's appropriations, fund balance, and reserves.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McKnight to pay bills # 21-00674 – 21-00780 in the amount of \$113,992.24. Ayes: All

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Prentice, seconded by Loomis to adjourn the meeting @ 8:45PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk

## Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 @ 7PM in the Municipal Building.

**Present were:** Supv Alex Hammond and Councilmembers: David McBath and Scott Loomis.

**Also Present:** Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Tony McManaman, Code Enforcement Officer, and Charlie Nash, Town Attorney. Public was invited to participate via zoom.

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

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

Supv Hammond noted that the purpose of the meeting would be to discuss negotiations for the proposed franchise agreement submitted to the town by Spectrum Northeast, LLC.

**Citizen's Comments:** Supv Hammond asked for any citizen's comments related to the franchise agreement. There were no citizens in attendance.

A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to enter into executive session @ 7:03 PM to discuss negotiations for the franchise agreement submitted by Spectrum Northeast LLC. A motion was made by Loomis, seconded by McBath to return to regular session @ 7:55PM. No action was taken during regular session.

The Board directed the Town Attorney to contact the Spectrum representative to negotiate.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by McBath, seconded by Loomis to adjourn the meeting @ 7:55PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk