

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, February 8, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: Supervisor Mark Scott and Councilors Stephen McKnight, Shirley Robinson, and David Putney.

Also present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Terry Mayette, Highway Superintendent, Shaun Prentice, Jim Locy, Bob Dalton, Frank Bissell, Barb Whyte, Martha Sinkeldam, John Tenbush, Mike Martin, Steve Foy, John Turner, Jim Thew, and Patty VanPatten.

Call to order: Supv. Scott called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Citizen's Comments:

Mike Martin asked if future meetings were going to be at 6:00 and in this location. Supv. Scott noted that the Board approved meeting times at the organizational meeting. They will be 6:00 PM from January to May and back to 7:00PM from June to December. The meetings will be held in the Municipal Building unless there will be a presentation or a larger crowd anticipated in which case they would be held in the Library Community Room. The public will be notified if there is a change in meeting place.

John Tenbush noted that he liked the meeting posted on the signboard at the four corners but it did not state the meeting place. The clerk noted that there were three other signs up there and it needed to be abbreviated as much as possible to fit.

John Tenbush asked what the procedure for the meetings would be. Will a citizen be allowed to ask questions during business or will it strictly be during citizen comments. Supv. Scott noted that he would open items up for discussion from the public as needed.

Jim Locy reported that the sign for Mack's on the four corners is obstructing views when you get to the corner. Supv. Scott noted that there is Village regulations concerning signs and regulations from the state concerning right of ways. He will look into having it moved back.

Health Insurance Presentation: Steve Foy noted that he had come up in the fall to discuss different health plans that could save the Town money on premiums. He reported that he was the architect for the new plan that the Madrid Waddington School district currently has in place. They have seen savings in the first year. Since then Lisbon and Heuvelton Central school districts have followed and Morristown and Ogdensburg are considering the plan. Due to the structure of the plan it offers strong benefits to its participants. The program starts with a high deductible instead of copays. Currently the Town's yearly cost for health insurance premiums is \$57,142.08. This total covers 4 active employees and 5 retired employees. This does not include the bargaining unit of Teamsters. Their contract does not expire until 2012 and can be looked at then. With the high deductible health plan the Town's maximum premiums would be \$52,553.20. Savings to the Town are based on participant's usage of the plan. The program is funded through Blue Cross Blue Shield. It has a \$2600 single deductible and a \$5200 family deductible.

Supv. Scott asked if there was a specific date to change the plan. Steve Foy noted that BCBS has an open enrollment date. The only thing to keep in mind is that the deductible is based on calendar year beginning January 1. The longer you wait the less time you will have to reach the deductible. The medicare people can be changed at any time because there is no deductible involved. He will also look into eligibility for retirees to become part of New York's Epic plan. This may also be advantageous to the Town.

Supv. Scott asked if Steve Foy would be available to meet with the employees that this will affect to explain exactly how the program worked. He noted that he would be glad to.

Frank Bissell asked if there was a cancer plan associated with the insurance. Steve Foy noted that there is coverage for preventative procedures and coverage for procedures after diagnosis but it is not a "cancer policy". Other companies such as AFLAC provide this type of plan.

Jim Thew asked about the flex spending. If you do not use it you lose it? Steve Foy stated that yes if you do not use it you do lose it. The flex account will contain \$1000 that can be used towards deductibles, vision care, dental care, and over the counter meds. This is used first before you touch the HRA portion of the program.

Supv. Scott asked the board if they would like to continue looking at the policy and to have Steve meet with the employees. C. McKnight noted that if we can see a savings like the school districts it is definitely worth looking into.

Shaun Prentice asked how the prescription program worked. He noted that they have a similar plan where he works and there was a problem getting the prescriptions. Steve Foy noted that there is a different procedure to getting prescriptions then people are accustomed to. The pharmacy will process the claim but the participant will have to pay upfront for the medication and is reimbursed within a few days. This can create a financial hardship for people who have expensive medications but this can be taken care of through the policy where a check will be issued before hand.

Supv. Scott asked the board for permission to schedule a day that Steve could sit with the individuals involved. The Board agreed to this type of meeting. Supv. Scott will set one up.

AMP: Supv. Scott reported that Robert Best was not able to attend our meeting because he was in Albany meeting with committees about the North Country Power Authority. An email was received stating that the Senate Energy Committee passed AMP's amended legislation. The vote was unanimous. This is two committees down and three to go.

Census: John Tenbusch reported that every 10 years the country completes a census. The information received during the census governs where \$430 billion in federal funds is distributed. \$40 Billion is distributed in New York State. That equals approximately \$22,000 per person in each district based on census information. He stressed that the census is a very important process that every person needs to participate in. The County Planning Board is doing all that it can to get each individual involved in the process. He asked the board to pass a resolution in support participation in the 2010 census. Supv. Scott reported that Roger Watters was in the office today and dropped off information for anyone interested in becoming a census taker. John Tenbusch noted that the salary is \$15 per hour and the job could last 6 months or less. Some positions last longer.

Resolution #23

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution mandates a headcount every ten years, which is accomplished by the decennial Census process, and

WHEREAS, population data from the Census are used to determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as boundaries for legislative districts across New York State and within St. Lawrence County, and

WHEREAS, Census data are widely used by every level of government in New York State to allocated over \$40 billion in program funds, and

WHEREAS, Census data are used by the private sector for market research and to plan operations and expansions, and by individuals to research their communities, and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau has asked for assistance of local governments, organizations, and individuals across the country to help build public awareness about why the Census is important, and to encourage every person in their community to participate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington does hereby support the efforts of the Census Bureau and of St. Lawrence County's Complete Count Committee to promote participation by all residents of the Town of Waddington in the 2010 Census, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Waddington does hereby request that local agencies, service organizations and community leaders throughout the Town of Waddington work together to promote maximum participation in the Census. Ayes: All

Committee Reports:

Recreation: C. Putney reported that Ashley Dumas would be returning as the head lifeguard for the beach. She will be in contact with lifeguards from last year to see who intends to return for 2010. There are 2-3 new people interested in the positions. The Recreation committee is working with an agency to get a piece of steel from 9-11 for a memorial. The zamboni is working well. They have started skate sharpening. Hank Ford came to train on the machine. They are not charging yet. They want to get better at doing the skates before charging. There is discussion to complete the kitchen at the arena. There is further discussion about funding of ballet.

Highway: Supt. Mayette reported that the new lights have been installed through out the building. They work real nice in the barn. The highway department has been busy with daily maintenance.

He reported fuel usage for 2009 which included the following: beach bus 195 gallons diesel, dog control 239.8 gallons gasoline, Rescue Squad 677.7 gallons diesel and 177 gallons gasoline.

Supt. Mayette reported that Tiernan's Home Supply was cheapest on the ceiling tiles. He ordered them and they should be in next week. Overtime is doing well so far in 2010. In January 2009 they had 127 hours overtime and in January of 2010 they had 98 hours. Supt. Mayette has received some calls from the library concerning the front door acting up. They have been locked in and out. There is a problem with the tumblers. He had the clerk call Barkley's locks from Canton. He also noticed that someone is using the furnace room to house the vacuum cleaner, shovels, and garbage can and the elevator area was blocked with toys from playgroup. Martha Sinkeldam noted that the toys were removed but she would check on the other items.

Supt. Mayette reported that the heating technician that he uses in the barn approached him to participate in a program that would save 30% on heating bills. The program would insert a piece of stainless pipe in the gas line and magnets are attached to it. The magnets activate through the stainless steel pipe and slow down the flow of gas causing it to burn more efficient. The cost to install this is \$2200. The Highway Department in Potsdam has installed this program and in the first month was able to save 30% on their gas bill. Supt. Mayette also reported that the Waddington Fire Department and the City of Ogdensburg are also going to do the program. The Board discussed this and asked Supt. Mayette to bring some further information to the next meeting.

Martha Sinkeldam asked Supt. Mayette about the water in the library basement. Supt. Mayette reported that he went to check on it and it had dried up. He went the next morning and there was no water. Martha told him that it happens when the weather gets warmer and we have a melt. Supt. Mayette noted that he would keep his eye on it. He did not want to snake the drain and have something else plug up along the way. They are still unsure where the drain comes out. It has been dye tested and cannot be followed.

Library: Supv. Scott reported that the library collected \$111 in fines. They reviewed their operating policy and bylaws. They received an anonymous \$200 gift certificate from Caswell's True Value. The flag outside needs to be replaced. Supt. Mayette reported that he had some in his office and would take care of it. Mabel Baker has resigned from the board. They will discuss a new member to take her place.

WRA: Supv. Scott reported that there was an awards presentation on January 23rd. The WRA was presented with a \$2100 grant to sponsor the summer concert series for 2010. There will be six concerts at the park pavilion by the river. C. Robinson and Maria Hunt attended the presentation on behalf of the Town.

Chamber of Commerce: Supv. Scott reported that the Chamber has been busy updating the website, planning new marketing strategies and are revisiting the bylaws.

Supv. Scott had a monthly newsletter from NCLS that talks about state cuts. There was a 14% cut last year and additional ones are in line for this year. He stated that he had additional copies if anyone would like one.

Rescue Squad: C. Robinson reported that the Squad met last Monday. Because they don't have enough EMT's they looked into a paid EMT. A paid EMT would cost \$60,000 per year with benefits. Each time they call for Ogdensburg Rescue Squad it costs \$150. June Dumas will conduct a CPR at school with hopes of getting some interest in the Squad. They are revising their bylaws. They are encouraging their members are to get TB tests & Tetanus shots. C. McKnight asked how often the Squad called Ogdensburg Rescue. C. Robinson noted that she was not sure.

Community Planning: Sup. Scott reported that at last month's meeting John Tenbusch came and presented a couple of different options for the community planning process. He asked John if there had been any funding notice yet. John Tenbusch reported that they are expecting the OCR Community Planning Grant notice any day but have been doing so for the last six months. The LWRP will have an application period during September. If and when the other notice comes out we will have 30-45 days to complete the application. The application is a relatively simple one to complete. Supv. Scott asked if they could request assistance through the planning office to complete. John told him that the Board would need to send a request to his boss telling him that we are intending to apply and ask their assistance. If we do this now we would be in the queue to begin when it comes out. They assisted the Village in the process and the cost was approximately \$300. This is minimal, as it would cost much more to have an independent grant writer do it. Sup. Scott asked the board if he could send a letter to the Planning Office for their assistance. A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by McKnight to send a letter to the Planning Office to request their assistance in writing the grant when it comes available.

River Road Lot: Supv. Scott reported that the contract with the realtor for the sale of the River Road Lot would expire on April 3rd. He suggested that the Board consider sending the property out for bid again with a minimum bid attached. The property was appraised at \$190,000, bid in 2007-highest bid \$72,600 rejected due to price not close to appraisal, rebid w/\$190,000 minimum bid, advertised in the newspapers, and listed with a real estate agent. The property was reduced to \$125,000 in 2009, still no action. Supv. Scott told the board that he thinks that the Board should split the property and rebid it with a reasonable price. If split the Town would keep possession of the portion past the gully. Further discussion ensued and the Board decided that the property should be rebid once the contract with the realtor is expired but should not be split. The small piece that will remain will not be good for anything. The Town would require an easement to the property to maintain the culvert should it need to do something with it. The Board will look at the property and try to come up with a reasonable minimum bid for the next meeting.

RVRDA: Supv. Scott reported that the Task Force met a couple weeks ago to discuss the contract between the RVRDA & the Power Authority. The Power Authority sent it back to the Task Force to control the \$16 million fund but took the 20-mega watts of power out of the contract agreement. The Task Force has proposed the money & mega watts as one contract. The Task Force will be sending a negotiating team to the Power Authority. The team will consist of Robert McNeil, Eric Gustafson, and Andy McMann. They will meet with the Power Authority to see why they took the power out of the contract. Supv. Scott and Mayor Cassada requested that they be able to attend with the negotiating team. The Task Force took a vote and it was voted down 2 yes/3 no. There will be another Task Force meeting to discuss the outcome of the negotiating teams results.

Audit: Supv. Scott reported that at the last board meeting John Saucier from Pinto & Associates spoke to the Board about the different types of audits that can be performed. The Clerk has given the Board copies of the results of the two types that were done for the Town. The first was an agreed upon procedure done in 1998 and a review that was done in 2007. Supv. Scott noted that he would like to put an RFP out to have this done in

April/May because the accounting firms are all busy with taxes right now. The Board discussed the options.

Resolution #24

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does agree to have a review performed on the Town's books, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board does hereby authorize Pinto & Associates to conduct the review as they already know our system and have performed this process for us in the past. This will take place in April/May when the accountants are free. Ayes: All

Library Construction Grant: Supv. Scott reported that he and the clerk had met with Tom Oney, Burley Guminiak, Bill Grater, Architect, and a representative from the USDA. They discussed the addition of the handicap entrance, drive around the building, and the USDA funding. Bill Grater has sent some specs for review of the handicap access. Burley has stated that they would need to do a survey of the property and elevation to engineer the driveway. An additional cost of \$2,000 will be charged. These items would be added to the bid package as an alternate. If the project comes in too high and there is not enough money to do these they do not have to be awarded.

Tom Oney has been in contact with Dawn Vincent from NCLS to coordinate the proposed entrance and driveway with the State Grant received. He will be sending her a narrative. There does not appear to be a problem between the grant and the proposal.

Tom Oney sent the following timeline:

Early March- send plans and specifications to USDA State Architect for review, plans will include the handicap entrance and driveway upgrades if approved by the town.

Late March – Early April- Receive comments from State Architect and address any comments.

Mid to late April- Receive permission from USDA to put project out to bid.

Mid May to Early June- Receive bids and award contracts.

Mid to late June- Start Construction

Mid August- Close out project.

The Library Board has to file an extension with the State until June 2011. The project must be completed and closed out in this time frame.

Resolution #25

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby authorize Burley Guminiak to move ahead with the proposed handicap entrance and driveway. This will be bid as an alternative in complete bid package. Ayes: All

Supv. Scott reported that the Library Board has appropriated \$30,000 toward the project, there is some Power Authority money that can be available, and Waddington was promised \$20,000 from Senator Aubertine's office if Albany ever gets it together.

Gazebo: Supv. Scott reported that there was a grant received from Iroquois Gas in the amount of \$11,000 for the construction and landscaping of a gazebo at the four corners. There has been some discussion on the project. The Town will have to file a building permit and get approval from the Village Zoning Board of Appeals to place it there. He noted that people would like to have input on the aspects of the building etc. There will be a meeting at St. Mary's to discuss the Village Plan. The gazebo would be part of the gateway to Main Street. Supv. Scott noted that he would like to get a small group together for finalizing the plan. He doesn't want to see this drag on forever.

Frank Bissell asked what the use of the gazebo would be. Supv. Scott noted that it would be an attractive addition to the corner there could be a musical group that might like to use it. C. McKnight also noted that this project would bring power to that corner. It is something that has been wanted for quite some time. The details will be further discussed.

New Business:

Ogdensburg Correctional Facility: Supv. Scott reported that he had received a request from the Ogdensburg Mayor for the Town to pass a resolution in opposition to the closing of the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility. He also noted that Fran Doyle from

Waddington has been going door-to-door circulating a petition. If anyone would like to sign it he has a copy of it.

Resolution #26

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

WHEREAS, Governor Paterson's proposed 2010-2011 State Budget eliminates funding for the medium security Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, which would force the New York State Department of Corrections to close the facility; and

WHEREAS, this medium security prison was welcomed in Ogdensburg in 1982, at a time when other municipalities in New York State did not want a prison; and

WHEREAS, the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility has provided employment to residents of the City of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County for the past 28 years, and has provided valuable manual labor through work programs to the City of Ogdensburg and other not for profit organizations in the St. Lawrence County Region; and

WHEREAS, the closing of the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility will result in the loss of more than 287 jobs at the facility, many held by Waddington residents, and will result in untold job losses at businesses that support the facility and businesses that serve the employees of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate in St. Lawrence County is one of the highest of New York State's 62 counties, and

WHEREAS, the median income of residents in St. Lawrence County is one of the lowest of New York State's 62 counties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board strongly opposes the closing of the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility, and urges Governor Paterson and the State Legislature to provide the necessary funding to keep the Ogdensburg Correctional Facility open.

AND, FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of Corrections Brian Fischer, Governor David Paterson, Senator Malcolm Smith, Senator Darrell J. Aubertine, Senator Hugh T. Farley, Senator Joe Griffo, Senator Thomas K. Duane, Senator Brian X. Foley, Senator Martin J. Golden, Senator Carl Kruger, Senator Elizabeth Little, Senator George D. Maziarz, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Senator John L. Sampson, Senator Jose M. Serrano, Senator Dale M. Volker, Senator George Winner, Assemblyman James Tedisco, Assemblywoman Addie J. Russell, Assemblywoman Dede Scozzafava, Assemblywoman Teresa R. Sayward, Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry, Assemblyman Michael Benjamin, Assemblyman William Colton, Assemblywoman Janet L. Duprey, Assemblyman Joe Giglio, Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries, Assemblyman Alan Maisel, Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, Assemblyman Jose R. Peralta, Assemblyman William Scarborough, Assemblyman Harvey Weisenberg, Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Correspondance:

Supv. Scott reported that he received a letter from the NYS DOT informing the Town that they will be painting the bridge over Sucker Brook this summer. They may need to close a lane for a short period of time.

Supv. Scott read a letter from Senator Aubertine's office stating that he has received our letter of concern for additional training needed for a medical professional to be a member of a local Rescue Squad. Be assured that he is looking into the matter.

A letter was received from a gentleman named John Pugh Jr. He asked if the board new anyone who does work with a lathe & mill machine. He has an idea for a new type of engine that produces radically less pollution. Patty VanPatten noted that Mark Hill and

Jamie Tiernan both do this type of work. The clerk noted she had spoken with Jamie but would also contact Mark.

Lights: Supv. Scott reported that all the new energy efficient lights have been installed and would like the board to declare the old lights surplus so that they can be removed from the building. The old lights are an environmental hazard and not worth anything. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Robinson to declare the old lights surplus and to have them disposed of. Ayes: All

Citizen Comments

Patty VanPatten asked if anyone had heard any rumblings about Coles Creek Campgrounds closing? She said that she had heard a conversation on the radio concerning State Parks and closures. The Board noted that they had not heard anything to the effect but would certainly keep their ears open. The closing of Coles Creek State Park would definitely impact the Town of Waddington during the summer months.

Shaun Prentice asked if there had been any status updates on the Marina Study. Nothing has been brought to the Board to dates. Sean Doyle at the Power Authority will be contacted for an update.

Mike Martin told the Board that he was in the process of putting some information together concerning the surplus property from the Power Authority. The Board has sent letters to try to resolve the issue and there has been no response. Mike told them that he was told that it was a dead issue and that he needed to come back to the politicians in Waddington. He will contact Supv. Scott to meet with him. Sean Doyle will be contacted to update the Town on the status.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Putney, seconded by McKnight to enter into executive session at 8:00PM. The board will be discussing personal information of candidates that have applied for the position of Town Councilman. A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Putney to return to regular session at 8:20PM. No action was taken during executive session.

Appointments:

Town Councilman

Supv. Scott nominated Jim Thew for the position of Town Councilman, seconded by Putney. C. Robinson nominated Robert Dalton for Town Councilman. There was no second made for Robert Dalton.

Resolution #27

Motioned by: Scott

Seconded by: Putney

RESOLVED that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint James Thew to fill the vacant seat of Town Councilman. Jim will have to run for the position in the fall to complete the unexpired term.

Roll Call Vote:

Supv. Scott:	Aye	C. Putney:	Aye
C. McKnight	Aye	C. Robinson:	Naye

Zoning Board of Appeals

Resolution #28

Motioned by: McKnight

Seconded by: Robinson

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby appoint Robert Matthews to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ayes: All

Board of Assessment Review

Resolution #29

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town board does hereby appoint James Locy to the Board of Assessment Review to fill the unexpired term of Mathew Layo. Ayes: All

Supv. Scott reported that the board would not appoint a town attorney at this time. They need to clarify some issues.

Supervisor Appointments:

Highway Department:	David Putney
Recreation Department:	Shirley Robinson
Library:	James Thew
Rescue Squad:	Steve McKnight

Supv. Scott announced that the next meeting will be on March 8th @ 6:00PM in the Municipal Building.

Bills: A motion was made by Putney, seconded by Robinson to pay bills #77 - 138 in the amount of \$54,892.99. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Putney to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns,
Town Clerk