

Regular Meeting

A regular meeting of the Waddington Town Board was held on Monday, September 13, 2010 @ 7:00PM in the Municipal Building.

Present were: Supervisor Mark Scott and Council Members: Stephen McKnight, Shirley Robinson, David Putney, and James Thew.

Also Present: Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk, Terry Mayette, Highway Superintendent, Jane Layo, Jim Locy, Jimmy Lawton, Ogdensburg Journal, Frank Bissell, Curtis Lanning, Martha Sinkeldam, Kenny Pierce, Assessor, Barbara Doe, Jason Clark, Mike Martin, Sandy Wright, Shaun Prentice, Maria & James Hunt, Lou Matura, James Pipher, Dog Control Officer, Patty VanPatten, Don Hassig, Cancer Action Now.

Call to Order: Supv. Scott called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes: C. Putney noted that there was a typo error on the adjournment from the meeting. It should be PM instead of AM. Correction noted a motion was made by McKnight, seconded by Putney to approve the minutes as corrected. Ayes: All

Eagle Scout Candidate: Curtis Lanning approached the Town Board with a proposition for an Eagle Scout project. He stated that he would like to beautify the Town Square by erecting a vinyl fence on the perimeter of the Memorial Park in the shape of an arc. The fence would be 112' long and approximately 3'-4' in height. He checked with local business owners and could not get the type of fencing that he would like. He received a quote from Home Depot in Massena for under \$1,000 for the project. He would like to start the project by mid October so that he can beat the frost. The posts would be in the ground 4' so that they do not heave. The project will be done with the help of his Scout Master David Carr and Councilman David Putney. Curtis noted that he also had a meeting this evening with the American Legion to ask for their financial support. The Board discussed this and thinks that it would be a nice enhancement to the area. They asked Curtis to come back after he meets at the Legion and they could discuss financing the balance of the project. He thanked the Board for their attention and stated that he would return after meeting with the Legion.

Curtis Lanning returned to the Town Board meeting after he met with the American Legion. He stated that the Legion would commit to \$600. He would need approximately \$400 from the Town to complete his project.

Resolution #73

Motioned by: Robinson

Seconded by: Scott

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby commit to \$400 towards Curtis Lanning's Eagle Scout project. Ayes: All

Citizen's Comments

Barbara Doe asked if there were going to be benches in the gazebo on the corners. She stated that it would be a nice place to take a rest if you were out walking etc. Supv. Scott noted that he and the Clerk have discussed this and will be looking into it. Currently there is a bench inside that was donated by the Fobares. This will be eventually be moved outside to the pavers.

Jane Layo noted that the International Carp Tournament would be returning to Waddington in October of 2011. She stated that the condition of the Town Hall and a trail from the Village to Coles Creek should be items that are addressed between now and then. Supv. Scott noted that he received information about a new grant for recreational trails. There will be a workshop on October 8th at the Dulles State Office Building in Watertown.

Jane noted that the Town Hall needed attention in drainage, electrical, and a fee schedule should be initiated. The Clerk noted that there was some preliminary guidelines for use were submitted but no action taken on them. Supv. Scott noted that the Clerk had also

tried to apply to the Council on the Arts to have a conditions and accessibility study performed like the one done for the Library. This document helps in applying for grants. C. McKnight noted that the Old Town Hall does need work and it should be the next on the list once the Library project is completed.

Sandy Wright asked why the Board needed to enter into executive session at its August meeting. Supv. Scott noted that the Board discussed the appointments of candidates for the Board of Assessment Review. She asked if appointments are normally made in the beginning of the year. Supv. Scott noted that they were but these appointments were new for the Assessment Board. The Town Board increased the number of members to the Assessment Board so that there would be a fair representation of Town geographic areas. She asked who was on the Board. He noted that the members were LouAnne King, Richard Hobkirk, James Locy and new board members Mark Brouillette and Tom Nelson. She asked if the positions had been advertised. He stated that they were.

Interstate 98: Jason Clark made a presentation to the Board concerning Interstate 98.

Cancer Action Now: Don Hassig made a presentation to the Board concerning his group Cancer Action Now. He spoke to the Board concerning

Committee Reports:

Recreation: C. Robinson reported that there was no meeting held.

Highway: C. Putney reported that the Irish Settlement Road was completed. The Department is working on the shoulders. All of the CHIPS money has been spent. The shoulders will be paid for out of the road maintenance account. Supt. Mayette is short a couple of men at this time. The raft at the beach has been removed and the Department will winterize the beach soon.

C. Putney asked about the purchase of the 1999 Mack Truck from the Town of Parishville. Supv. Scott stated that the Comptroller's Office said that the General Fund could make a loan or a permanent transfer to the Highway Fund.

Resolution #74

Motioned by: Putney

Seconded by: McKnight

RESOLVED, that the Waddington Town Board does hereby approve the loan of \$17,000 from the General Fund to the Highway Fund for the purchase of one (1) 1999 Mack Snowplow truck. This will be paid back to the General Fund upon reimbursement from the CHIPS funding. Ayes: All

Rescue Squad: C. McKnight reported that the Rescue Squad met on Sunday Evening. He was not in attendance but did speak to the President. The Squad has contracted with Seaway Valley Ambulance service for the fee of \$150 per call in our squad is unavailable. They attended the 911 Ceremony. They will be having a fall EMS teaching day. They are working on their bylaws for junior membership. A304 has been fixed. They will be putting their building repairs out to bid. Three people will be attending EMT Classes. They had 21 calls in August.

Library: Supv. Scott noted that C. Thew was not here. He reported that there is an issue with the ceiling in the basement. There is some plasterwork that needs to be repaired. Martha Sinkeldam reported that there is a water leak causing problems in other spots of the basement near the kitchen. They are working on the budget, working on the CD's, and updating their bylaws.

WRA: Supv. Scott reported that the last concert of the summer series was held on September 10th. They are working on an application for funding for the 2011 season. Articles for the Waddington Recorder should be submitted by October 1st.

Chamber of Commerce: Jane Layo reported that the Chamber of Commerce is heading up two committees from Camoin Associates Business Development & Marketing Plan. They are planning for the annual meeting the first week in November. Draft walking tour is being reviewed and will go to printing and available at the beginning of next summer for distribution. Work being done to improve on website so all members can input their

activities on calendar. Treasurer's records audited with no exception. The lobby floor has been painted. The Business Directory is complete and available @ Chamber Office. Schedule of Events complete but need more input from the businesses on what events they have planned. Nancy Putney will chair pumpkin Contest. The Christmas Sales Event is being planned. They are working on a budget for next year. They updated maps to include the name change of St. Lawrence River to Lake St. Lawrence and corrected the name on the Cunnie Woods Road and added the Buck Road.

C. Robinson noted that a Chamber member complained about parking on Route 37 near the Catholic Church. They said that they couldn't see to come out of the corner at times. C. Robinson asked if there were a way that the Town could put signs up stating no parking to the corner. Supt. Mayette noted that this would be a State issue because it is on the State Highway.

Dog Census Report: Jim Pipher reported that they have been conducting the dog census. The State recommends that this be done every 3-5 years. The census is 98-99% complete. There are some people that were not at home after a couple of attempts. Letters have been mailed to these people. There are approximately 500 + dogs. Of these dogs there were approximately 150 that were not known. There is a State provision in the law that allows the Towns to charge an additional \$5 for every dog in the census that has not been licensed or their licensed is expired at that time. The dog census cost the Town \$600 to perform.

Re-Evaluation Update: Kenny Pierce was present to update the board on the progress of the Re-Val. He told the Board that he has completed the Village inventory. The only thing left in the Village is the commercial properties. Darin from the Real Property Office will be coming over to help him with these. He is working down Route 37 towards Fobares. He hopes to have the whole town finished by the end of the month. From there the information will be sent to Canton, they will produce inventory sheets and the notices will be mailed, informal hearings held and then returned to Canton for comparisons.

C. McKnight asked if he was just collecting data or actually giving the properties assessment values. Kenny said that he is just collecting data. He is picking up some garages and small things to add to the inventories.

New Business:

DOT Culvert Project: Supv. Scott met with Robert Peck, Environmental Specialist with the State DOT regarding culvert replacement on State Highway 37. They would like to implement a wetland mitigation project in the area of Whitehouse Bay. There is a block of land that the Power Authority owns and is willing to return it to the State for the project. For the project to be done properly they would like to buy some property from the Town. They are looking at a parcel that is approximately 300' x100'. Supv. Scott requested that they make a formal proposal. Supv. Scott had a map of the proposed project. The Board looked at it and asked Supv. Scott to request that they stake the area out that they are talking about so that they can see exactly what they are looking for.

Property Exemptions: Supv. Scott reported that at the last board meeting Jane Layo submitted some information concerning property exemptions for businesses and people making improvements to their property. He noted that the current Assessor does not raise a person's assessment for maintenance improvements but if there were another person in that office they may consider the improvements as a value to the home. The Board felt that this is something that can be modified for Waddington. He will continue to research it.

Barbara Doe stated that she was under the impression that assessment was based on the size of the building, location etc. She didn't feel that she should be penalized for working like crazy to keep her property up. Supv. Scott stated that improvements currently are not factored into the assessments.

Shaun Prentice stated that on the business side the Board should consider following suit with the residential. An exemption for a new business in the first few years could be an asset.

Budget: Supv. Scott reported that he and the Clerk have begun work on the 2011 Budget. They have gotten through the general fund. He told the board that the pension costs have risen approximately \$14,000, health insurance has increased, sales tax revenue has remained steady, and interest in CD's and savings have dropped. Bill Dashnaw, Budget Officer for the Village has offered his help with the development of the budget. He can look at what the Town has and offer some suggestions. Supv. Scott would like to set up a budget meeting on September 28th @ 7:00PM. The Board agreed to this.

Agreed Upon Procedures: Supv. Scott reported that Pinto & Associates has submitted their Agreed Upon Procedure Report for the board to review. He noted that the procedure was produced from data collected from 7/30/2009-6/30/10. The Report covers Internal Control Procedures, Budgetary Transfers & Revisions, Investment Policy, The Expenditures, Purchase Policies and perform a voucher test, Selected Revenue Accounts & Reconcile to Source Documents, and Town Contracts with professional and other organizations. Supv. Scott would like to set up an Audit & Finance Committee who would take a closer look at the annual reports etc. The Board discussed this and felt it was something that should be done. C. McKnight stated that he would be interested in doing this task. The Board approved of C. McKnight and Supv. Scott doing this.

Energy Working Group: Supv. Scott reported that renewable energy has come up in discussions over the last couple of years. He would like to convene a group of individuals to begin the process of researching projects that might be right for Waddington. If the Town can come up with a renewable energy project they could apply for the funding through the RVRDA. He asked the Board if they would like to attend such a meeting. They stated that they would. C. Putney has a few names that he would like to add to the list for a committee. Barbara Doe noted that she would be interested in serving on the committee. The Board set a meeting date of October 6th @ 7:00 in the Community Room at the Library.

AMP: Supv. Scott reported that the North Country Power Authority bill has passed both the State Senate and Assembly. It is now on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. AMP has asked the Town for a letter of support to the Governor's Office for this purpose. Supv. Scott has drafted a letter. The Board approved sending it.

Supv. Scott also is requesting that the Town send a letter of support to the Governor for the release of the 20 Megawatts of power to the RVRDA. The Board also approved this.

County Snow Removal: Supv. Scott reported that the County would like to extend their Snow removal contract with the Town for one year. The Town plows 27.33 miles of County roads. The rate per mile will be \$4,234.75. This is the same rate per mile as last season. They feel that this is a good rate due to the cost of fuel being down and the salt rate per ton has dropped b \$15.50. The contract does state that if the cost of fuel raises by .60 the contract can be reopened. The Board members will review the contract and decide at the September 28th meeting.

Local Government Conference: Supv. Scott reported that the Local Government Conference would be held in Potsdam on October 12th. There are classes available for all levels of Local Government.

Fish Cap: Supv. Scott reported that Pat McCowan followed up their presentation of last month with a letter of request for the Board to consider donating to the Fish Cap program. They have set an annual budget of \$170,000 per year for three years to have Don Misner promote the North Country as the Fish Capital of the World. They are requesting any donation that the Town could commit to. He thought that the Town could consider this in their budget process.

Jane Layo noted that there is an area on Whitehouse Bay in which the Power Authority has retained a 500' setback. Why couldn't the Town propose to rent this area to Fish Cap if they make a go of it. They would consider it.

Bridge Closure: Supv. Scott reported that the Bridge on CR 31 over Brandy Brook will be closed for eight weeks beginning on September 27th @ 7AM.

Marcellus Shale: A request for support has been received from the Town Supervisor of the Town of Barker, Broome County NY. They are requesting the Town pass a resolution to support horizontal drilling in the Marcellus Shale Formation. The Board discussed this and felt that they do not know enough about this and could not support it.

Code Enforcement: The Code Enforcement Officer reported that for the month of August he issued one permit for demolition of a dwelling in Chase Mills, answered one written complaint and sent a letter of violation, and performed 15 work site inspections.

Iroquois Gas: Supv. Scott reported that there is grant money available from Iroquois Gas. Projects have to be submitted by November 15th. He stated that he and the Clerk have spoken about an electronic sign at the four corners. Jane Layo stated that they needed to be sure to check the Village regulations concerning signs. There can be no flashing signs in the Village.

The Board stated that they should try and see where it goes.

Library Project: Supv. Scott reported that the Library Board is applying for another grant that will cover the replacement of the roof. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled for September 15th. This should lead to a notice to proceed. The contractors will be able to get started right away.

Retirement Incentive: Supv. Scott reported that they are still working with the employees interested in the early retirement incentive. The employees will be meeting with the Retirement System in Canton to see how this will affect them.

Speed Limit River Road: Supv. Scott reported that the application for the speed reduction from Buck Road to River Road to Beach has been submitted. There has been no response to date. There was also a discussion about a double line on the River Road. It is being looked into.

Old Town Hall: C. Robinson asked Supt. Mayette if there was a railing going down the steps located inside the back door of the old town hall. Supt. Mayette stated that there was not. She asked if it could be something that can be installed. There was an incident over homecoming where someone fell on those steps. He told her that he would look into it. The Board discussed resurrecting the Committee that was appointed to work on the Old Town Hall. The clerk will look back into the minutes to see who was appointed and they would be asked first if they are still interested.

River Road Lot: There has been no further action concerning a purchase offer on the River Road Lot.

Citizen's Comments:

Mike Martin asked if the Board had received any more information concerning the property on the creek that was omitted by the Power Authority. Supv. Scott noted that the last time that he talked to the Power Authority he was told that it was moving forward. He has not heard since then but will contact them again. Mike told him that the Village would be meeting with the Power Authority in two weeks. Supv. Scott had not heard anything about this but will check with the Mayor. Mike also asked when the sale of the properties to adjacent landowners will come to the end and what will happen to those properties not sold. Would the Town take them back? The Board told him they were not sure of the ending date but that they specifically told the Power Authority that they will not take possession of these properties if they do not sell. Mike also noted that he did not think that it was fair if the people who do not buy it were able to continue to use the property as before. He feels that the Board should encourage the people to purchase these properties because the Town gets to use the money from the sales. The Board noted that this was a decision that the property owner had to make and that they would not get involved with it.

Sandy Wright asked why some properties were in the boundary and some not. Supv. Scott noted that during the initial relicensing process there were properties that were deemed surplus and removed from the project boundary. The Power Authority no longer

needed them for the possibility of flooding etc. There are some parcels that should have been removed but were missed and that is what they are working on with Mr. Martin.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 11, 2010.

Bills: A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Scott to pay bills # 581 – 661 in the amount of \$135,247.92. Ayes: All

Adjournment: A motion was made by Robinson, seconded by Putney to adjourn the meeting at 9:45PM. Ayes: All

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk