

At the Town Board Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on November 8, 2023 at the Waterford Town Hall 65 Broad Street, Waterford, NY and via Zoom at 7:00 P.M the following transpired:

Those present:

Councilman David Ball

Councilman James Boudreau

Councilwoman Laurie Marble

Councilman Frank McClement

Supervisor John Lawler

### **Communications and Petitions**

- Received the 2024 Adopted Budgets from the Northside Fire District and Halfmoon-Waterford Fire District

### **Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows**

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of October 3, 2023 and Agenda and Special Meeting of October 31, 2023 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman McClement, seconded by Councilwoman Marble to accept the minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Financial Report and Submission of Bills and Petty Cash**

Supervisor Lawler read the financial reports for the month of October 2023. The audited vouchers totaled \$310,049.59 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$19,630.45. The petty cash report totaled \$0. A motion to adopt the financial report and pay the abstracts was made by Councilman Boudreau and seconded by Councilwoman Marble. All voted in favor of the motion.

#### **Committee on Highway, Wastewater Treatment, Water Authority, Cemetery, Museum and Town Historian**

Councilman Boudreau read the October 2023 Highway report as submitted by Highway Superintendent Tony Lubas. All town ball fields and parks were mowed and maintained. All vehicles and equipment continue to be serviced and repaired. The Jet/Vac truck was used to clean 16 storm water catch basins in the Mallards Landing and Towpath area. Rail road crossings were painted on Van Ness and Hill Street. Docks were removed at the Harbor Visitors Center. Fence repair was completed at Clement Park. Leaf boxes were installed on trucks and leaf vac maintenance was completed.

Winterization has begun at town parks, buildings and grounds. CCTV camera was used to inspect the outfall gate and 200 ft of drain pipe at Sugarloaf Pond. No visible cracks or structural deterioration was found.

21 Tons of crusher stone was used for grounds maintenance at the highway garage. 4.5 tons of Type 3 Binder and 11 tons of Type 7 Blacktop was used for road repair. 360 Yards of trash was collected. 60 yards of scrap metal was collected. 450 Yards of green waste was collected. The Highway department responded to 28 service requests and processed 30 Dig Safe requests with 9 emergencies.

We would like to remind everyone that the leaf vac service has begun and will continue till November 30th. Information can be found on the town website at [www.town.waterford.ny.us](http://www.town.waterford.ny.us) or you can call the Highway Department at 518-235-3413.

Another reminder that snow emergencies may begin soon, it is that time of year. We ask residents to be prepared to follow all posted signs. Call the highway garage if you have any questions, we do not want to tow anyone's vehicle.

Councilman Boudreau then read the Wastewater Department report for October 2023.

Average Influent Flow: 835,000 gallons/day

Monthly rainfall: 2.78" at the treatment plant

We removed: 10,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County, 68,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County

Alarms answered:4

High Flow-1

Power-0

Mechanical-3

Testing-0

Normal Maintenance:

Checked all pump stations and cleaned floats as needed.

Continued maintenance of outside grounds, equipment, and vehicles.

Removed influent primary grease from primary tanks and weirs on weekly basis.

Drained, cleaned and inspected the road side grit chamber and put it back in service.

We used the Vac truck to clean out the Murray Ave, James Drive, Sage Road, Suncrest Drive, and Drake Court pump stations.

Drained, cleaned, and inspected the road side final clarifier, adjusted the cross collector chain, and put the tank back into service.

The A-Team pulled, inspected, cleaned and put back into service pump #2 at the Timber Drive pump station.

Troy Belting inspected the generator at the Drake Court pump station and is ordering replacement parts and will install them when they come in.

This report was submitted by Craig F. Falcone, Chief Operator

The Councilman read an update from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort.

Russ was part of a Panel Presentation for the Saratoga County History Hunter's 30th Anniversary Conference in Schuylerville. He was requested by the Canal Society of the State of New York to lead a tour of the Champlain Canal in Waterford for the 200th Anniversary of the Canal. He also attended their meeting on Peebles Island that evening.

David Waite, an independent Saratoga County Historian, is an excellent videographer. We are planning on producing a historical video of the entire 3 mile Champlain Canal Trail in Waterford next season.

Russ has answered several requests for information this month and assisted one person in locating an ancestor's burial site.

Councilman Boudreau spoke of an upcoming event at the Waterford Museum.

Pamela McColl-Twas the Night; The Art and History of the Classic Christmas Poem  
November 28, 7-8 pm at Durrant's at Van Schaick Country Club, Cohoes. Admission: \$10  
(food and drink not included)

Please join us on Tuesday, November 28 for this exciting lecture from author Pamela McColl! She will give insight into the history and stories behind the famous Christmas poem as well as have copies of the book available for purchase. This is the perfect event to get us all into the holiday spirit celebrating a poem that was composed in Troy, New York. Please RSVP with Durrant's 518-244-5045

### **Committee on Public Safety, Emergency Services, and Liaison to Village**

Councilman Ball spoke of the gathering that was held this past weekend at the Waterford Fire Department. It was well attended.

Councilman Ball then read the summary of police activity during the month of October 2023: There were 43 Arrests, 147 traffic tickets, 10 motor vehicle accidents, 482 calls for service

Other activity:

Officer's Ashe, Gibbins, and Fifield participated in Trunk or Treat events in the Town.

Officer Fifield represented the Police Department at the Halfmoon Fire Open House Event.

All Officers attended firearms training.

Councilman Ball added that the modified case report was also distributed to the Board.

### **Committee on Veterans, Grants and Funding, Special Projects, Town Hall and Seniors**

Councilman McClement stated that the colorguard normally attends our November meeting, unfortunately they had other business and were unable to come.

The Councilman added that he had the opportunity to attend a Veteran ceremony in Latham that honored Waterford's WWII Veteran Frank Gimmelli, who is 99 years old. It was great to be there and see Mr. Gimmelli receive this honor.

Councilman McClement went on to read the Seniors report for October 2023.

#### Grocery Transportation

Seniors – 30, Hrs. – 16, Miles - 80

#### Medical Transportation

Clients – 35, Hrs. - 64.5, Miles - 935.4

#### Vehicle O/D Readings

2018 Chevrolet Bus 24 passenger - 9446

2015 Ford Wheel Chair Lift Bus - 98491.4

2009 Ford Van - 90943.3

Senior Center Monthly Attendance- 349, New Members- 2

In this month of October, the Seniors have been busy with the scheduled daily Center activities.

Some highlights for the month; the start of our pinochle group on Tuesday mornings. It's a lot of fun and we always have room for more players. Marra's Pharmacy came to the Center for our vaccination clinic and our Rescue Squad continues their third Tuesday of the month blood pressure clinic as well. We had a great turn out for our trip to Turning Stone Casino and we ended the month with our Halloween Party.

We have a late crop of spinach, lettuce and green beans but otherwise the garden is resting until next spring's planting season.

As a reminder, we have two collection boxes in the foyer one is for the Toys for Tots program and the other is the donation box for food and non-perishable items that will be distributed to our three local food pantries on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

This month, our Senior volunteers for the “Kids at Heart” program held over the summer were recognized at the Saratoga Co OFA and Youth Annual Volunteer luncheon. Our community should be proud of these individuals that gave their time to engage with our youth.

The Waterford Halfmoon School Senior Citizens Holiday Concert and Lunch will be held on Monday November 20 at 12 pm. Bussing will be provided by the school and pick points are the Senior Center and Van Schoonhoven Square. Please call the Center at 518-235-8500 to reserve your spot for this event at the school.

In December, we will have our annual Christmas Party on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are also going to Mechanicville’s Park Ave Confectionary Store to make some Christmas candy and then on to the Endzone for pizza. Another fun event we are looking forward to is visiting Native Sun Greenhouse on December 4<sup>th</sup> in Clifton Park to attend a Christmas Wreath making workshop. This report was submitted by Eileen Haldeman, Director Waterford Community/Senior Center.

### **Committee on Youth, Playground, Pool, Festivals, Library, WHUFSD, Visitor Center and Building Department**

Councilwoman Marble read an update from the Waterford Library.

The library will be closed on Saturday November 11th for Veterans Day, and on November 23-24 for Thanksgiving.

Our writing workshop runs for two more sessions on Thursday the 9th and 16th from 5-6:30pm. People interested in participating should contact Tara King at the library at 518-237-0891.

We will be hosting a customer care representative from National Grid on Tuesday November 21st from 3-6pm. Residents can learn about budget plans and other ways that National Grid can assist folks with issues about utilities. No registration required.

The library will be hosting a Celtic Holiday Concert featuring folk musician/storyteller Jeff Snow on Saturday December 2nd at 3pm. Registration is recommended as seating is limited. The library will be offering a learn to paint class with Dianne Steele on Saturday December 9th at 2:30pm. Please contact the library to register for this program.

The library will be hosting a Holiday Party sponsored by the Friends of the Library on Saturday December 16th, from 1-3pm. There will a gingerbread house craft for kids and a holiday ornament craft for adults, as well as refreshments. All ages are welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Marble then went on to read the monthly report on the Waterford Harbor Visitor Center. The Erie and Champlain Canals closed on Wednesday, October 11. The Federal Lock will remain open until Friday, November 10th.

On October 20th, I participated in the Canal New York monthly meeting via zoom.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the New York State Canal Corporation removed our docs for winter storage between locks 3 and 4, Thank you. Many thanks to the Waterford Highway Department in assisting with this effort.

We continue to pack up and close the Visitor Center and Farmers Market areas. This will not be completed until after Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th when the Hurst Harbor Center will once again serve as a polling place.

A volunteer thank you lunch is being planned for November.

For the month of October, we welcomed 66 boaters from 12 states, 2 Canadian provinces. For the 2023 navigation season the Port of Waterford welcomed 845 boats from 41 states, 5 Canadian provinces and 9 other countries.

Our Volunteer Corp. added an additional 108 hours to the month of October bringing the total volunteer hours to 2471 hours. Thank you to all of our dedicated team. This report was submitted by Director Jeff Cleary.

The Councilwoman then read the October 2023 report from Building Inspector Ben Akin. There were 6 stop work orders, 32 building permits issued, 27 onsite construction inspections, 15 stops for curbside trash items, and 2 stops for overgrowth.

4 hours of mandatory state training was completed.

In addition there was 1 order to vacate and 2 landlord tenant disputes.

A reminder to all residents to please test all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to assure they are in working order. If anyone has any questions on the placement of a detector please feel free to give my office a call at 518- 235-3802.

With the upcoming change of seasons, please remove all basketball hoops from the side of the road to allow the highway crew a clear and safe path to remove snow and ice.

Councilwoman Marble went on to give an update on the Waterford Halfmoon School.

November Events: Senior Citizen holiday concert and lunch on Monday November 20th

Concert at 12:00- Performances by the high school chorus and band, lunch at 12:30. Buses will be available from the Senior Center and VanSchoonhoven Square. Sign up at either location.

Sponsored by the BCA

11/8 Fall sports awards

11/10 Veterans Day No school 11/13 Varsity sports begin

11/15 SPAC performance "Dial up the 90's"

11/16 PTO meeting

11/21 Mick's pizza night

11/17, 20, 21 half days for parent teacher conferences

11/20 modified sports begin

11/22-24 Thanksgiving recess

11/28-30 Book Fair

Lots of fun things coming in December.

The Councilwoman went on to state that our annual Christmas Parade and tree lighting will be held on November 25th at 6 pm.

This year along with the firetruck lighting competition we will be featuring a float competition.

The Wesleyan Church will be providing hot chocolate in the park and Santa will be there to light the tree! It is always a great time. The Community Tree will again be placed in Soldiers and Park and will be ready to decorate after the parade once the trees are lit.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Supervisor Lawler stated that both the Waterford boys and girls soccer teams are headed to the state tournament this weekend. We wish the best of luck to all our student athletes.

### **General Orders**

### **RESOLUTION # 152**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby approves the Preliminary Budget as the Adopted Budget for 2024.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilwoman Marble

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

Supervisor Lawler thanked all Department heads who worked with administration on this and for their spending discipline throughout the year. We appreciate the job you do to manage your departments. He also thanked Bill Coutu for doing a great job with the budget, this will be his last budget for the Town of Waterford. He also thanked the Town Board for their readiness to go through the process, make changes and their collaboration to present a budget to be proud of that meets the needs of the Town residents.

**RESOLUTION #153**

Be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby changes the employment classification of Town Highway Department employee Joshua Ricci to CDL/MEO I as a result of him earning his CDL license. Joshua Ricci's hourly rate is adjusted to \$22.00/Hour retroactive to November 2, 2023.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

**RESOLUTION # 154**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with Cirkiel Actuarial Consulting LLC to provide actuary services relative to the Town's post employment retirement benefits in a manner consistent with GASB 75 for 2023. A flat fee of \$3,000.00 will be charged for the services referenced above as this is a "roll-forward" year.

Offered by Councilwoman Marble  
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

## **RESOLUTION #155**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with CivicPlus for website services including Web Open Platform Migration (\$500.00) and Standard Annual – CivicEngage Open Renewal (\$3,018.75) for the period 12/29/2023 – 12/28/2024. Total Cost \$3,518.75.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

## **RESOLUTION # 156**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with Capital Markets Advisors, LLC (CMA) to provide financial advisory services to the Town during the period November 9, 2023 – December 31, 2024.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilwoman Marble

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

Chris Connell asked about the cost.

Supervisor Lawler stated the cost would be about \$6,200. Supervisor Lawler spoke about Bonds and Ban's. The Supervisor went on to say that if you look at the budget, at the end of each fund is a line for Debt Service, this is related to bond payments.

## **Other Business**

## **RESOLUTION #157**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby accepts the following bid for equipment sold at Auctions International:

2009 Chevy	3500 Dump Body	\$9,300.00
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Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilwoman Marble

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

### **RESOLUTION #158**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the purchase of a remanufactured engine for a 2015 E350 Bus from Gil's Garage of Halfmoon LLC at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

Offered by Councilman McClement  
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilwoman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

Councilman McClement stated the Senior medical transportation bus needs to be fixed. The Town paid \$55,000 in 2015 to purchase this vehicle, the price of this vehicle off state contract now is close to \$110,000. There is still life left in this vehicle and on the recommendation of the Town Highway Superintendent, we will like to move forward with the repair.

There were no other comments.

Supervisor Lawler wished everyone a wonderful holiday and hopes to see everyone at the annual Christmas Parade. He has always said that half the Town walks in the parade and the other half watches. There might be fireworks after the parade, probably yes. A lot of work goes into planning this parade and he wants to compliment Councilwoman Marble who puts these parade together.

Councilman McClement made a motion to close the meeting at 7:34PM seconded by Councilman Boudreau. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan  
Town Clerk