

At the Town Board meeting of the Waterford Town Board held at Waterford Town Hall 65 Broad Street Waterford NY and by teleconference on November 4, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. the following transpired:

There were present:

Councilman David Ball  
Councilman James Boudreau  
Councilman Laurie Marble  
Councilman Frank McClement  
Supervisor John Lawler

### **Communications and Petitions**

Town Clerk Carrigan read a letter of resignation from Highway Superintendent Harry Martel.

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

Minutes of the Town Board meeting of October 6, 2020 and Agenda and Special Meeting of October 27, 2020 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Boudreau seconded by Councilman McClement to accept the minutes as presented. All in favor.

### **Committee Reports**

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

Supervisor read the financial report for the month of October 2020. The audited abstracts totaled \$ 217,154.26 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$18,472.93. The petty cash report totaled \$53.60. A motion was made by Councilman Boudreau and seconded by Councilman Ball to accept the reports, pay the bills and reimburse the petty cash account. All in favor.

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

Councilman Boudreau read the Waterford Water Commissioners report for the month. The Waterworks delivered approximately 32,200,000 gallons of water. The staff completed 48 service calls and 39 utility locales. The staff completed meter readings, maintained equipment, and completed monthly water testing

The Councilman then read the Wastewater Department summary for the month of October 2020 as submitted by Chief Operator Crag Falcone. They removed: 4,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County and 52,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County.

Alarms answered:4

-1 from Phone line issues

-3 from power, of which 1 alarm included every pump station and the plant

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.

Winterized and shut down the boat pump out system at the visitor's center for the winter season. Worked with Jersen construction on the James Drive and Murray Avenue airlift pump station replacement projects. Disassembled and helped remove the portable diesel pump the

Canvasback Ridge pump station. Verizon repaired the phone line issue at the James Drive pump station. Removed the flight scraper and cross collector gear boxes and motors on the road side final clarifier and helped Troy Belting on the installation of the new replacements. Used the sewer camera at #94 Davis Avenue on a lateral inspection for the homeowner and confirmed a root issue.

The Councilman gave an update from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort. Russ is working with the Saratoga County Historical Society on a program concerning County or Canal Side Stories. In conjunction with Stewarts, traveling displays are being scheduled as kiosk historical units. He is in the early stages of research on fever epidemic in Waterford in 1805 and 1806. Looks like it concerned water contaminations from a spring in the village and creek that was redirected about 1913 that ran through Garrett Field to the Mohawk River. Eleven Waterfordians succumbed to the effects of the fever. Its beginning to look like the New York Medical Society was formed by the Waterford Doctor, John Stearns, who treated the Waterford people. He and two other doctors from Ballston Spa were the catalysts to form this society. The society still exists today.

Councilman Boudreau then read the Highway Department Report as submitted by Highway Superintendent Harry Martel. The Councilman pointed out that this will be the last report he will read from Harry. The Town Highway Department rebuilt a manhole on Sage Road. We replaced curbing on Van Nass Street. We also paved pot holes on Museum Lane, Short Fulton Street, Bells Lane and Linda Lane. We also did 25 utility location requests from Dig Safely. Leaf and yard waste collection days are Monday thru Friday. The highway crew is going through the Town with our leaf vacuum for curb side pickup. We will continue vacuuming up leaves until November 30th weather permitting and the leaf vacuum will be taken out of service until next fall. Please put your leaves on the roads edge and not in the road way. The Towns parks department has closed all the town parks for the season. I would also like to remind all town residents about putting acceptable and unacceptable items in their trash containers, if you put any unacceptable items in your cans it will not be picked up until it is removed. If you are in need of a new garbage can or recycling can please call the Town Clerk's Office at 518-235-8282. If you have any question please call the Town Highway Garage at 518-235-3413. Councilman Boudreau stated that a proper sendoff will be held for Harry at the December Board meeting if any residents would like to attend. He went on to say that Harry has been a great friend to him and the Board. He will be missed. The Councilman thanked Harry for his years of exemplary service to the Town and its residents and he should be proud of this.

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

Councilman Ball thanked Harry Martel for always working with the Fire Departments and Emergency Services when it was needed. The Councilman went on to read the Police Department call report. The Councilman stated that the Department had a busy October; there were 556 total calls. Broken down into 76 traffic stops, 38 tickets issued, 18 animal control call and there were 10 arrests. The Councilman went on to say that Waterford is not immune to drug overdoses that have plagued our society due to heroin and fentanyl. The Waterford Emergency Services Departments have done their best treating overdoses in our community by administering Narcan and providing lifesaving procedures when necessary. We encourage anyone who is in need of help to reach out to the Police Department or the Rescue Squad, they have the resources available to assist you.

Councilman Ball added that the Rescue Squad has an ambulance that is in need of major repair. A new ambulance can cost close to \$186,000. The Squad found a local vendor who had a high-tech ambulance, previously used in Providence, for a cost of \$7,000-9,000. He thanks the Rescue Squad for their diligence in securing this ambulance. This ambulance will serve all the residents of Waterford and save money for the taxpayers.

Councilman Ball spoke of the NYS Traffic Law that went into effect November 1<sup>st</sup> that requires all back-seat passengers to wear a seatbelt, the previous law only required those under 16 yrs. of age. The focus right now will be raising awareness to this new law, enforcement will start down the road.

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

Councilman McClement stated that normally the VFW Post is invited to the present the colors at our November meeting, due to Covid and spacing issues, we were unable to do that this year. The Councilman went on to say that due to Covid, the VFW Post has canceled their annual Veterans Day chicken and biscuit dinner. This was a big fundraiser and in lieu of that we would like to remind everyone that you can still support the VFW by making a donation. Send donations to VFW Memorial Post 5800, PO Box 161, Waterford, NY 12188.

The Councilman went on to read the Senior Transportation report as submitted by Andy Walters. The Medical Lift Bus: Medical Appointments – 31 , Total Miles: 725.8  
Grocery Bus: Senior’s Shopping – 39 Total Miles – 106  
Due to Veterans Day falling on a Wednesday, the grocery bus will run on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>. For information on these services please contact Andy Walters at 518-527-4589

Councilman McClement read an update from Saratoga County Office of the Aging. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that assists low income households with the cost of heating their homes during the winter months. The 2020-2021 Regular HEAP program begins November 02, 2020. Emergency HEAP will open on January 4, 2021. The tentative closing date for HEAP is Mid-March . The Saratoga County Office for the Aging will be accepting applications for persons 60 years of age and older as well as those under 60 and disabled beginning November 02, 2020 by appointment for in person drop-offs or by mail. Households that received a HEAP benefit last year will automatically be mailed an application for this year's program. If you would like to receive an application or make an appointment, you may call the HEAP desk at (518) 884-4111. Applications will be mailed out when the program opens. The office will not have applications until November 02, 2020. If any member of your household is on SNAP (formally known as food stamps), please contact your SNAP case worker at (518) 884-4155. The HEAP program provides a once a year benefit which is credited directly to your heating account. Regular benefit amounts are based upon the household’s gross monthly income and commodity used to heat your home. This year's guidelines are as follows:

<b>Household Size</b>	<b>Maximum Gross Monthly Income</b>
1	\$2610
2	\$3413
3	\$4216
4	\$5019

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

Councilman Marble thanked Harry for all the help he has provided to her and her departments over the years, he will be missed. The Councilman stated that the Annual Waterford Christmas Parade unfortunately will not take place this year due to Covid. Please watch for a special virtual event that will take place on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. More information will be posted soon.

THERE WILL BE A DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY THE TOWN OF WATERFORD ON SAT. NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> 10AM -1PM AT THE WATERFORD SENIOR CENTER PARKING LOT 125 2<sup>ND</sup> ST. The FOOD DRIVE WILL BENEFIT THE 3 FOOD PANTRIES WE HAVE HERE IN WATERFORD. THERE WILL BE A FREE GIVEAWAY TO THE FIRST 25 CARS. THIS EVENT WAS ORGANIZED BY THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE.

ON SAT. NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> THERE WILL BE A TOY DROP FOR THE CAPITAL REGION TOYS FOR TOTS. ANDY WALTERS, WHO IS OUR COMMUNITY TOYS FOR TOTS COORDINATOR HAS ORGANIZED A TOY DROP AT THE WATERFORD HALFMOON SCHOOL FROM 12-4. THIS WILL BE A JOINT EFFORT WITH THE NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY AND MEMBERS OF THE WATERFORD TOWN BOARD. IN 2018 THE CAPITAL REGION TOYS FOR TOTS WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE NO. 1 CAMPAIGN IN THE NATION. IN 2019, 224,624 TOYS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO 195,999 LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN WITHIN THE CAPITAL REGION AND SURROUNDING HARD TO REACH AREAS. EVERY TOY MAKES A DIFFERENCE. EVERY CHILD DESERVES A CHRISTMAS. ANDY THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

The Councilman then read an update from Waterford Halfmoon School: The school is glad to report there is no direct COVID cases right now. There are a few cautionary quarantines due to family members. There is no definite date for the winter sports program yet. The fall girl's tennis team has competed and is currently 4 and 0 with 3 games left. There is a School Board meeting tomorrow night.

Councilman Marble went on to read a report on the Library from Director Tim McDonough. Beginning Monday November 9th, the Library will modify their service model to allow limited inbuilding browsing Mon-Fri 10am to 5pm. Curbside pickup will still be available by request and on Fridays from 10am to 2pm. Saturday hours remain the same from 10am to 2pm. The Library will be open on Veterans Day from 10am to 5pm.

The Councilman read the Canal Visitor Center report submitted by Jeff Cleary, Harbormaster. THE NEW YORK STATE CANAL SYSTEM CLOSED ON OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>. THE FEDERAL LOCK AT TROY REMAINS OPEN UNTIL NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.

SPECIAL THANKS TO HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT HARRY MARTEL AND HIS TEAM FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN REMOVING THE DOCKS. ALSO, A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PAUL TERRY FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF MAKING OUR WATERFRONT LOOK GREAT AND STAY IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

FOR THE SHORTENED SEASON WATERFORD WELCOMED 381 BOATERS FROM 39 STATES AND 3 CANADIAN PROVINCES. OUR VOLUNTEERS RECORDED 1230

HOURS SINCE JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>. TO ALL OF OUR VOLUTEERS, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHOWING UP IN DIFFICULT TIMES.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO A BRIGHT NEW YEAR WITH CANALFEST SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15 AND 16, 2021, STEAMBOAT MEET JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> , DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL IN AUGUST AND THE RETURN OF TUGBOAT ROUNDUP ON SEPTEMBER 10,11, AND 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Supervisors Report**

Supervisor Lawler wanted to share the Boards thoughts, respect and admiration for Harry Martel. We are all happy that you are moving on to the next chapter. You have always shown class and patience in your position, which at times hasn't always been easy. Harry started out as a Laborer, he became foreman and then when time came to name a new Highway Superintendent, the Board was very comfortable naming Harry to the position. You have done an exceptional job. We will have a more elaborate ceremony in December to commemorate a remarkable career in your hometown. The Supervisor stated that on behalf of Town Government and the Town, thank you for a job well done and best of luck in retirement.

The Supervisor went on to introduce the Towns new Building Inspector, Kyle Woodard. Kyle was with the City of Rennselaer as Director of their Building/Code Department. Kyle has a lot of experience and brings with him some great ideas. Kyle is replacing Glenn and we are lucky to have someone like Kyle coming to Waterford. The Supervisor stated that Kyle was interviewed by himself, the Town Engineer and Town Planning Director and we wish him a long career here in Waterford.

Supervisor Lawler then stated that Councilman Ball will be introducing Sgt. Michael Shudt who will talk about Executive Order 203 which requires every municipality with a police department to conduct an exercise to review police procedures. This needs to be completed by April and the end product and plan need to be presented to the Board, once presented, the Board will vote on approval. The Supervisor added that our guest speaker will give an overview of the process, what's involved and what has been done so far. Councilman Ball has also been involved in the process for several months and will be heading up this process on behalf of the Town Board.

Councilman Ball introduced Sgt. Michael Shudt Sgt. and added that Sgt. Shudt has been the lead officer on the day shift for many years, and he lives and works in Waterford. Our community is similar to many but different from others. Sgt. Shudt volunteered to work on this with the Town Board to meet the deadlines.

Sgt. Shudt thanked Harry Martel for always being receptive to the calls of the Police Department, especially when those calls came at all hours of the night.

Sgt. Shudt went on to say that Executive Order 203 by Governor Cuomo is a result of incidents involving police departments throughout the country. This Order asks police departments to look at their policy and procedures and their everyday work with the community and see where they may be areas for improvement or reform. One step in the process is to conduct an internal review and this has been underway for a while now. Our Police Department has the distinction of being an accredited agency in New York State and we are the only municipal police department in Saratoga County with this distinction. This puts us in great place, policy and procedure wise as we have already adopted the best practices from the State. The next step in

the Governor's Order is to recognize the stakeholders. The stakeholders are the groups that the department works with on a regular basis such as the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender, local schools, and churches. The department will have specific questions and ask for feedback from the groups. The Department is also required to hold a public meeting. This meeting will be held Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30PM at Town Hall. This will give attendees an opportunity to meet members of the Police Department. Members will give an overview of the services the department provides now, go over some of the statistics of our community, and share ideas that they have for reform going forward as a result of the internal review that was conducted and then hopefully gets some ideas from the attendees as to what areas they see a need for improvement or reform. This is a great opportunity to partner with the community. There is an April deadline for this plan for reform to be presented to the Town Board and passed.

Supervisor Lawler thanked Sgt Shudt for taking the lead in this process.

The Supervisor stated that this will be a public meeting and encourages people to attend and participate in this important process. Attendance at this meeting will be limited to 50 people due to Covid. The Supervisor pointed out that the Waterford Police Department is an accredited agency. Accreditation is hard to achieve and this involved a thorough peer review of the department, this is a real accomplishment and very symbolic of the professionalism of our department. The Supervisor added that the Governor's Executive Order is a result of bad conduct by police departments in other parts of the country. As Supervisor, he is very proud of our Police Department, the Board does not hear a lot of complaints about our police department. We have an exemplary police department which is respectful and professional. While we have to comply with the Governor's Order, he wants to make it clear that it is not due to history of bad conduct by our police department, its quite the opposite in Waterford. This process will give us a chance to look at ourselves from a different view. The Supervisor went on to thank the officers for how positive and open they have been to this process.

## **General Orders**

### RESOLUTION # 105

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby approves the Preliminary Budget as the Adopted Budget for 2021.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

RESOLUTION # 106

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby reappoints Mandy McFarland as BAR member through September 30, 2024.

Offered by Councilman Marble  
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

RESOLUTION # 107

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

Seitech Free Standing Aluminum Kayak or Canoe Storage Rack \$530.00  
Free Standing Aluminum Kayak or Canoe Storage Rack \$185.00  
10' Trailer with Ramp \$890.00  
1992 Howe Brothers Trailer with Ramp \$660.00  
Floating Docks \$3,350.00

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

RESOLUTION # 108

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes Jeffrey Cleary to attend the Canal New York Annual Meeting to be held in Fulton, New York on November 20, 2020. Registration fee is \$30.00

Offered by Councilman Marble  
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman Marble yes  
Councilman McClement yes

Supervisor Lawler yes

RESOLUTION # 109

RESOLVED, that Kyle Woodard be and he is hereby appointed as full time Building Inspector at an annual salary of \$52,000 to be paid in weekly installments without the necessity of pre audit by the Town Board.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that the Board will be going into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. He does not expect any action to be taken at the end of the session except to close the meeting. Anyone from the audience is welcome to stay.

Councilman Ball made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:51PM, seconded by Councilman Boudreau, all voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan  
Town Clerk