

At the Town Board Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on February 1, 2022 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 a letter of resignation from Town Justice Nancy Sunukjian

Supervisor Lawler stated that Nancy Sunukjian has been our Town Justice for close to 15 years. She has brought experience and knowledge to the position and has done a wonderful job for the court. She has helped us keep in compliance with the Court Administration and has helped secure grants to fund activities, software and a court remodel. He is very sad to see her go, on behalf of the Town Board and residents we wish her well in this next chapter of her life. Best of luck to you Nancy.

Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting and Organizational Meeting of January 4, 2022 and Agenda Meeting of January 25, 2022 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Boudreau, 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 report for the month of January 2022. The audited vouchers totaled \$ 211,321.64 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$49,387.85. The petty cash report totaled \$9.56. A motion to accept the financial reports, reimburse petty cash and pay the bills was made by Councilman Ball and seconded by Councilman McClement. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Councilman Boudreau read the monthly report for the Highway Department as submitted by Highway Superintendent Tony Lubas. Holiday lights and decorations were taken down and put into storage. Sugarloaf Pond vegetation maintenance along the shore line has begun and will continue for the next couple weeks. The Sewer Vac truck was used to assist the water department in pumping out water at the Bells Lane pump station. Sewer manhole repair was done on Towpath and Fonda Rd. 1.5 Tons of cold patch was used for road repair.

90 Yards of yard waste removed. 250 Tons of road salt used.

The Highway Department responded to 18 requests for service and processed 26

Dig Safe Requests. In order for the Highway Department to safely and effectively plow our roadways we ask that all trash and recycle cans are left at the end of the driveway and not on the road. This creates a dangerous situation for our plow drivers and residents who are forced to maneuver around these obstacles. If you have any questions, please contact the Highway Department at (518) 235-3413.

Councilman Boudreau commented on the nice job the Highway Department did carving out an ice rink at Sugarloaf Pond. It looks great, they did a good job and the Sewer Department helped out as well.

The Councilman then read the January report for the Sewer Department. They removed gallons of sludge to Albany County and 68,000 gallons to Saratoga County. They answered 6 alarm calls. High flow:0, Power:0, Mechanical-3, Phone-3. 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. We worked with Troy Belting to remove both plant recycle pumps and they took them to be rebuilt. Watkins Spring replaced both front springs on the tanker truck.

The Wastewater Department would like to remind residents to please refrain from dumping/flushing wipes and other non biodegradable materials down your toilet or through your garbage disposals. All of these types of materials should be going in with your household trash. They can not only cause backups in home piping and laterals but can cause blockages and clogging in pumps in pump stations which can cause system backups. This report was submitted by Craig F. Falcone, Chief Operator.

Councilman Boudreau then read the monthly update from the Waterford Water Commissioners. Water Consumption - The water works delivered approximately 30,850,000 gallons or 910,000 gpd of water during the month.

Water Distribution System Work - The staff completed 45 dig-safe utility locations as well as 20 service calls during the month. In addition to calls, staff calibrated & maintained equipment, completed monthly water testing, and completed meter reading. During this month, DOH conducted a sanitation audit which we passed with a solid A.

Meter Installation -Staff continues to reach out to residents and schedule replacement of old meters for replacement with drive by read meters. Staff have logged 2467 meters installed to date.

Hydrant Maintenance - Staff will be conducting fire hydrant maintenance as required during the next month. With the coming months we anticipate snow, so we ask that people consider adopting a hydrant for the winter and lend a hand with keeping them free of snow build up. If you see hydrant that does not have a snow marker, please reach out to the Water Commissioners and we will correct it right away. We can be reached through our website www.waterfordwater.org or by phone 518-852-5351.

The Councilman gave an update from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort. I received a request from the NYS Museum for submission of an artifact for a Fire Department Wall Display at the State Museum. It is not a Waterford display. It is statewide. The submission was a 1949 photograph of the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the J. W. Ford Hose Co. I have scheduled a Field Trip with Professor Jean Mangun of Siena College, I have worked with her in the past. She teaches a course in Sustainable Tourism. We will lead 28 class members who will visit the

Cohoes Falls, a section of the Erie Canal and Harmony Mills, the Waterford Harbor, the Old Champlain Canal in Waterford, and tour the flight. The class project is to prepare a report for National Geographic of their thoughts on Sustainable Tourism in that named area. This event is scheduled for April 9th.

I presented a program on Political Assassination in Waterford on behalf of the Waterford Museum.

We keep mentioning a potential program between Waterford NY and Waterford Ireland. All the involved parties are meeting via Zoom next week to iron on the mechanics. We are hoping for a March 12th live video event.

Councilman Boudreau then gave an update from the Museum. The Lecture Series is continuing at the Van Schaick Island Country Club, 201 Continental Ave., Cohoes. Max 410, whose menu is available for our lectures. Reservations highly recommended. Call today for reservations at (518) 238-0809.

February 8th @ 7p.m.: "Troy in The Civil War" - Presented by Michael Barrett
Last Lecture in our Winter Series March 8th @ 7p.m. "Hessians" In the American Revolutionary War - Presented by Eric Schnitzer

We are moving forward with plans for the week of June 6th - 10th for the Canalways program. Details are currently being worked on. Program is being planned for Mon. -Fri from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We can always use volunteers to help and if any folks are interested, they can contact the Museum at 518-238-0809. Thank you! We're still OPEN on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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

Councilman Ball read the summary of police activity for the month of January 2022. There were 26 Arrests, 91 traffic ticket, 6 motor vehicle accidents, 613 calls for service

Other activity:

Officer Ashe successfully completed Datamaser training and is now certified to conduct breath tests for DWI cases.

Jeff St. Denis began the process of storing Department incident reports electronically. As of the end of January all of 2021 and everything to this point in 2022 is scanned and stored. This will make the process of filling FOIL requests and transferring documents to requesting outside agencies much more efficient.

All officers received in service training from Police One Academy on the topic of Search and Seizure.

Open cases include 1 child pornography case, 1 Larceny, 1 Burglary, and 1 VICE case.

This was submitted by Sgt. Michael Shudt.

Councilman Ball congratulated the Waterford Police Department and Saratoga County Sheriffs Office. They joined forces to bring down an individual for criminal distribution of phentanyl. The Councilman went over calls for the month. Unauthorized use of motor vehicles has increased, there were 9 fire calls, 52 EMS calls, 10 domestic incidents, 18 school details, 24 assisting outside agencies.

Councilman Ball stated that the new Halfmoon Waterford Fire Department construction is coming along, they anticipate another 3-4 months for completion. This department serves not

only Halfmoon residents, but also Waterford residents in the Halfmoon Waterford Fire District.

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

Councilman McClement gave an update on the Honoring a Veteran Grant Program. The Town applied for this grant to use towards the Global War on Terror monument. Saratoga County approved the \$2500 grant today.

The Councilman stated that the Town has two active Veterans posts, the American Legion and VFW Post 5800, both looking to recruit new members. The Charles Brady Post still exists and looking to revitalize the organization. If you are a Veteran or know of a Veteran looking to get involved, please reach out to Andy Walters 518-603-2297.

Councilman McClement then read the Senior Transportation report for the month as submitted by driver Andy Walters. All Seniors being transported must wear their face masks and social distance seating is observed.

Medical Transportation

Appts - 29 Miles 748.8 Hours – 49.75 Cancellations -13

Grocery Bus

Seniors - 40 Hours - 13.5 Miles -110

Vehicle Mileage

2019 24 Passenger Bus –6043

2015 Medical Lift Bus –83265.1

2009 Senior Express Van – 87126.5

The Councilman then read a report from the Waterford Seniors for the month of January.

January 2022 new members- 4, Advanced Directives Presentation-21

Total Visitors for Month of January -161

At the Center, we continually strive to provide a network of programs and services enabling Seniors to stay healthy and independent. In light of the Covid Pandemic, challenges have faced us. We look forward to the day that the mask mandate will be lifted, but until then, it is however a top priority for us to keep our population safe when entering our building.

For January, our new program, “Sewing Is Fun” had a really good turnout, we have lots of ideas and one is to be a part of a Craft Fair late spring/early summer to sell our handmade items. Profits will go toward purchasing craft supplies. We will collaborate with our craft class with this endeavor. The presentation, “Do You Know What an Advanced Directive Is?” was held on January 25th; we had a great turnout. Our guest speaker, Lori Clune, LMSW from St Peter’s Health Partners discussed the importance to have advanced directives in place, what kinds there are and where to begin to start the process. Booklets with forms included were provided to those attending.

We continue with our scheduled classes; with the cold of winter, people still choose to come out and socialize! February will pull folks in to the Center. There are many signing up for the following:

Feb 1 at 1130 am Heart Healthy Breakfast will be served.

Feb 8 at 1130 am Storyteller Kate Dudding will share stories, folklore, and jokes.

Feb 11 at 100 pm Artist/Instructor Diane Steele will hold a Cardmaking with Watercolor class. 2.00 fee.

Feb 14 at 100 pm Chocolate Lovers Tasting, a lot of people signed up for this one!

Feb 15 at 1200 pm Covered Dish Luncheon, Monthly Birthday Party, Senior Business Mtg and finally Bingo.

I'd like to thank Clifton Park Trader Joe's and Latham Market Bistro who have generously donated food items and a gift card to our Center. We will be able to put on the Heart Healthy Breakfast for 25 people at no cost to our Seniors because of their generous gift. This was submitted by Director Eileen Haldeman.

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

Councilwoman Marble announced that there will be Cabin Fever Party on Saturday February 12th at 1:00. It will take place at the Community/Senior Center and will run till 4:00pm. We will be showing a movie, playing bingo, board games, doing some Valentine crafts, and having some snacks. Come join us!

For those of you who would rather be doing something outside go on up to Sugarloaf Pond and ice skate. The Highway Dept. flooded the pond last week and with all the cold weather we have been having I'm sure the ice is good! Also feel free to snow shoe around the pond, it's a nice walk.

The Councilwoman read the January report for the Harbor Center from Harbormaster Jeff Cleary The Federal Lock at Troy is scheduled to open on Friday, April 1st.

Plans are underway for the 2022 navigation season and planning for several festivals are underway as well. Canalfest is tentatively scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 21st and May 22nd. Our Independence Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday July 2nd and Tugboat Roundup will take place on September 9, 10, and 11. More festivals and events are being discussed and will be announced when finalized.

On January 31st, Jeff attended the Canal Recreationway Commission (CRC) Meeting via zoom. The CRC was created by the New York State Legislature in 1992 under Article XIII of the Canal Law, to advise the Power Authority/Canal Corporation on canal related activities. Many issues were discussed including winter maintenance, pending legislation and the Bicentennial planning of the Erie Canal in 2025. We are currently making many upgrades to the Hurst Harbor Center and will continue to do so over the winter and we are working and planning for the 2022 navigation season.

Councilwoman Marble read an update from the Waterford Library.

The Library is still waiting for the tax forms but some instruction booklets have been received. They expect the Federal forms in the next couple of weeks and NYS forms to arrive towards the end of the month beginning of March. It will be posted on Facebook when they arrive. The Library has added a Nintendo Switch to its collection. Patron can check out the device and a couple of games on their library card for up to 7 days.

Liz will be offering a Valentine themed make and take craft. Please call Liz at 518-237-0891 to reserve one. They also anticipate having a couple of craft programs during the school vacation week. The part time clerk Tara King is now officially a Notary Public. She is available to have

documents notarized on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Best to call the library in advance to make sure.

Councilwoman Marble read an update from the Building Department for the month of January. There were 5 building permits, 2 order to vacates, responded to 5 fire calls, 2 tenant and landlord issues and 9 onsite construction inspections.

The Councilwoman then gave an update from the Waterford Halfmoon School: The Capital Project Phase 2A -Building Specs have been advertised, bid openings on Feb 8th. It is focused on a new track, track and field area and a new soccer field. Inside renovations include the technology and art wing as well as the locker rooms. Screening for a new Superintendent has begun. Deadline for applications is Feb 18th. New Superintendent will start on July 1st.

The Drama Club will be putting on a Musical March 11-13th. “ The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee”. Spring Break is Feb 21st-25th.

Supervisor’s Report

Supervisor Lawler stated that the pandemic has been especially hard for not-for-profits and across the county these organizations are hurting. They do tremendous work in the County- food pantries, meals on wheels, daycare.

The Board of Supervisors approved \$2million allocated for a grant program. He encourages Waterford not for profits to visit the Town Facebook page and submit an application. He cannot guarantee all who submit an application will get a grant, but he wants you know that he will advocate for every application from Waterford.

General Orders

RESOLUTION # 46

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby allows Craig Falcone to carry over an additional 14.50 hours of vacation time into 2022. These vacation hours are over and above the 40 vacation hours authorized to be carried over per the Town’s Employee Handbook. The additional 14.50 hours of vacation time were not utilized during 2021 due to the corona virus pandemic and staffing issues.

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 both Tony and Craig. They have been tremendous in their personal responses, filling in when needed, they do not get overtime and keep things running smoothly.

RESOLUTION # 47

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby allows Tony Lubas to carry over an additional 44 hours of vacation time into 2022. These vacation hours are over and above the 40 vacation hours authorized to be carried over per the Town's Employee Handbook. The additional 44 hours of vacation time were not utilized during 2021 due to the corona virus pandemic, an increased workload and staffing issues..

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilwoman Marble

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

RESOLUTION # 48

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, this State disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices in the Town of **Waterford** and rendered senior citizens and individuals with disabilities residing in **Waterford** homebound. These factors combined have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many in these populations to file their real property tax exemption applications in person and many, further, lack the ability to file such applications online; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the above problems caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No. 11. This extension of the Governor's Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit (i.e., the Town Board of the Town of **Waterford**) to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions on the 2021 assessment roll (i.e., senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income), thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions, and further dispensing with the requirement that assessors mail renewal applications to such persons; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution, at its option, to include procedures by which its Town Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if he has reason to believe that an owner who qualified

for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Town Board of the Town of *Waterford* wishes to adopt such Resolution directing the Town Assessor of the Town of *Waterford* to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Town Assessor of the Town of *Waterford* the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedures outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Town Board of the Town of *Waterford* hereby directs the Town Assessor of the Town of *Waterford* to:

1. Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications for such exemptions, except that;

2. The Town Assessor may, in his sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely filed with his office if he has reason to believe that any such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed for the relevant property, transferred such property to a new owner or died. If the Town Assessor requires such renewal application be filed, he shall notify the owner of the subject property of such requirement by regular mail, with such notice shall containing instructions on how to file the renewal application. Said renewal application may be returned by mail or by making an appointment to drop same off at the Town Assessor's office, 65 Broad Street Waterford, NY 12188

Offered by Councilman McClement
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

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

RESOLUTION # 49

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement with UHY LLP in an amount not to exceed \$22,063.13 for audit services to be performed relative to the Town's 2021 financial records.

Offered by Councilwoman Marble
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that UHY is one of the largest and most respected auditing firms. The Town has worked with UHY for about 25 years. An audit by UHY is a gold standard.

RESOLUTION # 50

RESOLVED, that the property known as 73 Third Street, (SBL# 291.71-2-22) be changed for sewer rent purposes to a one (1) family dwelling from a (2) two unit as all necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Town Clerk.

Offered by Councilwoman Marble
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

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

RESOLUTION # 51

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to apply for a Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Grant through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

RESOLUTION # 52

Be it resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute an agreement in the amount of \$15,285.00 with Delaware Engineering, D.P.C. for environmental monitoring at the closed Town of Waterford landfill for 2022.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilman Marble

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that at one time the Town had an active landfill. We closed the landfill in the mid 90's all according to DEC regulations. An annual monitoring report is a requirement.

RESOLUTION # 53

RESOLVED, that the property known as 301 Hudson River Road, (SBL# 286.-1-9) be changed for sewer rent purposes to a (3) three unit from a (6) six unit as all necessary paperwork has been submitted to the Town Clerk.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

RESOLUTION # 54

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to sign a contract with Old Saratoga Associates LLC for pollution control at the Sugarloaf Pond for algae control and pondweed control for the 2022 season at a cost of \$4,410.00.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

Supervisor Lawler added that we pass this resolution every year. If you have been to Sugarloaf Pond, it is a beautiful recreation area. It had not always been that way. At one time the pond was choked with weeds and algae. In the mid 90's the Town took stewardship to clean and remove weeds, shrubs were planted and the algae is controlled in the pond, its now a place everyone enjoys.

Other Business

RESOLUTION # 55

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

9' Western Plow with Frame, Wiring Harness and Controller	\$1,050.00
9' Fisher Plow with Wiring Harness and Controller	\$1,025.00

Offered by Councilman Boudreau
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

Councilman Ball added that the new replacement police vehicle, a dodge charger, is being equipped and the old one will go to auction.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Barry Walsh asked about the status of the DEC projects.

Supervisor Lawler stated that he believes Barry is referring to the \$925,000 settlement. The funds were transferred to the Town about 10 days ago.

Councilman McClement made a motion at 7:55PM to close the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Marble. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan
Town Clerk