

At the Town Board Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on December 6, 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
Councilwoman Laurie Marble
Councilman Frank McClement
Supervisor John Lawler

Absent:

Councilman James Boudreau

Communications and Petitions

- Resignation letter of Justice David Fusco
- Resignation letter of Debby Russell

Supervisor Lawler thanked Dave for 32 years of his continued support. It's been a true pleasure and wished him luck in his retirement. There is now a vacancy for Town Justice, information will be posted on the town website. Supervisor Lawler thanked Debby Russell, Junior Accountant, for her 16 years working at the Town. She is delightful to work with and it's been a pleasure. It's a sad moment and Supervisor Lawler and the Town Board wish them both the best of luck. They will be missed. Supervisor Lawler asked the Town Board if they would like to make any separate comments. Councilwoman Marble commented it's been a pleasure working with them both, I am hoping we can get together after they leave.

Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of November 1, 2022, Special Meeting of November 9, 2022 and Agenda Meeting and Special Meeting of November 29, 2022 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Ball, 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 November 2022. The audited vouchers totaled \$ 850,300.85 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$34,519.98. The petty cash report totaled \$46.58. A motion to reimburse petty cash, accept the financial reports and pay the abstracts and was made by Councilman McClement and seconded by Councilwoman Marble. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that Jim wasn't at the meeting because he was feeling under the weather.

Councilman McClement read the Highway Department report for November.

Winterization at town parks has been completed. Holiday lights and decorations have been installed. Annual Leaf Vac service is complete with a total of 720 yards collected. Any leftover leaves can be bagged and left by the roadside for pickup. 3 Tons of blacktop was used for road repair. 25 Tons of road salt was used. 570 Yards of yard waste was collected. The Highway Department responded to 38 requests for service and processed 51 Dig Safe Requests with 4 emergencies. 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 McClement thanked the Highway Dept. for decorating at Soldiers and Sailors Park and Sugar Loaf Pond, it looks great.

Councilman McClement then read the Wastewater monthly report. Average Influent Flow: 902,000 gallons/day. We removed: 6,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County, 60,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County.

Alarms answered: 7. High Flow-2, Power-5, Mechanical-0, Phone-0

Normal Maintenance: Checked all pump stations and cleaned floats as needed.

Continued the maintenance of the outside grounds, equipment, and vehicles.

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

Cleaned out the Murray Ave. pump station and Koval Electric installed the transfer switch for the new standby generator.

All of the Wastewater employees attended an AED/CPR training class.

We worked with Troy Belting on the removal of the original wasting pump and the initial set up and placement of the new pump. We are waiting for a custom fitting to mate the new pump flange to our original piping.

We again shut down, cleaned, inspected, and then installed plastic flight scraper rail slides in the #1 Primary clarifier.

The A Team pulled, unplugged wipes from, and tested pump #2 at the Drake Court pump station.

The Wastewater Department would again 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.

Please see the Towns Facebook page for more details. This report was submitted by Chief Operator Craig Falcone.

The Councilman then read the monthly report for the Waterford Water Commissioners.

Water Consumption - The Water Works delivered approximately 30,574,000 gallons or 986,258 gpd of water during the month.

Water Distribution System Work - The staff completed 32 dig-safe utility locations as well as 92 service calls during the month. In addition to calls, staff calibrated & maintained equipment, completed monthly water testing, and completed meter reading.

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 2321 meters installed to date.

Hydrant Maintenance - As Autumn closes in we have begun the process of winterizing our hydrants, and ensuring they have location flags/markers attached. If you see a hydrant that does not have a snow marker, please reach out to the Water Commissioners and we will put it on the top of the list. We can be reached through our website www.waterfordwater.org or by phone 518-237-0422.

Councilman McClement went on to read the report from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort. He attended the monthly meeting of the Saratoga County History Center and spoke on the Waterford Poisoning Case concerning the Nolan Girls on behalf of the Waterford Museum. He attended two book signings for “More Saratoga County Stories,” which includes four on Waterford. One signing was at Brookside in Ballston Spa and the other at Grooms Tavern in Rexford. He is working with Field Horne of the History Center and Anastasia of the Waterford Museum on a display for the history center about Waterford. Mr. Vandervoort also obtained a bridge token for the Waterford Union Bridge from the 1880s.

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

Councilman Ball spoke of the importance of wanting residents to be aware of their surroundings. We have had some recent vehicle thefts. Councilman Ball reminded the public that if you're driving on Fonda, Middletown and Hudson River Road to be on the lookout for deer. Two Police cars hit a deer this month. Councilman Ball went on to read the monthly Police Activity report. There were 47 arrests, 128 traffic tickets issued, 12 motor vehicle accidents, there were 541 calls for service.

All officers were recertified in CPR. Officer Williams attended Criminal Investigator School at the Zone 5 Regional Training Academy. Council Ball handed out a copy of a draft Violation Notice to the Town Board, Town Justice and Town Attorney for review.

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

Councilman McClement announced that the Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection is having a Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 5PM-8PM located at the American Legion Post#70, 34 West Ave, Saratoga Springs. This event is free to all Veterans (Spouses and Caregivers welcome). Reserve your tickets at Eventbrite.com any questions reach out to the Saratoga County Veterans Agency at 518-885-4115.

Councilman McClement stated the DPW roofing repair is finished, we are waiting on the manufactures warranty. Councilman McClement thanked Bill, Tony and the Town Attorney for helping with the project.

The Councilman then read monthly report for the Waterford Seniors.

Attendance for November 2022- 363, New Members- 6

Medical Transportation: Appts -24, Cancellations - 3, Miles – 632, Hours -34

Grocery Bus : Seniors – 50, Hours - 20 , Miles - 105

Vehicle Mileage

2019 24 Passenger Bus - 7608

2015 Medical Bus - 91637.9

2009 Senior Express Van – 87738.1

On November 9th, the Yankee Candle Trip was a huge hit as 49 people went on this trip. The Trip Club will be looking at doing this trip again next fall, as there was such a great turnout. The Alzheimer's Assoc of NENY came to the Center on Nov 15th to discuss the 10 warning signs of Alzheimer's; we had a great turnout.

The Garden Club came to the Center on Wed 11/16 as The Waterford Seniors hosted an Appreciation Luncheon in recognition of the amazing effort these people put forth throughout our growing season. We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead as we continue to support our community's food pantries.

The Drive Thru Food Drive took place at the Community/Senior Center on Saturday November 19th. There was an abundance of donations that came from both individual contributions and generous business donors. Everything collected went to our three local food pantries. A big thank you to everyone that had a part in such an important event.

The excitement was in the air on Saturday November 26th, our Seniors had a wonderful time riding on the Town bus in the Christmas Parade. It was quite an evening as so many people came out to celebrate our Waterford Halfmoon Girls' Varsity Soccer Team State Champions lead the way to a sea of well-wishers. The Tree Lighting ceremony and firework display were amazing. Everything about this parade was fantastic from the procession of decorated fire trucks to all those walking that made their way to the Soldiers and Sailors Park.

On November 30th the Seniors had a field trip to Mechanicville to the Park Ave Confectionary Store and then went to End Zone for pizza. 16 people participated.

December Events: We have the Christmas Party at the Center coming up on Sat Dec 10th at noon and 46 people are coming. Seniors have until Tuesday December 6th to sign up. Chef Joe Forget will be catering this event.

Also, The Annual Christmas Cookie Exchange is to take place at Center on Tuesday December 20th at 12:30pm. So far 15 people have signed up. Please call the Center for any further information on these events at 518-235-8500. Submitted by Eileen Haldeman, Director.

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

Councilwoman Marble stated that the events at the Senior/Community Center are fun and everyone gets along great.

Councilwoman Marble then thanked the Highway Dept. for the great job decorating around the Town, especially up by the Pond.

The Councilwoman read the monthly report for Town activities. We had a perfect night for this year's Christmas Parade. This was probably the biggest parade we have had in many, many years. Thanks to all who participated as well as the Waterford Fire Depts, Waterford PD, and the Highway Dept. for decorating the park so beautifully. Thank you to the Waterford Wesleyan Church for the hot chocolate and Torri Van Nostrand the Parks Director for her help. Thanks to Jeff Cleary and John Callaghan for their work to make the fireworks happen, it was a perfect ending for the evening. Santa was a huge hit as usual. I would like to thank the Brendese family for allowing us the use of their property for line up for the parade. The community trees are up and ready to be decorated. Feel free to come down to the park and place an ornament on one of the trees in memory of a loved one or just place an ornament on one of the trees.

The Highway Dept. has done a beautiful job decorating Sugarloaf Pond and Soldiers and Sailors Park this year. Make sure you take a ride up by the pond. Thanks Tony and the highway guys.

Councilwoman Marble then gave an update on the Waterford Halfmoon School:

12/7 Sports Booster mtg.- The Booster Club is working very hard raising funds to benefit the sports programs.

12/8 Board of Education mtg.

12/15 Winter Concert Jr/Sr band and chorus rain date of the 16th.

12/19 Elementary Concert rain date of 12/20

12/23 Holiday break begins thru Jan 2, going back to school on Jan 3.

The Sports schedule is on the school website. All of the winter sports are in full swing.

The Councilwoman then read a report from the Waterford Library.

The library will be holding an open house on Saturday Dec 17th 11-2. They will have live

entertainment, crafts for the kids including gingerbread houses to build, and refreshments.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to stop by. Mary Harney's unique Santa collection will be on display in the display case this month. The library will be closed Dec 24-26 for Christmas and Jan 1-2 for New Year's.

The weekly produce deliveries from Capital Roots remain on pause as they complete construction on their facilities in Troy. We hope to resume this important service in early 2023.

The Councilwoman stated that a winter carnival date is being decided at Sugarloaf Pond for the end of January.

Councilwoman Marble read the monthly report from the Town Building and Code Officer Ben Akin. There were 8 building permits issued, 3 stop work orders, 15 onsite construction inspections, 3 fire safety inspections, 4 certificate of occupancy inspections, 1 landlord tenant issue that is ongoing, 2 fire calls, and 7 stops for roadside trash.

240 yards of trash and debris have been removed from Riberdy Grove along with multiple loads of scrap metal. 1 camper has also been removed. Construction has started on 60 Clifton Street.

He would also like to remind everyone to take the time to check your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, to make sure they are in working order. If anyone has a question about placement of the detectors in your home please feel free to contact him at his office at 518-235-3802.

The Councilwoman then read the November monthly report for the Hurst Harbor Center as submitted by Director Jeff Cleary

The Hurst Harbor Center served a polling location for the general election on Tuesday, November 8th. All went well with a very high turnout. There were no incidences reported.

The Dock Office, Farmer's Market office and all maintenance areas have been packed up and winterized. The necessary equipment has been moved upstairs to protect from flooding.

The Federal Lock closed on Friday, November 11th.

A volunteer thank you lunch was held on Friday, November 18th at Corcoran's Towpath Tavern. It was well attended and gave the Town the opportunity to thank our volunteers for their 2236 hours of service during the 2022 navigation season.

The Waterford Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, November 25th. The Parade concluded with a majestic fireworks display. Many thanks to New York State Marine Highway for the donation of the tugboat and barge and thank you to Captain John Callaghan and his crew for volunteering their services. Without them the fireworks would not have been possible.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Lawler introduced Nancy Varley from the Waterford Women's Club and invited her to explain the issues with flushing things that shouldn't be flushed. Supervisor Lawler explained how it would be an inconvenience if we had to shut down the sewer plant and how expensive it would be. Mrs. Varley thanked the Town Board for allowing her to be here. She also thanked Craig Falcone for letting them tour the Sewer Plant. Mrs. Varley explained how important it is to put wipes in the trash, even if they say they are flushable, we need to make people aware of this issue. She further stated that Trish Burke put together a slide show on the issue. The club wrote two letters; one to Assemblyman John McDonald and Senator Jim Tedisco and the other letter to Congress in hopes to change the labels on the wipes to not state that they are flushable. Supervisor Lawler explained that this is an issue everywhere and property owners are responsible for their lateral sewer lines. Grease also is an issue. It's a problem especially with restaurants. Supervisor Lawler thanked Nancy and the Waterford Women's Club.

General Orders

RESOLUTION # 146

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the reimbursement of \$2,406.00 to the Waterford Halfmoon School District for the purchase of twenty two Under Armour jackets for the Girls Varsity Soccer team.

Offered by
Seconded by

Councilman Ball
Councilman Boudreau
Councilwoman Marble
Councilman McClement
Supervisor Lawler

Supervisor Lawler stated that the Town Board has honored multiple athletic teams and different clubs in the past. The Waterford Girls Varsity Soccer Team won the 2022 Class C State Championship. Supervisor Lawler went on to explain that the Town is recognizing the Girls Varsity Soccer Team by buying them jackets. The school will place the order and the Town will reimburse them. The Team will be receiving them at a Town Board meeting in the future.

Supervisor Lawler opened the meeting up to the people who were attending.

Craig Falcone spoke on the passing of Dave Farrar, an 84-year-old longtime resident and great person. Mr. Farrar's wake will be held on Friday, December 9 from 4-7 at Brendese Funeral

Home. Supervisor Lawler said Dave was dedicated to the Northside area and he will be missed. The Supervisor thanked Craig for mentioning the loss of Mr. Farrar.

Supervisor Lawler went on to open the meeting to the people online.

Christine Connell-stated she is happy that the Town still provides Zoom and thanked the Town Board for that.

Quincy Renee-agreed as well that she is happy that the Town still provides Zoom.

David Gaines of 44 Washington Ave.- stated that he is being evicted, and very upset. Mr. Gaines is having issues with is landlord not renewing his lease, he also said the building has issues and violations. Supervisor Lawler explained to him that there is nothing the Town Board can do for him as he lives in the Village and that this is a court matter. Mr. Gaines spoke about his application for ERAP being approved. Supervisor Lawler said he is leaving this up to the Court. Mr. Gaines thank everyone for their time. Supervisor Lawler said he is always willing to take the time out to listen.

Supervisor Lawler and the Town Board wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman Ball made a motion to close the meeting at 8:35PM, seconded by Councilwoman Marble. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina McClement
Deputy Town Clerk