

At the Town Board Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on March 7, 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

Councilwoman Laurie Marble

Councilman Frank McClement

Supervisor John Lawler

Absent:

Councilman James Boudreau

Supervisor Lawler stated that Councilman Boudreau is not here tonight, he is recovering at home from some health issues and we hope to see him at Town Hall soon.

Communications and Petitions

There were none

Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of February 7, 2023 and Agenda Meeting and Special Meeting of February 28, 2023 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Ball, seconded by Councilwomen 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 February 2023. The audited vouchers totaled \$ 531,717.01 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$29,596.73. The petty cash report totaled \$16.21. A motion to pay the abstracts, reimburse petty cash, accept the financial reports was made by Councilman Ball and seconded by Councilwoman McClement. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Councilman McClement read the monthly report from the Highway Department.

A missing stop sign was installed at South and Short 6th street. 5 No Parking signs were replaced on Vanderwerken, First, Grace, and Hutchinson. 3 Dead End signs were replaced at Shear Court, Valley View, and James Drive. Also a Stop sign was replaced at Gadwall and Mallards Landing South due to fading. The Sewer Vac truck was used to assist the Water Department in cleaning out shut off valves on Terri and Saratoga Ave and pumping out water at the Bells Lane pump station. A parking lot light was installed and repaired at the Senior Center. Trash clean up was completed on First and River Street. Dead trees were cut down and removed on Maple Ave, Shear Court, Robin Lane and Davis Ave Cemetery. Storm water catch basins were inspected and cleaned. All vehicles and equipment continue to be serviced and repaired. 1 Ton of cold patch was used on road repair. 150 Tons of road salt was used. 120 Yards of green waste was

collected. The Highway department responded to 23 service requests and processed 15 Dig Safe requests with 5 emergencies.

The Councilman then went on to read the monthly Wastewater Department report as submitted by Chief Operator Craig Falcone. Monthly Average Wastewater Flow was 884,000 gallons per/day. We removed: 8,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County, 54,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County

Alarms answered: 3, High Flow-0, Power-0, Mechanical-1, Phone-2

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 Smith Controls to troubleshoot and repair the wasting pump flow meter.

I conducted a walkthrough inspection of the Towns' CSO's and at the main wastewater plant with Michelle LaFay of the Region 5 office of DEC. Everything went well and we should be receiving the inspection conclusion letter anytime in the next couple of weeks.

I had the A-team give us prices on pump station upgrades to the Drake Court, Canvasback Ridge, and Timber Drive pump stations which are aging out.

Troy Belting started the annual servicing of the stand by generators both at the plant, pump stations, and including our portable pull behind generator.

I would like to ask that all residents please refrain from flushing or dumping down their sink drain grease and any products which aren't soluble in water

Councilman McClement then went on to read the Water Commissioners report for the month of February. The Water Commissioners of the Town of Waterford are pleased to provide this monthly report to the Town of Waterford. Please note the following activities during the last month:

Water Consumption - The Water Works delivered approximately 33,448,053 gallons or 1,078,969 gpd of water during the month.

Water Distribution System Work - The staff completed 22 dig-safe utility locations as well as 51 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 2495 meters installed to date.

Hydrant Maintenance - With Winter in full swing we are still 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. We will be posting our annual Spring flushing schedule soon.

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System- We have completed the Upgrade of the SCADA system and have already begun leveraging this newer technology to reduce maintenance and increase efficiencies. The Water Commissioners would like to thank the Town of Waterford for their financial support for making this happen. It will prove to be a critical investment in our abilities to continue to provide the citizens of the Town and Village with safe, reliable, potable water at rates as low as possible.

Councilman McClement then read an update from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort.

Attended the monthly meeting of the Saratoga County History Center in Ballston Spa. Working with Field Horne, President of Saratoga County History Center and Anastasia Garceau, Director of Waterford Museum & Cultural Center on a display of local industries in Saratoga County. Waterford's contribution to the display will be a home heating stove manufactured by the Hudson Mohawk Manufacturing Company on the King's Canal, later known as Eddy Valve. I have submitted an article for inclusion in the Saratoga County History this Week Program for an August usage on Waterford being a leading producer of underwear from 1890 - 1950. I was able to answer a Waterford Residents request for information concerning the Alcathy' Marine area and operation.

Another resident had several questions on the indigenous population on Peebles Island which also resulted in a successful reply.

A Cohoes resident with ties to Matton's Shipyard requested some info which I was able to comply.

I will be presenting a talk for the Friends of Peebles Island on Tuesday, March 7th on the canals and Mattons.

On a future note, for this year's Canal Fest, the Champlain Canal Trailway Committee is scheduling 2 events in Waterford. One is an informative Canal Walk which I will do. The other is a bike ride on the Champlain Trailway from Waterford to a point to be determined north of Waterford, and back. I would like to suggest that in light of this event, that the Town of Waterford, the Village of Waterford, and the Waterford Canal and Towpath Society put forth a concerted effort to make certain our section of the trailway is in good order for the expected visitors. This event will come up quickly as May approaches.

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

Councilman Ball commended the Northside Fire Department, Waterford Fire Department, Bought Fire Department and Halfmoon Waterford Fire Department for their actions during a fire on 2/26 on Vanderwerkwen Avenue, there were no injuries. Thank you to the Waterford Rescue Squad as well.

The Councilman stated that he attended a virtual meeting with the Canal Corporation on dam safety on the Mohawk River and emergency action should there be a breach. The results are pending and will be released when available.

Councilman Ball stated that the Police Department is canvassing lateral transfers and new recruits. The Summary of Police Activity during month of February included 59 arrests, 191 traffic tickets, 8 motor vehicle accidents and 504 calls for service. Sergeant Dilbone taught Instructor Development at the Zone Five Academy. All officers received training on Emergency Vehicle Operations via Police Academy One. Other calls included 18 animal calls, 4 noise complaints, 10 school details and 171 traffic stops. The Summary of Arrests for February totals 59, most are from motor vehicle stops. Traffic stops are growing everywhere. The monthly report also shows the Summary of Investigations.

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

Councilman McClement read the monthly report on Senior Activities as submitted by Senior Director Eileen Haldeman. Attendance for February 2023- 319, New Members- 3

Medical Transportation

Senior Medical Appointments - 37 Cancellations - 8 (weather related) Miles -791.5

Hours - 43

Grocery Bus Senior Shoppers 40, Miles - 135, Hours -16

Vehicle Mileage: 2009 Ford Van - 87818.0, 2015 Ford Bus - 94055.9, 2018 Chevy Bus - 8083

Regular weekly schedule in place with exception of walking group on Wednesday morning. This will start up again once weather gets better in early spring.

Our Senior Center will be participating in the Ballston Spa Arts and Science Creating Community, Inc Birdhouse Program this year. The unfinished birdhouses are plain wood that can be decorated. Once finished, they will be sent up to Ballston Spa, Saratoga County where they will be on display this summer.

Some February highlights included our Valentine Day Party, make a bird seed log and the annual Pot Luck Luncheon all of which were enjoyed by our seniors.

Some March presentations and events, coming up--

Tues. March 21st Joe Forget will be catering our annual St Patrick Day Corned Beef Luncheon.

Monthly Birthday Party and Bingo to follow. Cost is \$15.00 per person.

Friday March 24th the Trip Club is going to HVCC Flower Expo. Transportation provided by the Town of Waterford. Admission fee for Expo is \$10.00.

Tues. March 28th at noon a National Grid Consumer Advocate is coming to the center to discuss three grants available; one for HEAP eligible customers, one for customers that are low-to-moderate income, and then a food grant as well. Co-sponsored by the Waterford Public Library and the Waterford Community/Senior Center.

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

Councilwoman Marble stated that she was happy to announce that as soon as soon as the ground is ready, the Town will be taking delivery of the new playset at Clement Park. This was purchased using the Momentive money the Town received. She will coordinate with Tony our Highway Superintendent.

Councilwoman Marble then read the Harbor Visitor Center report for February. The Federal Lock at Troy is scheduled to open on April 1st.

The NYS Canal Corporation announced that the Canal system will open on May 19th for the 199th consecutive season of navigation. The Canal system is scheduled to close on October 11, 2023.

Plans are underway for the 2023 navigation season and planning for several festivals are underway.

CanalFest is tentatively scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 20th and 21st. Our Independence Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, July 1st and the legendary Tugboat Round-up will take place on September 8th, 9th and 10th. More festivals and events are being discussed and will be announced as they are finalized.

We are currently making many upgrades to the Hurst Harbor Center and will continue to do so over the winter as we are working and planning for the 2023 navigation season.

The Visitor Center/ Dock Office is seeking volunteers to assist during the upcoming navigation season. This is a great way to serve your community for a few hours each week while meeting people from around the world and enjoying the natural beauty of our harbor and our town. If interested, please contact Jeff Cleary at 518-233-9123.

The NYS Canal Corporation has installed a chain-link fence around the perimeter of “The Point”. The area to the south of the Visitor Center on the approach to Lock E-2. The purpose of this fence is to begin a multi-year project to replace the seawall in that area. The existing seawall is unsafe and leaning into the canal. It should be noted that the land where this work is being done is all NYS Canal property. Submitted by Director Jeff Cleary.

Councilwoman Marble then read monthly report from the Building Department. There were 9 building permits issued, 6 onsite construction inspections, 3 fire calls in the town limits resulting in 4 Order to Vacate. All fire calls have had multiple follow-up meetings. There was a fire call in the village limits resulting in 2 Order to Vacates. The village fire call was handed back over to the village building department the following day along with a report on what the call was for and reason for the order to vacate. Tenant/ landlord complaints still ongoing, 4 stops for roadside trash. Dave Woodin and I did an onsite walk through on a property for an upcoming project. Attended the Zoning Board meeting by request of Dave Woodin. After hours call for a sewer backup on Saratoga Avenue, the problem was addressed that night. The report was submitted by Building Inspector Ben Akin.

The Councilwoman spoke of upcoming events at the Waterford Library. The Celtic Music Program was rescheduled due to the snow storm, it will now be on April 8th at 3:30pm. The Iditarod Trail Race Program, featuring Karen Land and her husky Noggin, will be held Wednesday March 22nd at 6pm at the Community Center. The library will be hosting a registration session for Waterford Softball on March 18th from 10am-1pm. The Knit & Crochet Club meet weekly on Thursdays from 2-4:30pm. Contact Tara or Lara to more information. Weekly produce deliveries from Capital Riots are back to their original day- Wednesdays at 11:30am. The library still has some state and federal tax forms.

The Councilwoman gave an update on activities from the Waterford Halfmoon School. Tonight at 6pm there is a dodgeball game to benefit the girls’ soccer team sponsored by the sports booster club.

Last Friday night there was a basketball game between some of the school faculty and our first responders. The game was intense and within points the entire time. The school won by one point. It was very well attended and everyone had a great time. There was a lot of shirts given away and prizes. It was a lot of fun.

March 8th is winter athletics awards night and spring sports begin on March 13th.

As a kindness project, the school district and students are launching a shoe donation drive to benefit orphans and school age children in Costa Rica and Africa. Their goal is to reach 5000 pair of shoes. This is one of many small acts of kindness that will reinforce the message of being kind to one another.

Councilwoman Marble spoke of upcoming Town events. The Memorial Parade is Wednesday May 24th at 7 pm. Please contact the supervisor’s office if interested in participating. Please watch for some new activities this spring and into the summer. A calendar will be posted in April. We will be bringing back the fishing tournament on June 25th at Sugarloaf pond. Saratoga County is offering free lifeguard training again this year. Ages 15-17 for Saratoga County residents. Contact the Saratoga County Office of the Aging and Youth Services to sign up, 518-884-4100. The program will be starting soon.

Supervisor Lawler stated that this Be Kind Project is great. Can we ask for more information to post to the Town website and Facebook page.

General Orders

RESOLUTION # 66

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he is authorized to sign a contract with Old Saratoga Associates LLC for pollution control at Sugarloaf Pond for algae control and pondweed control for the 2023 season at a cost of \$4,410.00.

Offered by Councilman McClement
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that every year this is done at Sugarloaf Pond. They do a great job keeping Sugar Loaf Pond free of algae and undesirable plants. This is very valuable to our community and the pond is enjoyable to our visitors.

RESOLUTION #67

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby acknowledges the receipt of the audit report issued by C. L. Hadjioannou, CPA, relative to the Town Court of the Town of Waterford for the calendar year 2021 and that the fines therein collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town as required by law.

Offered by Councilwomen Marble
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

Supervisor Lawler commented that the Town is required to conduct an independent audit every year for the Town Court. Court fines are separate from Town finances.

RESOLUTION # 68

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF WATERFORD FOR THE YEAR 2023 APPROVING BID FOR CEMETERY LAWN MAINTENANCE

FOR TOWN OF WATERFORD CEMETERY

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Waterford, by public notice duly published according to law, invited sealed proposals for lawn maintenance services for the Town of Waterford Cemetery on Saratoga Avenue in the Town of Waterford; and

WHEREAS, all such proposals received were considered publicly at Town Hall, on 17th day of February, 2023 at 2:00 p.m., the time and place specified in said public notice; and

WHEREAS, said Town Board has determined that David T. Williams is the lowest responsible formal bidder for the work as detailed in the specifications, with a bid of \$30,800 for bi-weekly mowing and trimming, plus five (5) days prior to Memorial Day; and \$4,400 for leaf removal through the month of November as set forth in the bid specifications; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said proposal of David T. Williams be accepted, subject to the following, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board enter into a contract with said David T. Williams as the successful bidder pertaining to the cemetery lawn service in accordance with the specifications for said bid project, to be approved by the attorney for the Town and further subject to the receipt and approval by the attorney for the Town of the required bonding documents for performance, labor and materials.

Offered by Councilman McClement
Seconded by Councilwomen Marble

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

Supervisor Lawler said this is an annual contract for the Cemetery on Saratoga Avenue every year.

RESOLUTION # 69

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to sign a contract with Mountain Top Portable Toilets LLC for the year 2023.

Offered by Councilwomen Marble
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that the Town sponsors a number of events and supplies restroom facilities as needed.

RESOLUTION # 70

RESOLVED, that the Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to sign a contract with TruGreen Commercial in an amount of \$495.84 for weed control at Clement Park and \$5,544.10 for treatments of the ball fields at the Middletown Road ball field complex for 2023.

Offered by Councilman McClement
Seconded by Councilman Ball

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

RESOLUTION # 71

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to sign a contract with Kingsbury Sweeping at a cost of \$ 170.00 per hour for street sweeping for 2023.

Offered by Councilwomen Marble
Seconded by Councilman McClement

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

Supervisor Lawler stated that each spring we clean the Town streets after the winter snow.

RESOLUTION # 72

RESOLVED, that Patrick O'Connell be and is hereby reappointed to provide weapons training and certification to the Waterford Police Department in accordance with DCJS standards and to maintain all records and respond to requests for information at an annual salary of \$2080.00 to be paid in quarterly installments without the necessity of pre-audit by the Town Board.

Offered by Councilman Ball
Seconded by Councilwomen Marble

Councilman Ball yes
Councilwoman Marble yes
Councilman McClement yes

Supervisor Lawler yes

Supervisor Lawler asked if there were any other comments from the Board.

Councilman McClement added that he wanted to share an event that was left off Councilman Boudreau's report. The final lecture at the Waterford Historical Museum will be March 28th at 7pm at the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center "Brave and Gallant": African-American military men at Saratoga. The fee is \$10.00

There were no other questions or comments.

Councilman McClement made a motion to close the meeting at 7:37PM, seconded by Councilwoman Laurie Marble. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan
Town Clerk