

At the Town Board meeting of the Waterford Town Board held by teleconference on June 2, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. the following transpired:

There were present on the call:

Councilman Ball

Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Marble

Councilman McClement

Supervisor Lawler

Supervisor Lawler went over guidelines for the teleconference. The meeting is being recorded in its entirety and will be available on the Town website tomorrow. The meeting is recorded in 30-minute blocks, when we here the prompt, the meeting will pause in order to resume the next 30 minutes. All callers except the Town Board, Town Clerk and Town Attorney will be muted during the meeting so the meeting can progress in an orderly fashion. Members of the public will be invited to speak and offer comments at the end of the meeting as we do for every town meeting and all phones will be unmuted at that time.

Communications and Petitions

Town Clerk Carrigan read a letter of resignation from David Williams and a letter of retirement from Sgt. Patrick O'Connell.

Supervisor Lawler stated that Pat joined the Waterford Police Department after retiring from the Watervliet Arsenal. When Sgt. O'Connell entered the academy he was the oldest recruit in his class and he finished by graduating first in the class. He has had a great career and is a fine representation of the Police Department and government. Pat will be missed; we wish him the best and success in the future.

Councilman Ball added that Sgt. O'Connell is a terrific Officer to work with and has always done honest work with the community. He worked one of the tougher shifts, the "graveyard shift." Sgt. O'Connell has been a mentor to fellow Officers and recruits.

Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows

Minutes of the Town Board meeting of May 5, 2020, Special Meeting of May 14, 2020 and Agenda Meeting of May 26, 2020 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Ball seconded by Councilman Marble 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 May 2020. The audited abstracts totaled \$219,080.21 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$18,877.58. The petty cash report totaled \$1.00. A motion was made by Councilman Ball and seconded by Councilman Boudreau 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 Town of Waterford Highway Department Report for the month of May as submitted by Highway Superintendent Harry Martel. The Town Highway Department In compliance with NY State directives for the containment of Covid –19, is working on an emergency call-in only until further notice. The town highway department replaced 3 manhole risers on Pheasant Run, one on Ferguson Lane and one on Hill View Terrace. The parks department has been cutting and maintaining all of the town parks twice a week. Leaf and yard waste collection days are Monday and Friday. The town highway garage is closed to the public until further notice. Trash drop off dates for the summer are June 6, July 11 and August 1 8:00am to 1:00 pm. Electronic Recycling day is September, 19 2020 at the town highway garage from 8 am to 1 pm. The town parks are closed to groups of 10 or more. 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 then read the Wastewater Department report for May. They removed: 14,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County 54,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County. Alarms answered: 3 which were 1-power, 1-Heavy flows due to rain storm, 1-grease and wipe buildup 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. Used the Vac truck to hose and clean out all of the pump stations due to the heavy loading of wipes, debris and grease. Removed a root ball and wipes for a manhole on Davis Avenue. Drained, cleaned and inspected the chlorine contact tank. Replace the pump station access hatch handles and Canvasback Ridge pump station. Worked with Clough Harbor engineering to finalize the plans for the replacement of the James Drive and Murray Avenue air lift pump stations. The report was submitted by Craig F. Falcone, Chief Operator.

The Councilman then read the Waterford Water Commissioners report for May. The water works delivered 31,270,000 gallons of water during the month. The waterworks staff completed 35 service calls and 24 dig safe locales. Non-emergency calls were canceled for May. The staff also completed water hydrant flushing and testing, calibrated and maintained equipment and completed monthly water testing and meter reading. The annual hydrant flushing has been completed.

Councilman Boudreau then gave an update from Town Historian Russ Vandervoort. Two High School yearbooks from Waterford High School 1942 and 1943 were discovered by an Alaskan resident and sent to Russ for keeping. He has posted a few photos to his Facebook page. He will be participating in an event for Brookside Museum and has been researching a Waterford resident for a great grandson.

The Councilman stated that flowers are scheduled to be planted at the cemetery this week.

Councilman Ball added that in one of the yearbook photos Russ had posted on his Facebook included a photo of his mothers graduating class of 1943.

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

Councilman Ball stated that members of the Waterford Police Department along with other local agencies have been meeting in a cooperative manner with the County agencies to coordinate services and be kept up to date on local events and we are in good shape. The Councilman then read the Police Department Total Calls Report for the for the month of May: there were 365 calls; 16 Domestic, 1 DWAI, 9 Fire, 26 EMS, 10 MVA and 17 Animal Control. There were three arrests. On June 4th at 5:00 there will be car parade leaving from Waterford Halfmoon School to honor the graduates. The Waterford Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Faculty and Staff will be participating. The public should be aware of the traffic, they anticipate 15-20 vehicles will be participating.

Councilman Ball then stated that the Waterford Rescue Squad is looking at options for an aging vehicle, whether to rebuild or replace. The Town assists the Rescue Squad on replacing these vehicles.

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

Councilman McClement wanted to take a moment to again thank everyone who participated in the Memorial Day ceremony. The Waterford Fire Departments, Waterford Police Department and Rescue Squad who held an emergency services parade to start it all off. Thank you to Mayor Mahoney and Supervisor Lawler and to the VFW, who are always there to support the community. We were able to live stream the ceremony on Facebook. It was held in a safe way, brief, poignant and was well received.

Councilman McClement went on to give an update on the Waterford Seniors. There is no activity at the center, but the grocery bus and medical van have been operating. The medical van transports seniors to critical care appointments and the grocery bus runs every Wednesday. The Town is glad to able to provide these services.

The Councilman went on to say that there were two mask/hand sanitizer distributions days held for seniors in our community and a third distribution day was open for the general public. All were well received. Volunteers handed out hundreds of masks and all the hand sanitizer was distributed. Thank you to Paul McInerney, Harry Martel and the Highway Department for help and also staffing, and the Town Clerk and Town Supervisor for helping staff the events as well.

Councilman McClement went on to state that Watts Engineering completed the Hazardous Materials Survey on Town Hall and there was no asbestos found in Town Hall. There is a small amount of lead paint, and that can be overcome. He had an opportunity to meet with contractors to discuss the proposed second floor renovations and HVAC upgrade and look for any opportunity for savings on the project. The Councilman went on to say that at the last meeting the Board approved a specialist to come in and look at the Town clock that has not been working for some time now, the clock still has the original apparatus from 1914 or 1916. The gentleman will be at Town Hall tomorrow to try and fix the clock. We look forward to being able to maintain the clock going forward.

Supervisor Lawler stated that he wanted to thank Jason Rocque and Councilman McClement who worked hard on the Memorial Day service. It was important that the Town never forget the

purpose and importance of Memorial Day and that we never forget the people who gave their lives for this country and all those who serve. Thank you to all involved in the service.

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

Councilman Marble read the May Harbor Center Report as submitted by Jeff Cleary, Canal Visitor Center Director. The Hurst Harbor Center remains closed. The Federal Lock opened on May 1st. To date we have welcomed 4 boats for overnight visits and several day trippers. The Canal Corporation is in the progress of opening both the Erie and the Champlain Canals. The date for opening and the date for return of docks has not been set. Initial planning is underway to prepare for the opening of the Dock Office/Visitor Center using Covid-19 safety measures. As previously announced the Annual Steamboat Meet scheduled for July 4th has been canceled. Additionally, the Annual Dragon Boat Races scheduled for August 8th has been canceled. The Farmers Market is scheduled to open this Sunday, June 7th with Covid -19 precautions in place. The Hurst Harbor Center is also preparing to serve as a polling site for the June 23rd New York Primary. A very special thank you to the Waterford Fire Dept for hosing down the wall at the harbor center. The wall had a coating of mud and muck left over from last year's flooding. The Waterford Fire Dept did an outstanding job in helping with the clean-up.

Councilman Marble then read an update from the Waterford Library. The Library staff will be returning to the building tomorrow to begin a process of restarting limited library services. Those services will involve curbside or contactless delivery of materials, which we plan to begin later this month. There will continue to be NO public access to the building until further notice. The library board of trustees and staff will be following a safety plan that has been created using CDC and NYS health and safety guidelines. As always if anyone has any questions please leave a message at the library. The library vote is being combined with the school budget vote.

The Councilman then read an update from the Waterford Halfmoon School. There is a budget hearing tonight at the school 7 pm. The school budget vote is June 9th by absentee ballot. The ballots have been mailed and you should receive yours this week. There will be a drop box at the school on June 9 if you prefer to drop it at the school instead of mailing it. The box will be outside until 5:00PM on June 9.

There will be a parade honoring the senior graduates consisting of the school faculty on Thursday June 4th. They will be leaving the school at 5 pm. They will be delivering all of the graduating seniors a gift bag. There is a specified route which can be found on Facebook and the school's website.

Councilman Marble stated that they are still waiting to see what direction to take as far as opening the pool or the park this summer. Please remember to practice social distancing when in any of the parks or ball fields and limit to groups of 10 and under.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Lawler stated that he would like to talk about the process of re-opening Town Hall by the end of the week on a limited basis. The Town Clerk has submitted a Safety Plan for re-

opening and he would like to use this for all offices to try and get Town Hall back open again. No more than one person allowed in each office at a time, maintaining social distancing while waiting. Appropriate signage will be needed. We would like to open the Visitor Center using the same guidelines, and look at these to open the Highway Department as well.

The Supervisor went on to say that Dragonboat Festival has been canceled. The Komen Foundation has been notified. We expect to make the 2021 event twice the success. Steamboat Meet, Dragonboat and Tugboat; all of our events are designed to attract crowds and that is directly opposite of the current restrictions in New York State which prohibit large gatherings. Steamboat, Dragonboat have been canceled. We are keeping Tugboat on the agenda for now and monitoring the Governor's announcements on crowds. Our fireworks draw thousands of visitors which makes planning future events difficult.

Supervisor Lawler went on to speak about the Waterford Police response to Covid-19 regulations. The Police Department will mirror and adopt the County Sheriff's policy- if the Town receives a call/complaint that someone is violating a Covid-19 restriction- which primarily deals with activities in town parks. Town parks are limited to gatherings of ten or less, at times there have been more than that. The Town wants to try and keep the parks open, that is one more quality of life that the Town does not want to take away from people, there are so many things that have been taken away already, but there were situations where these regulations have been violated. The policy going forward is simple: All calls received, by any department, regarding Covid issues, in town parks or elsewhere, are to be directed to the Police Department and Paul McInerney: an officer will respond, if there are violations occurring of the Covid-regulations, he will ask those individuals to stop the event and break up into smaller group and to please comply. If we receive continued complaints regarding the same people violating Covid regulations, the Town will turn the matter over to the Department of Health. The Dept. of Health along with the Attorney General's Office and NYS Police will take over enforcement. We do not want to see the Waterford Police become the Covid police. People have to act responsibly and do the right thing, and overwhelmingly most people are. The police are not here to respond every Covid complaint.

Placing mulch at the cemetery was discussed.

The Supervisor stated that the Police contract expires at the end of the year and negotiating on a new contract will begin- Councilman Boudreau, Councilman Ball and Budget Officer Coutu will be on the negotiating team. They will be reaching out to the PBA to begin discussions.

Supervisor Lawler added that the Town Board is invited to the Senior graduate parade Thursday evening. The Supervisor will be participating and invites all Board members to participate. The Supervisor stated that as mentioned at the Agenda meeting, he would like to begin resuming Town Board meetings in person at Town Hall starting with the June 30th Agenda Meeting. If anyone has strong opinions on the matter please contact him. All social distancing requirements and masks will be in place. The meeting can both be in public and by teleconference as there will be a need to limit the number of attendees, although the meeting room has plenty of space to spread out.

The Supervisor stated that a Special Meeting will be needed next week to bring the Town Board up to speed on the Momentive lawsuit. Another negotiating session is planned later this week. He would like to get the Town Board's guidance as to where we should go with these conversations and negotiations.

General Orders

RESOLUTION # 48

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby rescinds Resolution #41 of 2020 which authorized the purchase contract of Evolution Construction Services LLC.

Offered by

Seconded by

Councilman Ball

Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Marble

Councilman McClement

Supervisor Lawler

All callers were unmuted at this time, 7:43PM.

There were no comments.

Councilman Ball made a motion to close the meeting at 7:43PM, seconded by Councilman Boudreau. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan
Town Clerk