

At an Agenda Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on Tuesday March 26, 2024 at 7:00PM at Waterford Town Hall 65 Broad Street Waterford, NY 12188 and via Zoom the following transpired:

Those present:

Councilman James Boudreau
Councilman Brian Bruso
Councilwoman Laurie Marble
Councilman Frank McClement
Councilman David Ball

Also present:

Tony Lubas- Highway Superintendent
Craig Falcone- Wastewater Chief Operator
Eileen Haldeman- Community/Senior Center Director
Jeff Cleary- Visitor Center- Harbormaster
David Woodin- Planning Director
Danielle Clemente- Budget Officer
Ben Akin- via Zoom- Building Inspector

Items discussed:

Supervisor Ball thanked the Waterford community in general for how we pulled through this weekend's power outage, we kept it together for over 24 hours. We also learned a few things during this. Thank you to the citizens of our community for their patience. Thank you to the various Waterford crews: Highway Department, Wastewater and Police Department. The Wastewater crew worked 24 hours around the clock. We opened a warming center at the Senior Center and he met a few people there, they were thankful to have the resources. These warming centers filled a need, but are not suitable for overnight accommodations, there are certain requirements per the Red Cross that are needed to make it an acceptable overnight accommodation, we will talk with them about future needs.

Chris Connell- mentioned the Library is looking at grants for improvements and hopefully adding a generator. They could possibly be a spillover location at some point.

Supervisor Ball stated that Councilwoman Marble is not here tonight, it is her birthday.

Eileen H.- Senior Director- there is a lot going on this month, the center has been busy.

Jeff C.- Visitor Center- We had flooding once again at the center, thank you to the Highway Department for their help with the cleanup. The Visitor Center will serve as a polling location for the primary on April 2nd.

Jeff is also looking at upcoming grant opportunities for the Town, they are federal grants for the 2025 season.

Dave W.- Planning Director- There are several items before the Planning Board, they are waiting on some developers to come back to finalize things.

Supervisor Ball asked about the time line for these developers.

Dave W. stated the storage unit project on Hudson River Road may be mid-April and a subdivision on Fonda Road – mid- May.

Craig Falcone- Wastewater- thanked his guys for their work during the power outage, they worked 24 hours straight. The equipment is old and is maintained regularly. The replacement tanker truck is being built now, he hopes to have it by June 1. The current truck is a 1997 and it did its job over this past weekend.

Tony Lubas- Highway Department- They have been going through Town removing any downed trees and branches, if any resident has branches, they can bring them to the curbside to be picked up. Trash Drop Off begins April 6th from 8-1pm. Tony is looking into having the plaques along the trails replaced, most are damaged. He spoke with the Canal Corp and they are looking to redo the plaques (information boards) along the trails, he is waiting to hear back from them.

Jeff C. – he received a call regarding a team of OGS employees who were looking to help do things around Earth Day, such as winter cleanup or working on the old Champlain canal. The Canal Corp does a Canal Clean Sweep each year around this time. He will keep Tony in the loop as to what project this group will be doing.

Councilman Bruso- Thanked the department heads for all their work during the storm and also the Fire Department for their help with the procession that came through Town on Friday.

Ben A.- Building Inspector-he expects it is going to be a lot busier with the nicer weather.

Supervisor Ball stated he would like to revisit the backroom on the first floor, looking for ideas. There is money left over from the renovations. He would like to get together with Ben and Frank.

Councilman Boudreau- Resolution to authorize the Town Historian to attend a Celebrate 250 event May 4/5 for \$205.00. He then thanked Tony and Craig for a great job this weekend. It was a long haul, tough plowing. Wastewater was on duty 24 hours checking all the pump stations which need to keep operating. The Highway guys came in to help wastewater. These guys all really step up when things like this happen. They did a great job, these are good guys, thank you.

Councilman McClement read an update from Councilwoman Marble- a Resolution is needed to hire a new PT Park Director. Thank you to Ben A. for helping out on Sunday at the Senior Center.

Councilman McClement- Ben is helping with the Verizon Wireless project. The Town leases space at Town Hall to Verizon to help improve cell service. This creates a small revenue stream for the Town. They are asking for a few new antennas at Town Hall. We want to keep a close eye on this and make sure to protect the natural look of Town Hall.

Ben A.- replied that he spoke with the Town Attorney and Verizon is within the guidelines of the contract that was signed by Supervisor Lawler. The new look will not protrude with what's already there.

Councilman McClement added that this will allow for a slight increase in the lease amount the Town receives.

In May the County will be holding their annual Senior Luncheon at the City Center in Saratoga. He is looking to arrange for a larger bus to allow more seniors from our Center to attend if needed. There are many events coming up surrounding Saratoga County's 250th Anniversary. There will be a PBS Show/WMHT- Travels with Darlene, the feature episode will be on Saratoga. There is a free showing on April 22nd at 5:30pm at Universal Preservation Hall in Saratoga Springs. For reservations visit Saratoga250.com.

Town Clerk Carrigan- Resolution to purchase a new truck
Resolution to hire a new Highway Dept. employee
Resolution to appoint a new BAR member due to a recent resignation

Supervisor Ball stated that what we learned through this past weekend was the value of social media. We have the Town website for general information and we also have a Town Facebook page. The feedback from the town posted updates was very impressive, the number of people that checked and shared the information with others: there were 418 views, 382 shares. Once we knew the power was coming back on, we asked for a comment on who was back up/where. We saw block by block how the power was coming back on. There were 248 comments. We will be looking into how to utilize that more effectively, especially in the times of trouble.

The Supervisor went on to say that Joe Burniche is inquiring about getting dumping permits for his properties on Hudson River Road and Roberts Road. There are a lot of unknowns right now, we will look into this, take our time. He asked Jim and Ben to speak with Mr. Burniche. There is also a piece of property adjacent to Joe's property that he is looking to acquire, we will clarify this with him.

Supervisor Ball stated work is still being done with CHA in regards to the grant for wastewater.

Craig Falcone- as a past active fireman he wanted to address a few things he saw on social media in regards to the firehouses as warming centers. These locations also need people to staff them, our fireman are volunteers and 99% of these volunteers are from Waterford. They are dealing with their own situations, not hanging out waiting for calls to come in. He feels Waterford and Northside need to come up with a committee to deal with these situations.

Supervisor Ball thanked Craig and stated that there will be a conversation to take a look at a few things surrounding this past weekend.

Councilman Boudreau added that he also wanted to thank National Grid for making Waterford a priority. It was 25 hours (without power), but still a lot less than most people.

Carol Bruno- Sunset Blvd.- it was frustrating to not have an expected time of restoration when you checked the National Grid website. They have an elderly tenant they were concerned about.

Councilman McClement stated that social media has a lot to do with perception, patience as a society is gone, and waiting to hear on the status of a utility feeds into that.

Councilman Brusio made a motion to close the meeting at 7:40pm, seconded by Councilman Boudreau. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan
Town Clerk