

At the Town Board Meeting of the Waterford Town Board held on December 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  
Councilman James Boudreau  
Councilman Frank McClement  
Supervisor John Lawler

Those absent:

Councilwoman Laurie Marble

### **Communications and Petitions**

- Received a “thank you” from Living Hope United Methodist Church Food Pantry
- Received a “thank you” from St. Mary’s/St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry
- Received a “thank you” to the Highway Department from a resident of Devitt Road
- Letter from Water Commissioners of the Town of Waterford regarding water rate increases

### **Action on Minutes of Previous Meetings as Follows**

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of November 8, 2023, Special Meeting of November 21, 2023 and Agenda Meeting of December 5, 2023 were presented to the Board. A motion was made by Councilman Ball, seconded by Councilwoman Boudreau 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 2023. The audited vouchers totaled \$ 253,087.25 and the payments in advance of audit totaled \$25,540.46. The petty cash report totaled \$33.50. A motion to reimburse petty cash, pay the abstracts and accept the Supervisor’s Cash Report was made by Councilman Ball and seconded by Councilwoman Boudreau. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Councilman Boudreau read the Highway Department report for the month of November 2023. Winterization at town parks has been completed. Holiday lights and decorations have been installed. Two deer were disposed of from Clement Park and Fonda Road. The Annual Leaf Vac service was completed with a total of 1,065 cubic yards collected. Any leftover leaves can be bagged and left by the roadside for pickup. Winter equipment has been serviced. 25 Tons of road salt was used. 390 Yards of yard waste was collected. A written request was made to Canadian Pacific Railroad for improvements in infrastructure to the Clifton Street railroad crossing. The Highway Department responded to 38 requests for service and processed 29 Dig Safe requests with 3 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. The Councilman reminded residents to familiarize themselves with the Snow Emergency guidelines.

Councilman Boudreau went on to read the November 2023 report from the Wastewater Department, Craig F. Falcone, Chief Operator.

Average Influent Flow: 801,000 gallons/day

Monthly rainfall: 1.89” at the treatment plant

We removed: 8,000 gallons of sludge to Albany County-56,000 gallons of sludge to Saratoga County

Alarms answered:1, Power-1

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 clarifiers and weirs on weekly basis.

We used the Vac truck to clean out the Murray Ave, Sage Road, Suncrest Drive, Timber Drive and Front Street pump stations.

Drained, cleaned, and inspected the river side final clarifier, replaced an original slide gate mounting bracket. We worked with Troy Belting to replace the two original flight scraper and cross collector gear boxes, adjusted the drive chains and put the tank back into service.

The A-Team pulled, inspected, cleaned and put back into service pump #2 at the Drake Court pump station.

Removed, cleaned, inspected and took the U.V. disinfection system out of service for the Hudson River’s non-swimmable season.

We received a “satisfactory/passing” grade on the yearly Treatment Plant and CSO inspections which were held on October 8<sup>th</sup> by NYSDEC.

Councilman Boudreau read the monthly report from the Waterford Water Commissioners.

Water Consumption - The Water Works delivered approximately 28,089,742 gallons or 906,121 gpd of water during the month.

Water Distribution System Work - The staff completed approximately 30 dig-safe utility locations as well as 75 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 with drive by read meters. Staff have logged 2755 meters installed to date.

Hydrant Maintenance - Winterization Maintenance is completed; If anyone sees a hydrant that doesn't have a snow marker, please contact our office so we may replace it before the snow starts to fly. If there are any questions or concerns, we can be reached through our website [www.waterfordwater.org](http://www.waterfordwater.org) or by phone 518-237-0422.

Get the lead out- We have completed our Service Inventory Report for the NYS DOH We are combining that with our action plan and will be filing it with the DOH this month.

Councilman Boudreau then gave an update from Historian Russ Vandervoort.

The Saratoga County History Center now has a quarterly publication. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Village Offices, and the Waterford Public Library.

He has been researching a developing story concerning a Waterford Constable who became a County Sheriff and was shot, not once but twice, on two different occasions in the line of duty, once in 1919 and again in 1928. One shooting was in Waterford, the other in Ballston Spa.

He is working with a representative of Whitehall, who is the new chairperson for the Champlain Canal Trail Working Group. She had requested historical information on the Champlain Canal and on the group.

He received a call from the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) concerning a Button Fire Engine that went missing during a delivery because of the Civil War. I enlisted the help of former Waterford Museum Director and current Senior Historian at the NYS Museum, Brad Utter, for assistance.

Another developing story. Still lacks a few details. It's interesting, and we will figure it out. He had an opportunity to do some research in the archives at Union

College. It is another research project that is too difficult to explain briefly. Suffice it to say they have the records from 1830 - 1860 of land transactions, deed transfers, and other business concerning the Kings Canal and many of the businesses contained on it. There is a lot to decipher. He has copies of all the paperwork. Anybody who was somebody in Waterford during this time period is in on whatever is going on within all these exchanges. He has an independent local historian assisting me with this; eventually, we will figure it out.

He will be attending a book club discussion in Washington County next week concerning the Champlain Canal.

Speaking of books, he has a new one coming out, which should be available this Friday. The title is "Dear Mother, I am the only one left." It is about a Waterford Civil War Soldier and his father, who was a Waterford Canaler. It relates a good deal of Waterford's history from 1840 to 1880.

Councilman Boudreau stated that as a Councilman it would be easy to say what a pleasure it has been to work with Jack, but he would rather say "thank you" as resident. He has known Jack a long time.

Supervisor Lawler added that he and Jim had grown up together and thanked him for the kind words.

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

Councilman Ball stated the Northside Fire District has new elected officers and he would like to congratulate them. Chief Jared Gardner, Asst. Chief Cameron Gardner, Captain Courtney Gardner, Sean Dickinson Lieutenant, Kyle Hutchinson Lieutenant, Dennis Ferrar Safety Officer, Don Doin Safety Officer, Bill McCormick EMS Captain.

Councilman Ball then read the summary of activity for the Police Department for the month of November. There were 62 arrests, 204 traffic tickets, 7 motor vehicle accidents and 577 calls for service

Other activity: All Officers participated in annual sexual harassment training.

Sergeant Dilbone completed an inventory/audit of the evidence room with no issues discovered.

Officer Gibbins attended a car seat installation event in the Town of Halfmoon.

Councilman Ball also stated the summary of total calls as well as the total number of arrests for the month is attached to the report.

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

Councilman McClement read the November 2023 Waterford Community/Senior Center Monthly Report as submitted by Eileen Haldeman, Director.

Grocery Transportation: 26 – shoppers, 20 – hours, 102 - miles

Medical Transportation: 15 – clients, 27 – hours, 402.1 – miles

Senior Center Monthly Attendance- 279

New Members- 1

In the month of November, at our center, the regular weekly schedule is in place. There is room for more to join in on our pinochle game day on Tuesday mornings! We continue to have our Rescue Squad come in each month to conduct the Blood Pressure Clinic. Some fun events in November included the Holiday Concert and Luncheon at WHS and the Holiday Parade and the Regional Food Bank Fruits and Veggies Program.

Looking to December: Some fun activities planned are the Senior Holiday Party, Christmas candy making and lunch at Park Ave Confectionary Store and End Zone in Mechanicville. We took a field trip up to Native Sun Greenhouse in Clifton Park and attended the wreath decorating workshop. In early December, our members are taking a trip over to Rivers Casino in Schenectady for a fun afternoon as well. And of course, in mid-December we are going to have our Cookie swap with lunch here at the center. Please contact the Center for any additional information regarding our programs at 518-235-8500.

Councilman McClement added that Eileen has done a fantastic job as Director.

Councilman McClement expressed his thanks to Jack, (Supervisor Lawler).

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

Councilman Ball read a letter of thanks from Hope in the Boat, a team who has participated in the Town DragonBoat Festival. The Councilman added that the Dragonboat Festival was inspired by Supervisor Lawler.

Councilman Ball then read the monthly report from the Building Department. There were 13 Building Permits, issued 2 Stop Work orders, 34 on sight construction inspections, 15 stops for basketball hoops in the roadway.

The storage project on Bells Lane is moving along, the road and parking lot are due to be paved on Dec. 11th. One registered car removed from property in town. Submitted by Building Inspector Ben Akin.

Councilman Ball then gave an update from the Waterford Library. The Holiday Party is Saturday Dec 16th from 11am -1pm- crafts, refreshments, and activities. The Library will be closed Dec 24-26 for Christmas. The Library has sleds to lend out when it snows.

The Councilman then read the November report from the Canal Visitor Center.

The Federal Lock closed on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

A luncheon was held on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Corcoran's Towpath Tavern to thank the volunteers of the Hurst Harbor Center for their dedicated service during the 2023 navigation season. Our volunteers provided 2471 hours of service welcoming visitors to Waterford from around the world.

The Hurst Harbor Center served as a polling center on Election Day, Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, no issues were reported.

The Town Highway Department installed a new maintenance /storage shed near the flagpole circle. This will help relieve our very crowded and limited storage space within the visitor center. Thank you.

A special thank you to Rob Goldman of New York State Marine Highway for the donated use of the tug, Mame Faye to transport the fireworks barge to the Waterford Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. We are also grateful to Captain John Callaghan and deckhands Chris and Gina Freeman and Emily Callaghan. The fireworks were spectacular and very well received. We could not provide the fireworks without their generous time, skills and effort.

The New York State Canal Corporation has yet to release the dates of operation for the 2024 navigation season. The Federal Lock is scheduled to open on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. This report was submitted by Harbormaster/Canal Visitor Center Director Jeff Cleary.

Councilman Ball added that he wanted to recognize Supervisor Lawler for being an inspiration to each of us, his leadership and due diligence has made Waterford a better place to live and has made each of us better at our jobs. Thank you.

Supervisor Lawler was grateful and thanked Councilman Ball.

Councilman McClement added that the Saratoga County Veterans Peer Connection will be holding a holiday party for Veterans on Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-9pm at the American Legion in Saratoga Springs. The event is free, there will be games and prizes. Please call the Peer Connection program to sign up 518-884-4999.

## **General Orders**

### **RESOLUTION #160**

**RESOLVED**, that Jason Norton be and he is hereby authorized to attend two training classes toward his Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators 2A license at The Environmental Training Center at SUNY Morrisville from January 8, 2024 thru January 12, 2024 and February 12, 2024 thru February 16, 2024.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

**RESOLUTION #161**

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor be and he is hereby authorized to sign a First Amendment to Building and Rooftop Lease Agreement with CELLCO PARTNERSHIP d/b/a Verizon Wireless related to equipment located at 65 Broad Street, Waterford NY.

Offered by Councilman Ball  
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

**RESOLUTION #162**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby accepts the proposal of David T. Williams for ground maintenance, such as the removal of small trees and shrubs, at the Waterford Rural Cemetery during the months of January, February, March and April 2024 at a cost of \$1,250 per month for a total cost of \$5,000.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

Supervisor Lawler stated that Dave does a great job maintaining the cemetery during the year, by taking care of these trees and shrubs now, it frees up the highway department to work on other things.

**RESOLUTION #163**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the purchase of an LED Scoreboard from NEVCO via Sourcewell Contract #030223-NVC at a cost of \$29,377.51 for use at the Middletown Road ballfields.

Offered by Councilman McClement  
Seconded by Councilman Boudreau

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

## **RESOLUTION #164**

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Waterford hereby authorizes the reimbursement not to exceed \$2,500. 00 to the Waterford Halfmoon School District for the purchase of twenty two Port Authority jackets for the girls varsity soccer team.

Offered by Councilman McClement  
Seconded by Councilman Ball

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

## **Other Business**

## **RESOLUTION #165**

RESOLVED, that Amanda Brill be and is hereby appointed as Junior Accountant at an annual salary of \$55,000.00 to be paid in weekly installments by the Supervisor without the necessity of pre-audit by the Town Board.

Offered by Councilman Boudreau  
Seconded by Councilman McClement

Councilman Ball yes  
Councilman Boudreau yes  
Councilman McClement yes  
Supervisor Lawler yes

Supervisor Lawler stated that he is happy to have Amanda join us. He and Bill Coutu, our Budget Officer will both be leaving, this will leave an opening. Our Junior Accountant will be taking over as Budget Officer. Amanda comes to us with over seven years of municipal bookkeeping and lives in Saratoga County.

Town Clerk Carrigan addressed Supervisor Lawler and stated that it has been an honor and privilege to be able to sit at his right hand or left hand for almost 18 years. Thank you.

Supervisor Lawler stated he has one more meeting left. He will then be turning over the “keys to the kingdom” to our next Supervisor, who will do a great job. Brian Brusio is also here tonight, he will be taking the councilman’s spot that Dave will be vacating to become Supervisor. This is a very solid group that has been together a long time. Supervisor Lawler added that he has been involved with many here, in government and politics for 30 years. During those years has also seen how government and politics work in surrounding municipalities. We do it really well here, we are a very above board Town, and we do things the right way. We always try to treat others with respect and dignity even when we disagree. This is a town that is better off because of the people involved in the government. He thinks some people may take what they have in

Waterford a little for granted, most towns do not have a police department or wastewater department, and we have paved 90% of the roads in Town in the past 5 years. Things get done here and they get done well. There is no political backstabbing, no accusations. He is really proud of everyone here tonight, he appreciates your cooperation throughout the years. The friends he has made and has, he will miss you all and he is grateful to everyone.

Councilman Boudreau spoke of Bill Coutu, the “man behind the curtain”. He does a great job for the Town. It’s been a pleasure, and he does a great service, he will be missed. He knows he will still be around for a little while to help.

Supervisor Lawler spoke of Bill Coutu and the 55 years they have known each other.

Councilman Boudreau made a motion to close the meeting at 7:41pm seconded by Councilman McClement. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Shannon Carrigan  
Town Clerk