

**Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board,  
Village Trustees, and Library Commissioners  
May 13, 2013  
Main Street Fire Station**

Present: J. Grenier, C. Nordle, C. Viens, K. Miller, Select Board; H. Grenier, M. Luce, F. Chaffee, A. Durkin, M. Rivera, Library Commissioners; P.H. Flanders, N. Howell-Sherman, L. Sayah, Trustees; B. Farr, W. Shepeluk, staff; K. Fountain, A. Imhoff, press; E. Coffey, public

T. Wood, Waterbury Historical Society arrived at 8:45pm. R. Ellis, Select Board Member arrived at 9:45pm.

The meeting was called to order by the chairpersons of each board at 7:05pm.

J. Grenier asked for a motion to enter executive session to discuss a purchase & sale agreement with the State and several MOU's between various parties. K. Fountain of the Waterbury Record expressed her objection for the need for executive sessions for this discussion. She read excerpts from state statute and stated that no damages would be done to the parties in negotiation if the public had knowledge of the issues being discussed. K. Miller objected to executive sessions for the MOUs. There was protracted discussion about the issue with differing opinions expressed by several board members.

At 7:20pm K. Miller made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the purchase of real estate. A. Durkin seconded the motion. K. Fountain re-stated her objections, which were supported by member of the public E. Coffey. The chairperson ruled the executive session was in order.

The members of the Tri-Board that were present invited W. Shepeluk to participate in the closed meeting and entered executive session at 7:25pm.

The Tri-Boards exited executive session and returned to an open meeting at 8:41pm, having taken no action.

The Select Board and Library Commissioners discussed a draft MOU between the two boards and the Waterbury Historical Society. T. Wood from the Waterbury Historical Society joined the discussion. After several questions were asked and concerns expressed, the boards agreed that #5 of the MOU should have the following language added: "All display cases and equipment specific to the Historical Society will be the property and the responsibility of the Historical Society." The boards agreed to remove the "program" from the 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph of the MOU.

T. Wood stated that she would present the MOU to the Historical Society board on 5/16. The Select Board members indicated they would approve it at a future meeting if it was accepted by the Historical Society.

The Select Board and Library Commissioners reviewed the draft MOU between those two boards that relates to situating municipal offices and the library in a Municipal Complex.

H. Grenier stated that the MOU appeared to memorialize the verbal commitments the commissioners made concerning financing the project. H. Grenier moved that the Library Commissioners approve the MOU between the Select Board and the Library Commissioners as written. The motion was seconded by M. Rivera and was approved unanimously by the commissioners (attached, as amended).

C. Nordle made a motion, and K. Miller seconded, that the Select Board approve the same MOU (same attachment).

The discussion between the Select Board and Trustees about the MOU between those parties concerning the complex resumed. K. Miller once again objected to discussion about the MOU in executive session and suggested the issue be tabled until May 20th. P. H. Flanders stated that it should be discussed this evening. C. Nordle stated that it had to be discussed in executive session, but believed it could wait until May 20<sup>th</sup>. In C. Nordle's opinion "the substance of the MOU could not be agreed upon until the negotiations with the state were complete." Members of all three boards weighed in on the issue and only J. Grenier and P.H. Flanders thought it was best to discuss it tonight. By consensus it was agreed to table the issue until a Tri-Board meeting that will be held on May 20, 2013 at a time to be determined.

Several members of the boards present then asked where the name "Municipal Life Complex" came from that was included in several of the MOU's being considered. W. Shepeluk explained that the name had appeared in earlier drafts of MOU's that had been circulated. The consensus opinion was that name is unacceptable. All agreed to determine the name of the complex at the next meeting. As such, none of the MOU's were signed at this meeting as the name appears on the signature pages.

The discussion then turned to when a bond vote might be scheduled. B. Farr read timelines for a vote that could be held on June 20<sup>th</sup> or June 27<sup>th</sup>. She stated that another alternative was a September vote. K. Miller stated that June 27<sup>th</sup> would be a better date, given all the information that needs to be disseminated to the public. A. Durkin reported that Christine Graham, a professional fund raiser, had suggested a September vote might allow for "a good report about fund raising efforts" and "that it could positively affect the vote". H. Grenier agreed, but offered that a positive bond vote early in the process could help fund raising efforts. In general, most seemed to believe a June 27<sup>th</sup> vote was preferable.

K. Miller stated that she was very concerned about the impact of this project on the town's tax rate and on the taxpayers. She said that she was very supportive of the library in general and wants to see it housed in the same building with the municipal office. However, she said she cannot support this project if a \$5 million bond was necessary

R. Ellis joined the meeting at 9:45pm.

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The discussion about the bond vote and its impact on the tax rate continued. R. Ellis offered several “stand-alone tax rates” for the project ranging from just below \$.05/\$100 of valuation to \$.07/\$100 of valuation. Others pointed out that the total impact on the tax rate could not be determined yet and that the project should be supported until the voters had their say.

The board members agreed this issue can be revisited at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

C. Viens moved to adjourn and it was seconded by N. Howell-Sherman. It passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 10:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

Approved on: May 20, 2013