

**Waterbury Select Board Meeting
October 7, 2013
Main Street Fire Station**

Present: J. Grenier, Chair; C. Viens, K. Miller, C. Nordle, and R. Ellis, Select Board; A. Tuscany, Public Works Director; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; K. Fountain, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Greg Goyette and Ken Upmal, Stantec; Scott Newman, Kaitlin O'Shea, Jane Brown, AOT; Noah Fishman, Brian Lindner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

PUBLIC

Noah Fishman was present to discuss the traffic situation on Guptil Road. There has been an increase in residential building and tourism, and there is a lot more traffic. This impedes the quality of life and he does not want to wait for an accident to happen for some action to be taken. He asked about the process for reducing the speed limit and putting up additional signage. W. Shepeluk responded that the speed limit is 40 miles per hour, and explained the process as to how the speed limit was set. The Town does not currently have a police department, and there is a question as to whether additional signage can be placed. J. Grenier stated that it might be time to look at enforcement, as more complaints are made. N. Fishman believes that lowering the speed limit will lower the risk. There are two in-home day cares, many residences, and a restaurant on that road and he feels 40mph is too fast. W. Shepeluk explained that an engineering study would have to be performed to determine the appropriate speed limit.

REVIEW AGENDA

No changes.

MAIN STREET PROJECT

Ken Upmal, Project Manager, was present and has been responsible for the project for 7 months. They have been taking an aggressive approach for the past 6 months trying to get the project ready, as the Town is under the understanding the project will commence in 2015. He gave a synopsis of the work done over the past several months. They are currently finalizing development of revised preliminary plans. They have an extensive aerial and underground utility relocation plan, extensive landscaping plans, and are working on environmental permit requirements. They have brought in several partners during the past few weeks, including GMP, a Historic Preservation Officer, arborists, etc. S. Newman explained that a Section 106 permit is necessary to move forward. If the green strip at the northern end of the project, from Champlain Farms to the railroad overpass, is destroyed the permit cannot be obtained. The sidewalk will have to be moved back from the curb, and 9 parking spaces will have to be eliminated (10 will remain). There is currently no designated parking along that section now.

S. Newman explained that Section 106 and Section 4F requirements must be satisfied to obtain federal funding. They reviewed the north end of the project and talked about alternatives in an effort to keep the green strip and save the trees. K. Upmal stated he believes they can obtain the permits with minor modifications to the current plan. He will have to revisit some of the property owners with the proposed modifications.

There will be a public hearing on October 21st at 8:00 to discuss the trees that are banded. S. Newman suggested that the Select Board review which trees are banded prior to this hearing. K. Upmal would like, in the interest of time and keeping project moving, approval of the revised landscape plan and sidewalk design shortly after the public hearing.

C. Viens asked if the project was worth doing and if the Town will be losing more than they are gaining. J. Brown said that project would serve a lot of functions including an upgrade of infrastructure, and gave a review of the process involving the removal of trees. She stated it will be disruptive to build, but will look great in the end. K. Upmal stated that the undergrounding of utility lines will be a very positive impact.

K. Upmal met with Justin Kenney, Green Storm Water Coordinator from ANR. J. Kenney is proposing a grass swale between the northern and southern entrance of the State Complex to collect and filter storm water. If the Town is receptive, it can be incorporated into the plans. He suggested that this component of the design be presented on the October 21st.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

W. Shepeluk sent the Board a memo on October 4th with two requests from WASI (attached to these minutes). The first is a request for a brush truck and the second pertains to a request concerning dispatching costs.

B. Lindner was present to request that a 1998 Chevy pick up truck owned by the Town fire department be donated to WASI. Their current truck is not really adequate to haul their equipment. All equipment is stored in the Maple Street Fire Station. C. Nordle made a motion to approve the donation of the brush truck to WASI. K. Miller seconded the motion. C. Viens asked about the size of the truck. The motion passed unanimously.

The second request is for the Town to consider, in its 2014 budget, paying for the cost of all the dispatching services provided to Waterbury by Capital West Dispatching. W. Shepeluk gave a history of dispatching services. This would add approximately \$26,000 - \$30,000 to the budget. K. Miller feels that this is a voter decision, and that Duxbury should take on some of the cost. W. Shepeluk stated that the dispatching costs are in the fire department budget of which Duxbury pays a share, although there would be a decrease in revenue. The fire services contract with Duxbury was briefly discussed.

R. Ellis said in 2009 Duxbury was charged a portion of the net dispatch charge, and that the Board should see if that is still the case. She also asked why WASI is run as a private non-profit organization. B. Lindner gave a history of the formation of WASI and indicated that it was never the intention to have the organization part of the municipality. K. Miller reiterated that Waterbury should not pay the cost of dispatch for Duxbury. J. Grenier stated he appreciates the early notice, and the Board will take the request under consideration.

W. Shepeluk stated that the state changed the rules for filing the Homestead Declaration (HS122) over the past few years. If the declaration is filed late, the taxpayer pays a non-residential tax rate. There is a penalty for filing late, and there have been several complaints. People that file late save on their education tax, but then get penalized for late filing. The late penalty decision is under the jurisdiction of the Select Board. There about 50 property owners that have been penalized in a total amount of around \$6,300.

R. Ellis updated the Board on the decision made by the State for reinstating the filing of the declaration. A discussion was held about having a flat fee penalty for late filing. C. Nordle updated the Board on the statute pertaining to late filing, in that the Town 'may' include the penalty. K. Miller made a motion to waive the homestead tax penalty of 3% and refund the taxpayers that have paid it for 2013. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

W. Shepeluk had previously distributed a memo to the Board on a healthcare proposal. He is proposing that the Town offer health insurance to full time employees. The Town currently pays \$7,001 for a single person (premium & HSA), \$14,002 for a two person plan, and \$17,453 for a family plan. He compared these costs to the plans being offered under the new exchange and suggested offering \$7,250 for a single person, \$14,500 for a two person plan, and \$18,500 for a family plan. The employees would then have to go on to the exchange, review the plans, talk with a navigator and decide which plan they will choose. In addition, he recommended giving the employees an additional \$350, as that is what they get now for the flex spending account. W. Shepeluk reviewed the memo that had been distributed. If everyone stays in the same category, the Town's cost for health insurance would increase less than 5%. R. Ellis asked if any consideration had been given to not offer health insurance but raise salaries by these amounts. W. Shepeluk stated that any amount given as a raise is taxable. In addition, there is uncertainty as to what will happen with healthcare in the future and once a raise is given, it would be difficult to take that raise away.

K. Miller made a motion to allow the municipal employees to choose any health care plan offered through the health care connect. W. Shepeluk explained the nuances between the Blue Cross plans and the MVP plans, and suggested that the Town not specify which plan the employee should use. C. Nordle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

K. Miller made a motion to approve a municipal contribution to employees for health connect for premiums, HSA and HRA contributions (combined total) for a single at \$7,250, \$14,500 for a two person plan, \$18,500 for family, and \$14,000 for an employee and child. The motion was seconded by R. Ellis. C. Viens asked if anyone was concerned about the health connect process. W. Shepeluk stated there is trepidation, but there is not much choice in the matter. The motion passed 4-0 with C. Viens recusing himself.

W. Shepeluk will look into alternatives for setting up flexible spending accounts for eligible employees.

HMGP FUNDS FOR RESIDENTIAL ELEVATIONS

R. Ellis stated that FEMA has made it much easier for homeowners to receive funds for residential elevations. She stated that is potential with the program, but there are also challenges. The program will provide outreach to community members and help homeowners in other ways to take advantage of funds. B. Farr is working on the grant application.

MBC ITEMS

C. Nordle stated negotiation of the final contract with Weimann Lamphere has been authorized but the contract has not been signed. C. Nordle made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the contract with Weimann Lamphere. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed unanimously.

A discussion was held with regard to ratifying an MBC recommendation that Green Mountain Properties LLC (GMP) be authorized to contact Weimann Lamphere (WL) regarding the Stanley Wasson site. K. Miller and C. Viens gave the Board their understanding from the previous MBC meeting. K. Miller understood that WL and GMP are not working together, but if GMP has questions about the site, they could contact WL. Discussion was held about having one point of contact for questions from GMP to WL.

K. Miller made a motion to grant GMP authority to be in contact with WL through Barb Farr regarding the Stanley Wasson site, with the MBC chair and vice chair to be kept copied on all correspondence. The motion was seconded by C. Nordle and passed unanimously.

TOWN CLERK ITEMS

C. Nordle made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16th and September 27th meetings; an Errors & Omissions letter dated October 7th concerning the properties of Etola Mosier and Madaline Wright, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., and the Estate of Patrick Irish; and a bookstore permit for W Squared d/b/a/ Axel's Frame Shop & Gallery for events on 10/17 and 11/1 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed unanimously.

C. Lawrence updated the Board on the grant to update the website from the Vermont Digital Economy Project. Through the project, the website platform is WordPress. The Town currently uses Ecopixel as the website host and for technical support. In order to gain the benefits of the grant, the website would have to be migrated to WordPress. The Board will consider this project at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the meetings was adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence
Town Clerk

Approved: November 4, 2013