

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board and Village Trustees
Monday December 2nd, 2013
Main Street Fire Station

Present: J. Grenier, Chair; R. Ellis, and K. Miller (via phone), Select Board; P. Howard Flanders, Village President; L. Sayah and N. Howell-Sherman, Trustees; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; M. Orso, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Peter Hathaway, Alyssa Schuren, Steve Bushman, Eric Blatt, Everett Coffey, Bob Finucane, Theresa Wood, Bill Yacavoni, and later in the meeting Bill Minter, Cassidy Francik, Chad Umell, and Herschel Murry.

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

PUBLIC

Peter Hathaway was present to ask questions about the one lane bridge on Laurel Lane and when the decking might be prepared. J. Grenier will check with the Public Works Director upon his arrival.

REVIEW AGENDA

The order of the agenda was changed somewhat as Karen Miller attended via telephone and the Select Board had several items to consider.

The items considered by the Select Board were as follows:

- R. Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present.
- R. Ellis made a motion to appoint Steve Lotspeich as acting Zoning Administrator from December 10th through December 17th, or whenever Clare Rock returns from being out of the country. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present.
- The Board was asked to consider a contract with ORW Landscape Architects & Planners. A grant was received for the Little River Bike Connector Trail in the amount of \$30,000 with a 10% in-kind match. R. Ellis made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the contract with ORW for the Little River Bike Connector Trial. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present.
- R. Ellis made a motion to approve a Capital Equipment Refunding Note with Peoples United Bank for \$24,000 at an interest rate of 2.25%. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present.
- W. Shepeluk indicated that there was an extension of EDA Grant approved for the time that B. Farr can work with the Town. This is a no cost extension and does not affect the budget. R. Ellis made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the US Department of Commerce Amendment to Financial Assistance award other supporting documents. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present. On behalf of the Trustees, N. Howell-Sherman made a like motion. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

- W. Shepeluk stated to the Boards that the Town and Village did everything that was asked to enroll employees in the Vermont Health Connect. The Administration released a press release today stating that the VHC will not be working for small business so 1) the current plan will automatically renew at 2013 premiums, or 2) the Town can move to enroll in a different plan as an employer. He recommended allowing the Town and Village to enroll directly with Blue Cross & Blue shield (all employees chose BCBS plans). Only 2 plans will be offered through BCBS since there are less than 25 employees. W. Shepeluk would like to negotiate with BCBS to see if they will allow 3 plans, if not, he suggested choosing the bronze high deductible plan and the standard platinum plan. R. Ellis made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to negotiate with BCBS to offer up to 3 plans to Waterbury Town employees and if those negotiations are not successful, to authorize the Town to offer the high deductible bronze plan and the standard platinum plan. The motion was seconded by K. Miller and passed by those present. On behalf of the Trustees, N. Howell-Sherman made a like motion for the Village employees. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

WATERBURY DAM INITIATIVE

Allysa Schuren was present to have a discussion about exploring the possibility of having the Army Corps of Engineers take over maintenance of the Dam due to upcoming high operation and maintenance costs. Needed repairs include replacement of retainer gates and an increase in spillway capacity. A decision has not been made whether the reservoir will have to be lowered during construction. She suggested that there are a lot of steps to transfer to the Corps, as it would need a change in Federal legislation and require an act of Congress.

W. Shepeluk asked if there is any difference as to how the Dam will be operated if the Army Corps takes over. S. Bushman responded that ideally, the 3 dams will be bundled together (Waterbury, Wrightsville, and East Barre). Any concerns will need to be addressed so that the Army Corps will operate in the same manner.

The Army Corps operates and maintains about 35 flood control dams in New England. The annual budget for 5 flood control dams in the Connecticut River basin is \$800K to \$1.2M per year. The State annual maintenance budget for the Waterbury Dam plus the two others (Wrightsville and East Barre) is \$40,000.

T. Wood asked if discussions have started with the Army Corps. A. Schuren responded that the Army Corps takes direction from Congress. A. Tuscany asked if funds are being set aside to correct gate issues and if there is a timetable for construction. Discussions with the delegation are on-going. Once the money is in place, the project could turn around quickly. A. Schuren would like Town's support in transferring this project to the Army Corps and for the Town to provide a statement of support. It was asked if there is any assurance from the federal government that the maintenance would occur more quickly if transferred to the Corps. This is hard to answer as the Corps has a priority system, however the Congressional delegation will have some emphasis. B. Finucane stated that the maintenance and operation costs will be unsustainable if the dam remains in State ownership. N. Howell-Sherman asked if there is a downside with Federal control of the dam. The Town/State would need to be in communication with Federal delegation to make sure the dam stays on the Corps priority list.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

B. Yacavoni was present to review the Town and Village 2012 audit reports (on file). Inside each cover of the audit report is the Independent Auditors report. The Management's Discussion and Analysis Report gives the highlights and comparison of last year to the current year. He described the purpose of, and reviewed, several of the Exhibits including a summary of the funds in Exhibit C. The Town and Village are both very financially healthy. There are no significant deficiencies in the accounting processes, and the Town's use of NEMRC system is probably the best around.

P. H. Flanders stated that 8 years ago Water/Sewer Commissioners suggested hiring a Public Works Director, the position to be shared with the highway department. A. Tuscany plans to retire around November 1st, 2014 and the Commissioners would like a replacement on staff prior to that time. W. Shepeluk and A. Tuscany will put together a job description to advertise. There may be additional charges to the Town if the new staff works on Town projects but that would not hit the Town budget until 2015. They hope to advertise by the first of the year. R. Ellis stated that the Town has also been relying a lot on Barb Farr who will be with us until May. W. Shepeluk will recommend that the Town carry that position forward and this will be discussed during the budget presentation.

A. Tuscany emailed the Chief of Police with regard to the winter parking ban to ask if an officer could stay on duty until 2:00am. The Village currently has 3 days per week where the officer goes off at 11:00pm. P. H. Flanders suggested that if the Town needs someone on duty from 11:00-2:00am, they could pay for this time. As of January 1st, the Trustees may decide to reduce officer hours and ask for State policy coverage. R. Ellis made a suggestion that the Town could contract with a local towing company. W. Shepeluk and A. Tuscany will discuss this issue further.

A. Tuscany has received complaints from people on Loomis Hill Road about people going into the parking lot at night and doing doughnuts and creating a ruckus. He asked the Board if that lot should be barricaded and if there is a need to keep that parking lot open during the winter. It was suggested to either not plow or use some low cost method to barricade the lot.

W. Shepeluk updated the Board on a traffic count and speed study done by CVRPC on Guptil Road. The report is in and will be distributed soon. He stated that the 85th percentile was at a speed limit of 53, and suggested that some more investigation be done, perhaps by putting the Village speed radar on Guptil Road.

The Duxbury Fire Service Contract will be discussed at the next meeting. R. Ellis would like to have a contract for signature next week, knowing that the numbers will change slightly.

The Library Archeological Report has been completed and present in a letter from Hartgen dated November 29th. They did not find anything significant and no further investigation is recommended for this project. The cost is expected to be a little less than expected for Phase 1B.

A brief discussion was held with regard to authorizing the Town Clerk to approve catering and Art Gallery/Bookstore permits. The Board will bring this up for approval on the December 16th.

T. Wood wanted to officially let people know about her new role with AOT as a community liaison for the upcoming VTrans projects. She will start meeting with RW and the tourism council to be an advocate for Waterbury during project construction.

The Select Board meeting recessed at 8:53pm, and reconvened at 9:05pm.

RECREATION COMMITTEE ITEM'S

B. Minter updated the Board the progress of Winterfest, and thanked the Select Board and Town for their support last year. The plan is to extend Winterfest beyond Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. They will depend on the Town for plowing, fields, ice making, lights, etc. The plan is to have Winterfest from January 17 through January 26th, 2014. They are also planning for a MLK Day of Service in Waterbury, and there is a kickoff on December 12th at Bridgeside Books.

They would like to use more of the grounds around the Ice Center in addition to Dac Rowe and the Rec Building. B. Minter requested approval and support of the Select Board and Trustees to proceed with the dates and schedule of events.

N. Howell-Sherman made a motion to allow Winterfest to be a Village event in concert with the Town of Waterbury and to use Village land where necessary. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

Cassidy Francik, VHCB Americorps Volunteer Leader, was tasked with creating a Day of Service on MLK day. Americorps members are required to serve on MLK day and there will be 36 members serving in Waterbury on that day. She will be visiting with the Senior Center, will reach out to the Food Shelf, and will be looking for some projects to work on that day.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 16th, 2013