

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 12, 2015
Steele Block 2nd Floor Conference Room**

Present: C. Nordle, Chair; K. Miller, J. Grenier, C. Viens, and D. Schneider, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Tuscany, Public Works Director; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; M. Mientka, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: John Malter and Bill Minter.

The meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:05pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

The Duxbury Fire Contract will be reviewed at the January 19th meeting. D. Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the consent agenda item for a request for reimbursement from AOT for the Laurel Road Bridge project. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

No public comment.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS (Budgets and Narrative attached)

The Board started with the highway budget as A. Tuscany was present at the meeting and wished to participate in the discussion. The year ended with a \$96,000 balance in the highway fund. W. Shepeluk reviewed some of the changes from last year's budget to the 2015 budget. The legal services and emergency road repair line items were eliminated. W. Shepeluk recommended increasing the transfer to capital fund from that of the prior year, and reviewed several of the other expense items in the highway fund. An effort is being made by the highway crew to use less salt as the cost has increased dramatically.

The tax rate in the initial draft of the budget is 44 cents. K. Miller asked how much of the increase is due to the municipal complex bond. The debt service for the bond is \$111,790 and would require approximately 1.25 cents in taxes. K. Miller asked what an acceptable tax rate might be, and asked about strategies as to how to get there.

C. Viens asked about the difference between the gravel line item and the gravel resurfacing line item. The former is the purchase of gravel and trucking. The latter is the cost of buying the materials used to do the resurfacing of the gravel portion of Little River Road which is project related.

The highway budget is essentially last year's budget with additional transfers to the CIP, increases in payroll related items due to a full staff, and an increase in the allocation for the Public Works Director. W. Shepeluk stated that the Board could contemplate borrowing to help fund large projects.

K. Miller suggested that rent for the storage of gravel be reduced since that space has decreased in size. The budget needs to be looked at its entirety, but K. Miller expressed concerns about cross charges with the Village.

MAD RIVER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

J. Malter was present to update the Board on the Mad River Resource Management Alliance. He distributed the annual report and budget (attached) and reviewed the highlights and programs.

Ed Steele retired from the Board and had been with the Alliance since its inception. J. Malter thanked Waterbury for having such an articulate representative with firm convictions.

There are currently some unfunded mandates, and 40% of revenue was lost when the Moretown landfill closed. The per capita fee for 2015 is \$4 or a \$20,256 cost for the Town. J. Malter sees the problem with Universal Recycling Law as more of a burden on municipalities and residents, but it is making a statement on the benefits to the environment. By July, all public places must have recycling containers located with trash containers. W. Shepeluk stated that this presents a challenge for the parks and recreation budgets, as employees will have to dump and sort trash. Options are to put out less trash bins, or hire a contractor to pick up the trash and recycling. These options are being explored.

Next Monday, the Secretary of Natural Resources will be speaking with the Alliance to get feedback from Board members. A. Tuscany will be at the meeting representing Waterbury.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS (cont'd)

The operating budget summary for 2015 was distributed. Some larger line items were reviewed in the general budget. It is predicted that the grand list will show a significant increase as there has been development in the community; however the percentage is not yet known. It is still unknown what the PILOT payment will be from the State. Property tax revenues were reviewed.

The transfers from reappraisal and tax stabilization funds were discussed. There will be approximately an \$875,000 fund balance in the Tax Stabilization fund after the \$44,850 transfer.

K. Miller stated that the Board is looking at a .427 tax rate or 12.4% increase from the prior year without the increase due to the municipal bond. C. Nordle expressed concern about what is driving the increase and what the Board can control. W. Shepeluk suggested that he run through the budget and show corrections, and forward a new budget to the Board tomorrow. He then reviewed the corrections.

W. Shepeluk suggested that there could be some fine tuning on the revenue side and cuts on the expense side. The Board expressed interest in tightening up the budget. J. Grenier stated he supports the recreation director and this position positively supports specific users in town; and perhaps the costs could be offset by increasing user fees. K. Miller stated the same could be said for the economic development director. J. Grenier responded that recreation is a user based system, and both programs contribute to the community. W. Shepeluk stated that field fees are higher than most communities. C. Viens suggested taking more time on the recreation programs and funding to prove whether or not it can fund itself.

With regard to the new library, W. Shepeluk reported that the Library Commissioners have transferred \$300,000 from the Trust as budgeted. They plan a \$400,000 capital campaign which is not yet public; however have already raised \$225 in cash and \$97,000 in pledges for a total of \$322,000. The Historical Society has met their fund raising goal.

The next meeting will be on Monday January 19th to wrap up the budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: January 19th, 2015