

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 29, 2015
Steele Block 2nd Floor Conference Room**

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

The meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 10:08am.

APPROVE AGENDA

C. Viens made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Grenier and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

J. Grenier made a motion to approve the consent agenda items of the minutes of the January 19th meeting and the Statement Concerning Termination of an MOU on the Well's property on North Main Street. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

No public comment.

LWCF GRANT APPLICATION

An LWCF grant application is being worked for the acquisition of property at the end of Winooski Street currently owned by Green Mountain Power. The total estimated cost is \$70,000, with the grant covering \$35,000 and GMP donating \$35,000. If the property is acquired, it is recommended that it be developed at a future point in time. S. Lotspeich gave a description of the property and stated that the property would be used for community gardens and recreational use. Another benefit is that points under the community rating system would be earned which would facilitate lower flood insurance premiums. The cost to the Town would be the cost of an appraisal, estimated at \$2,000.

If awarded, there would be LWCF restrictions on the property. The property is in the flood plain and flood way so it would be ideal for open space. C. Nordle asked if GMP would sell the property for \$35,000 if the grant does not get approved. W. Shepeluk stated that if grant funds are not received, there is no money in the budget for the purchase. The Town has been frustrated in the past with LWCF land encumbrances. W. Shepeluk stated there are three options: to move forward with the grant application; to let it lie and consider the grant opportunity at a future date; or to include an article on the Town Meeting warning asking the voters if they would like to purchase the property outright.

S. Lotspeich stated that the community gardens do not appear to be an issue on LWCF land. Discussion continued about the gardens and the revenue that they generate. The community garden space is leased from GMP and the fee structure is set to cover the lease amount. W. Shepeluk suggested that money could be borrowed to purchase the property, with voter approval. Discussion continued as to the best way to purchase the property. The Board consensus was to wait, continue the conversation with GMP, and perhaps apply next year.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S ITEMS

W. Shepeluk previously emailed a revised draft budget (attached). He made additional reductions of \$5,000 in the fire department budget and \$20,000 in the highway budget. This version of the budget shows \$2,947,520 in tax revenues assuming a 1.5% increase in the grand list for a tax rate of \$0.4158 or a 9.34% increase over last year.

W. Shepeluk distributed information on the properties owned by the State of Vermont and a discussion followed as to what to hold in the budget for PILOT revenue. The current version of the budget holds \$100,000.

It was asked what the main contributing factors are to the increase in the budget. W. Shepeluk responded that the municipal complex bond accounts for 42% of the increase, and the fund balance is significantly less than last year. He further stated that if borrowing is approved for the paving of Perry Hill, tax revenues will be lowered by \$30,000. This would result in a tax rate of \$0.4116 or an increase of 7.89% over last year.

K. Miller stated it will be very important to explain at Town Meeting where the increases are occurring and why they are occurring. J. Grenier made a motion to approve the budget as presented and dated January 29, 2015. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed unanimously.

The Annual Town Meeting Warning was discussed. K. Miller asked to include an article to discuss what day and time Town Meeting should be held. She expressed a desire to try to increase participation. J. Grenier made a motion approve the warning for the Annual Town Meeting, and direct the Town Clerk to reword the article setting the tax due date to conform with state statutes and add an article for the discussion about the time and date of Town meeting. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: February 17, 2015