

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE TOWN OF WATERBURY  
MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015**

The inhabitants of the Town of Waterbury who are legal voters in Town Meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Thatcher Brook Primary School Gym in the Village of Waterbury at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 to act on the following matters:

Members of the Boy Scouts of America presented the colors and the Waterbury Community Band played the National Anthem.

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect a Moderator to preside at the meetings of the Town whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.

C. Viens made a motion to elect Jeff Kilgore to preside at the meetings of the Town whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year. There being no other nominations, Jeff Kilgore was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

C. Nordle introduced the members of the Select Board, Municipal Manager, and Town Clerk. He then acknowledged Karen Miller and John Grenier and thanked them for their service on the Board over the past several years.

The Moderator reviewed the rules of procedure for the Annual Meeting.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect by Australian ballot the following offices: Clerk for 1 year; Treasurer for 1 year; one Select Board member for 3 year term and two Select Board members for 1 year terms each; Lister for a 3 year term; Grand Juror for 1 year; Town Agent for 1 year; Library Commissioner for a 5 year term and one Library Commissioner to fill an unexpired term for 1 year; and Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term.

**ARTICLE 3:** To elect by Australian ballot for the Waterbury Town School District one School Director for a 3-year term and one School Director to fill an unexpired term for 2 years.

**ARTICLE 4:** To elect by Australian ballot for Waterbury-Duxbury School District #45 one School Director for a 3 year term.

Results of Articles 2 – 4 are attached to these minutes.

**ARTICLE 5:** To act upon the reports of the several Town Officers with the exception of claims for fees or compensation during 2014.

J. Grenier made a motion to accept the reports of the several Town Officers as printed in the Annual Report, with the exception of claims for fees or compensation by town officers for services rendered during 2014. The motion was seconded. John Castaldo commented on some expenses including legal services and Long Term Community Recovery projects. He also asked about debt management and the decrease in the fund balance. W. Shepeluk explained that the fund balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$139,903 as shown on page 23 of the Annual Report. The Town traditionally carries forward all of the fund balance each year. The projected fund balance as of December 31, 2015 is minus \$2. He then reviewed the debt management interest expense on page 33 of the Annual Report. The actual expense went into the Municipal Complex fund. There is \$111,000 budgeted for 2015, most of which is to pay interest on the Municipal Complex bond. The legal service line item increase was due to unanticipated expenses including a vermin issue at a property which necessitated a legal order, and legal fees for Act 250 and other permits for the Municipal Complex. The appraisal services expense increased as there was a reappraisal in 2014. The reappraisal did not cost any direct tax money.

W. Shepeluk brought attention to page 17 of the Annual Report. He stated that \$12,310,547 of taxes were billed in 2014, and \$144,520 of taxes were delinquent as of the end of 2014. The total delinquency for 2014 and all prior years totaled \$225,927. This figure, as of yesterday, totaled \$169,864. The motion passed by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Representatives Stevens and Ellis, as well as Senator Doyle. T. Stevens thanked K. Miller and J. Grenier for their service on the Select Board. He anticipates some pressure on road construction projects due to the drop in transportation funds. The state budget does not include a parachute from the Federal government, and they are working with a budget gap. The legislature will pass a balanced budget.

R. Ellis reiterated that there will be difficult cuts in Montpelier this year. On the brighter side, things are being done very well in Vermont, with one of the top public educational systems in the country. Vermont has one of the lowest uninsured health and unemployment rates in the country. The legislature is working on environmental legislation including an energy bill. Utilities must offer to customers more goods and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. They are also looking at water quality issues, to reduce phosphorus levels in the lake. Towns will be asked to have Town-wide plans, and urban centers will look at wastewater and sewer systems.

Senator Doyle stated things are looking up for Waterbury with a great job on the flood recovery, and progress on the State complex and housing.

**ARTICLE 6:** To act with respect to claims of Town Officers for their services during 2014.

W. Shepeluk made a motion to pay the claims of the Town Officers for their services rendered during 2014, as appears on page 8 of the Annual Report: Select Board Chair, \$1,450; Vice Chair, \$1,450; other Select Board members, \$1200 each; Listers, \$1,000 each. The motion was seconded. He pointed out that page 8 contains a typo, in that the Listers pay should be \$1,000 each as there was a reappraisal in 2014. A professional appraiser works for the Town, and there are 3 elected Listers. There were numerous meetings in 2014 hence the increase in pay for 2014. The motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see what action the Town will take with reference to fixing the date of the tax warrant and to set a date or dates when taxes on such property shall become due and payable and to specify the time of acceptance, the method of delivery, and to see whether the same shall be paid with or without discount and to provide for interest and penalty on such taxes as are not paid when due.

C. Nordle made a motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2015, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 14, 2015, and the second installment be due and payable on November 13, 2015, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 4:30pm on the due date, without discount and that interest be charged at the maximum allowed by statute, not to exceed one and one-half percent per month or portion thereof on each installment, and a late penalty of eight percent be charged as allowed by statute on taxes not paid when due. The motion was seconded.

C. Nordle stated that the motion specifies that taxes must be paid in hand on the due date, and that post mark would no longer be accepted. Carol Baitz asked if on the due date, the office could remain open until 5:30pm or 6:00pm. W. Shepeluk stated that this could be taken into consideration, and reminded voters that there are several ways taxes can be paid including direct debit. C. Baitz moved to amend the motion that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 5:30pm on both due dates. The motion to amend was seconded.

Jim Atchinson stated that he pays taxes in Montpelier and there is a drop box that accepts taxes until midnight. Elaine Beal asked if this would cause overtime for Town employees. W. Shepeluk asked if the hours of the elected Treasurer could be set at Town Meeting.

The Moderator indicated that this is a legal question and as Moderator it was not his role to respond to a legal question.

The amendment to the motion, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 5:30pm on both due dates was voted on and was unclear by voice vote. The Moderator asked those in favor to stand, followed by those opposed to stand. The amendment to the motion passed by a vote of 57 to 42.

The amended motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2015, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 14, 2015, and the second installment be due and payable on November 13, 2015, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 5:30pm on the both due dates, without discount and that interest be charged at the maximum allowed by statute, not to exceed one and one-half percent per month or portion thereof on each installment, and a late penalty of eight percent be charged as allowed by statute on taxes not paid when due was voted on and not clear by voice vote. The amended motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the voters will authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$500,000, by note, for a period not to exceed 5 years, for deposit into the Paving Capital Improvement Fund, to allow for the paving of Perry Hill Road.

C. Viens made a motion that the Town borrow up to \$500,000, by note, for a period not to exceed 5 years, on terms agreeable to the Select Board, for deposit into the Paving Capital Improvement Fund, to allow for the paving of Perry Hill Road. The motion was seconded.

C. Viens stated that he is in the construction business, of which a large part is excavation. He stated that road conditions are deteriorating. There are 22 miles of Class 1 and 2 roads in Waterbury. He has been working with the Select Board over the last couple of years to implement some new techniques for road construction, and explained some of the techniques. He estimated that Perry Hill is 1 ½ miles. To maintain a 7 year cycle, the Town would have to repair 3.2 miles of road per year and he estimated the cost of doing so.

Chris Palermo stated that the Town receives state highway money, and he asked how much money was received on an annual basis. He asked what was trying to be accomplished on Perry Hill Road with the proposed project. W. Shepeluk recommended that the motion be approved. The Perry Hill project will be a reclaiming job from Lincoln Street to the end of Perry Hill Road. The Town needs to spend about \$350,000 per year on paving, however the Board and Town have not been willing to have a tax rate high enough to accomplish this goal. The project will help the Town to catch up with the paving program. He brought attention to page 25 of the Annual Report, and the remaining projects in the paving Capital Improvement Plan which total an additional \$338,000. The money can be borrowed over a period of 5 years on a voice vote. The project is proposed for 2015, partially because the State will be paving Route 100 North in a couple of years and Perry Hill will be used as a detour.

C. Viens suggested that the Town is falling short of what needs to be done in terms of paving and the Perry Hill proposal is merely a band-aid. W. Shepeluk reiterated that the public can choose how much money they wish to spend on paving.

M. K. Monley encouraged the paving of Perry Hill. Melissa Jordan asked how Perry Hill was considered over other roads such as Guild Hill. W. Shepeluk stated that Guild Hill is scheduled for 2015. The flood of 2011 interrupted some of the projects in the capital improvement plan. K. Miller pointed out that capital paving on page 23 of the Annual Report will decrease by \$30,000 if this motion passes.

Sam Miller moved to limit debate. There was a second to the motion. The motion to limit debate passed. The main motion that the Town borrow up to \$500,000, by note, for a period not to exceed 5 years, on terms agreeable to the Select Board, for deposit into the Paving Capital Improvement Fund, to allow for the paving of Perry Hill Road passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 9:** To vote sums of money for necessary general government, highway, and library expenses, with the same to be expressed either in specific dollar amounts or as a rate or tax on the grand list.

K. Miller made a motion to approve for the Town of Waterbury sums of money for the interest of its inhabitants and for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, for laying out and repairing highways and other necessary expenses: for general expenses \$2,098,675, plus such sums voted on Articles 12 through 22 of the warning for this meeting; plus for highway expenses \$1,563,765; plus for library expenses \$277,345; plus for expenditures and transfers of designated reserve funds, estimated at \$283,865, for which no additional taxes are necessary; and that the Select Board be authorized to issue bills for property taxes in the sum of \$2,863,920, plus such sums voted on Articles 12 through 22 of the warning for this meeting for calendar year 2015. The motion was seconded.

K. Miller made a motion to amend the motion, adding \$100 to the sum of money appropriated for general expenses to a total of \$2,098,775 in order to fund the State Police Advisory Board and to add \$100 to the sum of property taxes the Select Board is authorized to raise to \$2,864,020, before consideration of special articles. The motion was seconded. C. Lawrence explained that the special article for the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board was inadvertently left off of the warning for the meeting, hence the amendment to include it in the budget.

John Malter spoke on behalf of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance and gave an update on the work of the Alliance. He publicly recognized Ed Steele for his many years of service on the Board.

The amendment to the motion, adding \$100 to the sum of money appropriated for general expenses to a total of \$2,098,775 in order to fund the State Police Advisory Board and to add \$100 to the sum of property taxes the select board is authorized to raise to \$2,864,020, before consideration of special article passed by voice vote.

There was a discussion on the budget as amended. K. Miller walked voters through the budget summary on page 23 of the Annual Report. The 2015 grand list is estimated to be \$7,088,749, and will be finalized in June of 2015 and results in an estimated tax rate of \$.4116. The items that are driving the increase in the tax rate include 4% decrease in nontaxable revenue and a decrease in the fund balance. In addition, \$111,000 is budgeted to pay interest on Municipal Complex bond. The amount of transfers to the CIP has been lower than anticipated since 2009, and there is continued funding for the Economic Development Director. In 2013, the Town started funding a Long Term Recovery Director, whose priority now is managing Municipal Complex. This position is now contracted under the Town which saved money. The Recreation Director position is shared with the Cemetery Commissioners, with increase hours, so there is an increase in the budget due to this position receiving benefits. There is an increase in the Special Articles from the prior year. The Town Manager's report explains the budget in more detail.

John Wulff asked about the optional State sales tax, and how implementation would affect the budget. W. Shepeluk responded that this concept has not been looked at since 2011, and the impact to the budget is unknown. C. Viens stated he would communicate with local business owners prior to implementing this type of sales tax.

Carol Miller asked about the philosophy behind funding long term projects, how much money is borrowed, and the concept of bonding over the expected life of the project. W. Shepeluk explained that formerly, there was one large capital improvement fund. Years ago, the large CIP fund was broken into six separate funds. The recommendation is to tie the amortization of

borrowing over the life expectancy of the project. W. Shepeluk then explained some of the CIP funds and stated that the Town had the option for 30 years bonds for the fire stations and municipal complex. These are buildings that will be in service far longer than the 20 year bonds that were voted in.

The amended motion to approve for the Town of Waterbury sums of money for the interest of its inhabitants and for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, for laying out and repairing highways and other necessary expenses: for general expenses \$2,098,775 which adds \$100 to the sum of money appropriated for general expenses in order to fund the State Police Advisory Board, plus such sums voted on Articles 12 through 22 of the warning for this meeting; plus for highway expenses \$1,563,765; plus for library expenses \$277,345; plus for expenditures and transfers of designated reserve funds, estimated at \$283,865, for which no additional taxes are necessary; and that the Select Board be authorized to issue bills for property taxes in the sum of \$2,864,020 which adds \$100 to the sum of property taxes the select board is authorized to raise to fund the State Police Advisory Board, plus such sums voted on Articles 12 through 22 of the warning for this meeting for calendar year 2015 was voted on and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the voters will authorize a sum of money to be expended from the capital funds for capital projects.

J. Grenier made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$2,643,725 plus the amount approved in Article 8, for purchases of vehicles, capital improvements, and the payments of debt identified in the town's capital improvement budgets. The motion was seconded.

J. Grenier directed the voter's attention to page 25 of the Annual Report which is the 2015 snapshot of the Capital Improvement Funds, with details on pages 37 through 41 of the Annual Report.

Tom Nesbitt asked about the amount budgeted for the fire rescue truck and the paving of Hollow Road, and suggested that Guild Hill Road needs much more than repaving.

W. Shepeluk explained the Hollow Road debt service and stated that there will be a \$60,000 paving project once the intersection has been reconfigured. He stated that the point is well taken on the condition of Guild Hill. The idea is not to just overlay pavement, but the road will be reclaimed. The full cost of the fire truck was \$277,000 as approved a year ago, and this meant borrowing \$200,000 from reserve fund with \$77,000 in tax dollars.

The motion to authorize the expenditure of \$2,643,725 plus the amount approved in Article 8, for purchases of vehicles, capital improvements, and the payments of debt identified in the town's capital improvement budgets passed by voice vote.

Skip Flanders and Chris Nordle presented the 2015 Keith Wallace Award to Margaret and David Luce.

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the voters will change the date and time of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Waterbury.

C. Nordle made a motion that that the Town hold the business meeting portion of its Annual Meeting on the Monday preceding the first Tuesday in March at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, beginning February 29, 2016, and continuing until changed by vote of the town. The motion was seconded.

C. Nordle stated the purpose of this article is to find a time where more people are able to attend Town Meeting, to a time outside of traditional work hours.

Anne Imhoff stated that all Board meetings are open to the public. She believes an evening meeting would be difficult for the senior citizens and it would be better to have the Town meeting on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. A. Imhoff amended the motion to hold the business meeting portion of its Annual meeting on Saturday afternoon beginning at 1:00pm. The amendment to the motion was seconded.

Gena Callan questioned how many people would show up on a Saturday afternoon. E. Coffey has been attending meetings since 1963 and feels the turnout is very good. He strongly opposed the amendment. John Malter suggested looking at communities that have changed the time and see if attendance has improved. Liz Schlegel Stevens is in favor in increase participation, and expressed the need to think collectively as to how to increase participation. Donald Bicknell stated he needed help getting to the meeting, and is in favor of any time but evening. Mike Milne stated he is self-employed so it is difficult to make meetings, and he is in favor of a Saturday meeting. Mike Bard encouraged the voters to pass on both suggested meeting times. Duncan McDougall stated that this question has been wrestled with in many communities in Vermont and has been studied. C. Viens advised leaving time as is, and that people's minds need to be changed as to how important it is to attend. W. Shepeluk stated that studies show that about the same number would attend on a different date, with a different demographic.

E. Coffey made a motion that debate on the amendment be limited. The motion to limit debate on the amendment passed by voice vote.

The amendment to the motion to hold the business meeting portion of its Annual meeting on Saturday afternoon beginning at 1:00pm failed by voice vote. E. Coffey strongly encouraged that Town Meeting remain on the first Tuesday of March. The motion that the Town hold the business meeting portion of its Annual Meeting on the Monday preceding the first Tuesday in March at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon, beginning February 29, 2016, and continuing until changed by vote of the town failed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will, during 2015, appropriate:

- \$1,000 for support of the Central Vermont Community Action Council
- \$750 for the support of the Central Vermont Community Land Trust
- \$250 for the support of Central Vermont Crime Stoppers
- \$1,000 for support of the Family Center of Washington County
- \$500 for support of the Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
- \$700 for support of Home Share Now, Inc.
- \$250 for support of OUR House of Central Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of the People's Health and Wellness Clinic
- \$500 for support of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of Project Independence
- \$1,000 for support of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.)
- \$300 for support of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team
- \$500 for support of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually impaired
- \$600 for support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living
- \$300 for support of the Washington County Court Diversion Program
- \$800 for support of the Waterbury Community Band

D. Schneider made a motion that the Town, during 2015, appropriate:

- \$1,000 for support of the Central Vermont Community Action Council
- \$750 for the support of the Central Vermont Community Land Trust
- \$250 for the support of Central Vermont Crime Stoppers
- \$1,000 for support of the Family Center of Washington County
- \$500 for support of the Good Beginnings of Central Vermont

- \$700 for support of Home Share Now, Inc.
- \$250 for support of OUR House of Central Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of the People's Health and Wellness Clinic
- \$500 for support of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of Project Independence
- \$1,000 for support of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.)
- \$300 for support of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team
- \$500 for support of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually impaired
- \$600 for support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living
- \$300 for support of the Washington County Court Diversion Program
- \$800 for support of the Waterbury Community Band

The motion was seconded. D. Schneider moved to amend the motion to change the amount for the Sexual Assault Crisis team from \$300 to \$200 to match the amount on page 24 of the Annual Report. C. Lawrence explained that the organization submitted a petition for funding of \$200, and that this change was not reflected on the Warning. The motion to amend the funding for the Sexual Assault Crisis Team to \$200 was seconded and passed by voice vote. K. Miller pointed out the new special articles this year that include Home Share Now, Our House of Central Vermont and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont and total \$1,450.

W. Shepeluk stated that this was a very difficult budget year for the Select Board. The Board worked very hard to develop a budget with an increase of 8.3%. If none of the Special Articles pass, the increase would be 6.3%. These articles drive the tax rate up, and play into the decision making process that the Select Board goes through.

Mike Wood asked what services Our House of Central Vermont offers. M. Luce explained that they provide services to children that have been traumatized by sexual abuse. Anne Imhoff expressed concern that there was no name or contact numbers included in their report. K. Miller expressed concern as to how money is used by these organizations, and how much goes to administrative expenses. C. Viens suggested a committee might be formed to research how each organization allocates their funding.

John Castaldo strongly suggested asking agencies to provide financial data. D. Schneider supported funding these organizations this year. E. Coffey brought the voters attention to the report on Central Vermont Crime Stoppers on page 73 of the Annual Report.

The motion, as amended, passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 in support of the American Red Cross during 2015.

C. Nordle made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,000 in support of the American Red Cross during 2015. The motion was seconded. M. Wood questioned what the funds are used for, and stated that many people contribute through blood drives. M. Luce speculated that the funds are used for disaster relief services. C. Nordle brought the voters attention to the report on page 67 of the Annual Report. The motion passed by voice vote.

Phil Walbridge made a motion to recess the meeting for lunch. The motion was seconded and failed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,200 in support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2015.

D. Luce made a motion to appropriate \$1,200 in support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,250 in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging.

J. Castaldo made a motion to appropriate \$1,250 in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,375 for support of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services, and Shelter) during 2015.

Linda Wulff made a motion to appropriate \$1,375 for support of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services, and Shelter) during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury ("Children's Room") during 2015.

C. Wulff made a motion that the Town appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury ("Children's Room") during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$7,323 in support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2015.

S. Lotspeich made a motion that the Town appropriate \$7,323 in support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,500 for support of Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc. during 2015.

P. H. Flanders made a motion that the Town appropriate \$1,500 for support of Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc. during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$20,000 for the Waterbury Area Senior Association in addition to the amount included in the General Fund Budget for such purpose during 2015.

P. Walbridge made a motion that the Town appropriate \$20,000 for the Waterbury Area Senior Association in addition to the amount included in the General Fund Budget for such purpose during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 for the support of the Waterbury Grange #237 during 2015.

A. Thompson made a motion to appropriate \$2,000 for the support of the Waterbury Grange #237 during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,500 in support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2015.

D. McDougall made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,500 in support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2015. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 23:** To do any other business that may legally come before the Board during the meeting.

Anne Imhoff stated that there are four reports that do not list who serve on the committees. She asked the Clerk to list names and contact information in the future.

Al Lewis announced that there are several events occurring this summer through the Waterbury Rotary Club, including the spring home show, the Waterbury NQID celebration, concerts in the park, and the Sunzilla championship.

Mike Bard recommended to the Board that they requests special interests groups include contact information, and have a representative at Town Meeting. He suggested a study committee to look at data regarding change of time in Town meeting.

Elaine Beal gave praise to the Board for all of their hard work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: March 16, 2015



Jeffrey Kilgore, Moderator



Chris Nordle, Select Board