

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board and Village Trustees
July 6, 2015
Main Street Fire Station

Present: D. Schneider, C. Viens, M. Frier, Jane Brown (arrived 7:15 p.m.), Select Board; P.H. Flanders, N. Howell-Sherman, L. Sayah, Trustees; Rep. Thomas Stevens (arrived 7:15); A. Imhoff, M. Mientka, Media; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager.

D. Schneider and P.H. Flanders called the meeting of the Select Board and the Trustees to order at 7:04 p.m.

The Boards considered the printed agenda. By unanimous consent the Boards approved the agenda, but asked the Manager to provide an update of the progress at the municipal complex.

The Select Board considered the items on the consent agenda. On a motion duly made and seconded (Viens, Frier), the Board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

Given that the Boards were waiting for Rep. Stevens, the topic of BYOB for restaurants was taken up by both Boards. The Manager gave a brief synopsis of the issue and stated that since alcohol was not being sold by the restaurateur, the consumption of alcohol brought to the premises by a customer could not be regulated through the liquor licensing process. In addition, while it may be possible to regulate BYOB as entertainment, doing so could open the municipality to other liability concerns. By consensus, both the Select Board and the Trustees decided that BYOB at Waterbury establishments will not be regulated by the Town or Village.

As requested, the Manager updated the Select Board on the progress being made at the municipal complex now under construction at the site of the Janes House on N. Main Street, adjacent to Dascomb Rowe Field. The project is slightly ahead of schedule and at present is "on budget". Several change orders have been issued and two more are in the pipeline. At present, the change orders have reduced the total contract cost. Shepeluk reported that a final deal has been reached with the state's Division of Historic Preservation concerning the windows. Windows on both floors that face Main Street plus those that wrap around the "bay window" facing west and to the office adjacent to the stairs to the former library space will be restored. The remaining windows will be replaced with close replicas. The Boards were told that a tour for the Board members would be set up in the early morning hours, sometime in August.

The Manager informed the Boards that the 100 on 100 Relay Race is scheduled for Saturday August 15, 2015. This race has been conducted for quite a number of years. It requires no services from the Town or Village. The Boards expressed no concerns about the race going forward.

State Representative Tom Stevens appeared before the Boards to discuss the recently concluded legislative session and issues of concern to local communities. There was considerable discussion about the PILOT payments the Town and Village receive for State buildings located here. He described the "hold harmless" payment the State agreed to implement in 2015 and 2016 that provides the Town and Village the same PILOT payment that was made in 2014. He described the efforts of Bill Shepeluk, municipal manager, to bring this issue of the potential loss of PILOT revenue to the attention of the Governor's administration and the State legislature.

Shepeluk expressed appreciation to Representatives Stevens and Ellis for their attention to this matter. In addition, he lauded the efforts of Senator Peg Flory and BGS Commissioner Mike Obuchowski for being instrumental in the passage of the bill. Over two years, the Town and Village will realize a combined benefit of more than \$90,000 in PILOT revenue that otherwise would have been lost.

The Boards considered information and documents provided by the Municipal Manager that pertain to the setting of the 2015 tax rates. He reported that the statewide education tax for homestead properties was increasing by 7.87% to \$1.6641/\$100 of valuation. The non-residential rate is increasing by 4.52% to \$1.5416/\$100 of valuation. Shepeluk reported that the Grand List of the town increased to \$7,111,869 or 1.83%. The Village Grand List increased by 4.30% to \$2,002,779.

The Manager told the select board that voters authorized \$2,917,618 to be raised in taxes for Town services in 2015. The tax rate necessary multiplied by the Grand List to generate that amount is \$.41024/\$100 of valuation. Given the additional PILOT payment that will be received above that budgeted, Shepeluk suggested that the rate could be set as low as \$.405/\$100 of valuation.

M. Frier made a motion that was seconded by J. Brown to set the statewide education tax rates at \$1.6641/\$100 for homesteads and \$1.5416/\$100 for non-residential property and to set the Town rate for municipal services at \$.405/\$100. There was a good deal of discussion about the rates and spending levels and then the motion was approved unanimously.

The Manager explained that the Village was authorized to raise \$276,280 in property taxes. Given the Village Grand List of \$2,002,779, the rate necessary to raise that amount is \$.1379/\$100 of valuation. Shepeluk reported some unanticipated spending in the Village general fund budget and because of that recommended against using PILOT funds that are in excess of that budgeted to reduce the tax rate. N. Howell-Sherman made a motion to set the Village 2015 tax rate at \$.1379/\$100. L. Sayah seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. (See attachments for info pertaining to the tax rates).

The Manager asked the Select Board to decide whether to impose a penalty on property owners who filed homestead declaration after the deadline. C. Viens made a motion to charge a fee of 6% for late filers. The motion failed due to lack of a second. J. Brown made a motion to charge a fee of 5% on late filers. M. Frier seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-1 with Viens casting the dissenting vote.

After the tax rates were set, M. Frier asked what tax rate would be necessary if the town had to raise the \$276,000 of Village taxes. The Manager stated that the town tax rate would be about \$.038/\$100 higher if it were responsible for raising an additional \$276,000. A brief discussion occurred about whether the Town should be responsible to pay for some of the expenses for police services and, ultimately, a merger. All agreed this is an issue for another day.

The Select Board and Trustees began again a review of the proposed personnel policy. There was much discussion about moving to a system of combined time off (CTO) for leave time. The Manager pointed out that some employees have accrued as many as 960 hours of sick time. He suspects there might be some request to compensate or partially compensate employees for their accrued time if the switch to CTO time occurred. The Boards asked the Manager to explore and

to propose some options that may be considered. C. Viens proposed the policy should prohibit dogs from being brought to the job by employees. The Boards agreed to take up the policy discussion at a future meeting.

The Select Board took up the issue of the fee schedule that relates to the Animal Control Ordinance. Some Board members expressed a desire to take some time to review the proposed fees, taking the issue up at a future meeting. By consensus, the board agreed to do that.

Steve Lotspeich appeared to provide more information to the Board about a grant application to VTrans for a Bike/Pedestrian Scoping Study. If an application is authorized, the proposed scope of work would include a design for sidewalks and crosswalks in the vicinity of Rt. 100 and Stowe Street; on Rt. 100 near Billing's Mobile; and near the new hotel in Colbyville. The cost of the study and preliminary design is estimated at \$30,000. The Town share will be 10% of the total cost. J. Brown moved to apply for the grant, committing to the required local share, and to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the application. M. Frier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Viens made a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:51 p.m. It was seconded by J. Brown. It passed unanimously. N. Howell-Sherman made a motion to adjourn the Trustees meeting at 9:52 p.m. It was seconded by L. Sayah and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

Approved on: July 20, 2015