

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board & Village Trustees
November 2, 2015
Main Street Fire Station

Present: C. Nordle, Chair; D. Schneider, M. Frier and J. Brown, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, L. Sayah and N. Sherman, Trustees; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; S. Blow, Waterbury Record; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Joe McLean, Stitzel Page & Fletcher; Theresa Wood, Zoe Gordon, Marcy Blauvelt, Barry Reit, Allan Thompson, Joan Beard, and several other members of the public.

The meeting of both Boards was called to order at 7:02pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a permit application from the Town for a shed by the Armory and a road naming request, if time sensitive. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed by those present.

L. Sayah made a motion that the Trustees add taking up an administrative edit to the parking ordinance. The motion was seconded by N. Sherman and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Frier made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the October 19th meeting, the Comcast Business Service Order agreement, the municipal office furniture order with Office Environments, the appointment of William Woodruff as the alternate representative to the Mad River Resource Management Alliance, and the Errors & Omissions letter dated November 2, 2015. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed by those present.

PUBLIC

Theresa Wood was present and was recently appointed as a State Representative. She encouraged the Boards to contact her if need be. T. Wood stated she will not be keeping her community liaison position with VTrans, but that the agency would like this role continued in some manner. There are options in terms of how that position will be filled, and she is interested in the Board's feedback.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CDBG PLANNING GRANT

C. Nordle opened the public hearing at 7:13pm. This grant came before the Board on September 8th and will provide funding assistance with the home elevation pilot project. The warning at that time did not include a telephone number for hearing impaired, so the hearing had to be re-warned. The project will cost approximately \$59,000 with a \$6,000 in kind match. S. Lotspeich distributed the Planning Grant Request Summary dated August 3, 2015 (attached). Two of the homeowners were in attendance for the hearing (Flanders & Sayah). The submittal of the application was authorized at the September 8th meeting.

No additional information was requested during the hearing, and the public hearing was closed at 7:22pm

ROAD NAMING

S. Lotspeich indicated that the request for road naming is time sensitive. A building permit has been submitted and GMP cannot provide power without an E911 address. C. Nordle suggested a tentative approval with final approval at the next meeting. D. Schneider made

a motion to preliminarily approve the road name of Sugarhouse Road (east side Ripley Road) to be finalized at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed by those present.

ACT ON RECOMMENDATION FOR 2016 HEALTH INSURANCE

W. Shepeluk gave a brief review of the Health Connect program, the State's exchange for health insurance. W. Shepeluk recommended giving employees a specified amount of money to allow them to continue to purchase any plan offered by BlueCross BlueShield, as the Town and Village has done for the last 2 years. He recommended a 3% increase in the amount of money made available to employees. The average increase in plan cost is over 6% and the plan design is less rich. W. Shepeluk recommended increasing the stipend from \$30 per month to \$100 per month to employees that do not take the insurance. The plan was presented to the Water & Sewer Commissioners earlier in the day and they supported the Manager's recommendations, however P. H. Flanders stated he would be more comfortable with an increase in the opt out stipend from \$30 to \$50. D. Schneider suggested increasing the stipend from \$30 to \$60.

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the 3% increase for the monthly allowance for health insurance, and to change the payment per month for employees not taking health insurance from \$30 to \$60. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed by those present.

On behalf of the Village, N. Sherman made a like motion. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Z. Gordon has made some edits to the Economic Development Plan as initially drafted by Darren Winham, and has asked Board members individually for comments. P. H. Flanders wanted the topic discussed at a Joint Meeting. Z. Gordon stated that she wanted feedback, however there are some other sections that need to be implemented moving forward. She would like to see a formal adoption process. W. Shepeluk gave a brief history of the formation of the Economic Development Director position. The Plan needs to be looked at by both Boards and ultimately adopted. C. Nordle suggested looking at a date in November or December to meet and review the plan. It was suggested to meet on the plan on December 14th and cancel the December 21st regular meeting, and perhaps review the personnel policy at the same time.

The Trustees adjourned at 8:00pm.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING ITEMS

It has been a goal in the municipal building project to have audio-visual equipment built into the community meeting room. A quote was received from Geer Sound in the amount of \$14,722. There is a separate need in the library for \$6,499 that will be paid for by the library. It is likely there will be money left in the municipal building budget to pay for the equipment, and there is also a possibility library funds can help cover the cost. C. Nordle stated that regardless of the move, the equipment needs to be updated. By consensus, the Board approved the purchase of the equipment.

D. Schneider asked how the room will be used. Other than Board and committee meetings and program space for the library, it has not yet been determined how the room will be utilized.

PERMIT REQUEST

W. Woodruff asked the Manager to sign a permit to build a shed for salt and sand at the Armory, as the former storage site may no longer be available. The Manager wanted to bring it to the Board's attention. He would like to submit the application in the event the shed needs to be built.

C. Nordle expressed a preference to build the shed elsewhere due to traffic concerns at the Armory location.

NORTH HILL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

C. Nordle exited the meeting.

J. McLean was present to give the Board an update on the project. He indicated that a site visit occurred. The schedule does not require the Town to do anything in the immediate future since the Department of Public Service has until 12/31 to return expert reports (aesthetics and propagation). The Board should think about extent they wish to engage the services of independent experts. The Department evaluates issues much more broadly than someone with local concerns might do. The Board may wish to identify people that can provide some analysis for the Town, seek proposals and get a sense of what the costs might be. The process has the potential to get very expensive very quickly. J. McLean further explained how the Act 248 process works. There is no special significance of a legislative body opposing a project. The Town does have a statutory right to participate and comment.

The Town Plan and zoning by-laws prohibit this type of project. One of the purposes of the site visit was to better understand the wildlife corridor. ANR has expressed a strong interest in this issue, and this is one of the stronger arguments that the Town has against the project. D. Schneider asked if the Board could make a decision whether to oppose on November 16th. J. McLean indicated this timing would work.

M. Frier asked for a ballpark figure as to costs for independent experts and legal fees. J. McLean stated that this is difficult to estimate without knowing what the ultimate goal is, but that costs could easily exceed \$50,000.

There was further discussion on finding a different location for the tower. A. Thompson suggested the Board should support the language of the Town Plan and zoning regulations and spend what time is needed on the project in January.

J. McLean suggested that the Town can tap into residents with credentials for independent studies.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: November 16, 2015