

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN OF WATERBURY
TO BE HELD MARCH 1st, 2016**

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 1st, 2016 to act on the following matters:

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. The Moderator reviewed the rules of procedure for the ensuing year.

Theresa Wood, as president of the Waterbury Historical Society, unveiled the Waterbury Center Grange painted curtain that most recently resided at the Waterbury Center Grange. She expressed gratitude to the Grange for giving the curtain to the Historical Society. She thanked Jack Carter for spearheading the subcommittee on the curtain project, the administration at TBPS for hosting the curtain, and the Board of the Waterbury Historical Society.

C. Nordle introduced the members of the head table and thanked the Select Board for their hundreds of hours of work.

Representative Stevens, Representative Wood and Senator Doyle were present to talk about activities at the State House. Rep. Stevens spoke to the current budget gap, which this year was caused in part by Medicaid spending. He stated that Theresa Wood has done a great job and has hit the ground running in her committee work. The legislature is working on a bill for the legalization of marijuana and T. Stevens stated that this may be difficult to pass.

Theresa Wood introduced herself to the audience and explained that she was appointed to the legislature last fall. She stated that she grew up in Waterbury and gave a brief background of her working history. She was appointed to the Corrections and Institutions Committee and gave a description of the work in that committee.

Senator Doyle congratulated Waterbury on a remarkable recovery after Tropical Storm Irene.

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 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.

ARTICLE 5: To elect by Australian ballot for the Harwood Union High School District #19 one School Director for a 3 year term.

ARTICLE 6: To act upon the reports of the several Town Officers with the exception of claims for fees or compensation during 2015.

D. Schneider 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 2015. The motion was seconded and passed with no discussion.

ARTICLE 7: To act with respect to claims of Town Officers for their services during 2015.

W. Shepeluk made a motion to pay the claims of the Town Officers for their services rendered during 2015, as appears on page 8 of the Annual Report as follows: Select Board Chair, \$1,450; Vice Chair, \$1,450; other Select Board members, \$1,200 each; Listers, \$500 each. The motion was seconded and passed with no discussion.

ARTICLE 8: 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, 2016, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 12, 2016, and the second installment be due and payable on November 18, 2016, 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 and passed with no discussion.

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.

C. Viens 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 \$2,263,100, plus such sums voted on Articles 11 through 20 of the warning for this meeting; plus for highway expenses \$1,488,260; plus for library expenses \$418,585; plus

for expenditures and transfers of designated reserve funds, estimated at \$276,110, for which no additional taxes are necessary; and that the Select Board be authorized to issue bills for property taxes in the sum of \$3,244,320, plus such sums voted on Articles 11 through 20 of the warning for this meeting for calendar year 2016. The motion was seconded.

C. Viens reviewed some of the budget line items starting on page 25 of the annual report, including increases in the part-time pay for a part-time lister, the professional and legal services line items, and maintenance costs for the new Municipal Center. He spoke briefly to the Public Safety budget. He explained the increases in the Fire Department budget, which included workers compensation, dispatching, and a payment installment for a rescue truck. The Health and Social Services budget is down a bit over that of last year while the pool budget is up from last year. He reviewed briefly the Recreation Program costs, building expenses, parks expenses, and Planning Department expenses. There an expense this year for the bond for the Municipal Center in the amount of \$110,910.

C. Viens stated that the Highway Department had the largest decline in budgeted expenses. The expenses in the Library fund increased by \$141,240, with the main driver being the Library's portion of the municipal bond payment.

The Board initially was looking at a seven cent increase in the tax rate, but had a goal to control cost hikes throughout the rest of the budget. C. Viens stated that the Board worked to reduce the tax increase, ultimately cutting an additional \$65,000 in the budget and explained the sources of the reduction. The Highway Department took the most substantial cuts. The recreation director's position was in a draft budget for 40 hours, but was ultimately increased by three hours versus five hours. The end result was an increase in the budget of \$348,000 over that of last year.

Bill Minter made a motion to amend the budget to add \$6,875 to the Recreation Program Coordinator line item for the purpose of making the Recreation Director position full-time. The motion to amend was seconded. He stated now is the time for an increase as residents have been patiently waiting for the time when this position could be full-time. The Town now has time to address the recreation infrastructure. He stated the need for a full-time recreational expert to develop long range planning and generate revenues.

Peter Turmelle feels the pool has not been managed smoothly over the past couple of years. He stated that state laws and municipal ordinances are in place for the safety and health of the residents of Waterbury. People are taxed to the limit, and voters need to move carefully.

Mary Ellen Lamson has lived in Waterbury all her life, and in the past recreational activities were run by volunteer Boards. She cannot justify extra spending in recreation based on conditions of the roads. Most youth organizations are run by volunteer boards.

Darrick Pittsick, Village resident and local business owner, stated that the request is to make the position a full-time position. Organized recreation has a positive influence on the local businesses.

John Callan stated it is a nice idea to have a full-time Recreation Director, but it is time to cut back on expenditures. The roads are in rough shape.

Sarah Squirrel believes it is a winning strategy to invest in recreation and stated the various reasons for this belief. The quality of the program has increased and now is not the time to cut corners. Recreation is not just about children, but there is a real economic benefit to have programs in Waterbury.

Karen Miller, previous Select Board member, recalled debating recreation during her tenure and was then not in favor of enhancing recreation. She has since seen the benefits of recreation in the community and now supports a full time position. If the position is made 40 hours, additional hours for cemetery work will have to be absorbed.

Several other residents, including Frank Spaulding, and Marcella Pelkey, spoke to the importance of the recreation program to the vibrancy of the Town.

Nancy Potter stated she is against an increase in the budget as there are many residents that live on Social Security.

Chuck Kletecka stated that recreation is the life blood of Waterbury. Lisa Scagliotti emphasized the importance of recreation, and stated there may be a way to accomplish the goal without increasing costs. She asked about the \$35,000 in the capital budget for a new pavilion at Dac Rowe fields.

Alexia Venafrà moved the Waterbury for quality of life and has found tremendous sense of community. She state that recreation is community building.

Mike Bard called the question. It was moved and seconded to limit debate on the discussion of the amendment. The motion to limit debate passed by voice vote. The amendment to the motion to add \$6,875 to the Recreation Program Coordinator line item for the purpose of making the Recreation Director position full time passed by voice vote.

Karen Miller thanked the Select Board for their work over the past year. She asked where the Economic Development Director's position was listed in the budget. W. Shepeluk explained that \$26,975 on page 26 of the annual report gets sent to a reserve fund and is the Town's share of the position. Revitalizing Waterbury has employed the position and the Town and Village support the position jointly. The Village's share is \$23,310. W. Shepeluk stated that this position has been instrumental in several local projects that have added value to the grand list and increased job capacity. Both Boards felt that the position was of value to the community.

K. Miller made motion to amend the Economic Development line item to decrease it by \$7,000 to help fund the increase for the Recreation Director position. The motion to amend was seconded. K. Miller stated she made the amendment to keep the budget balanced.

W. Shepeluk spoke to the amendment on the floor, appreciating the attempt to keep the budget level. He stated that since the voters expressed great interest in seeing the recreation position go to full time, perhaps it would be better to eliminate the job than

decrease the funding by \$7,000 and expect the same results. He stated that the consequences will be difficult to manage.

Carol Miller spoke in favor of the motion to amend and suggested that it is not a good idea to fund the position through RW as there are concerns with accountability.

Dan DeSanto stated that he feels the amendment is short sighted fix, and the position is crucial for the Town of Waterbury.

Mark Frier, who sits on the Board of RW and was involved in getting the position in place, stated it is important to retain business, grow business and bring new business to the Town; and is strongly against cutting this expense.

Reed McCracken stated that the Economic Development Director supports all businesses in the community and there is a synergy between businesses, and did not support the amendment.

Mike Bard opposed the amendment and stated that costs in the recreation department should be reviewed, including user fees.

Cindy Lyons spoke to the accountability of the position and how it is set up through RW. W. Shepeluk explained how the position came into being and how it was transferred to RW.

John Sherman stated that the notion of a job being eliminated in a matter of minutes is shocking. As a business owner in the Village, he believes the position is critical and opposed the amendment.

Martha Staskus stated her understanding that the amendment is to reduce money forwarded to RW, not to eliminate the position. W. Shepeluk confirmed that the amendment is to reduce the transfer to RW in the amount of \$7,000. He stated that RW is an incredible organization that has done wonderful things, but to suggest that they can cover the loss is not reasonable. The town already funds the organization in the amount of \$17,000.

Mary Miller explained the history of the position which was recognized as a necessity long before Irene. Chuck Kletecka opposed the amendment and stated money should be cut from the legal line item. C. Viens responded that the Municipal Plan does not allow cell towers in a critical life corridor and feels the Board is obligated to uphold the plan, therefore it should be left in budget.

Maureen McCracken opposed the amendment, stating the importance of investing in people that can rebuild the community. Now is not the time to short change people who can make the community better.

Anne Imhoff called the question. It was moved and seconded to limit debate on the discussion of the amendment. The motion to limit debate passed by voice vote.

The amendment to the amended motion to decrease the Economic Development Director line item by \$7,000 failed by voice vote.

Discussion continued on the budget as amended to include \$6,875 in the Recreation Program Coordinator line item.

Scott Mackey made a motion to amend the legal line item to decrease it by \$7,000. The amendment was seconded. W. Shepeluk stressed the meaning of a budget, explaining that issues arise during the year and budget items are under or overspent. There is no practical way to have line item control from the voter's perspective. The municipal budget starts on January 1st, so the voters need to trust that the budget will be managed as well as possible. He recommended voting the amendment down, instead cutting the bottom line and directing Select Board to find the cuts.

Discussion continued about the practicality of voters deciding cuts to specific line items.

K. Miller stated the goal is to decrease the budget by \$7,000 and offered a friendly amendment to decrease the total expenses by \$7,000. The Moderator ruled it not germane to the amendment on the floor.

Katherine Powell called the question. It was moved and seconded to limit debate on the discussion of the amendment. The motion to limit debate passed by voice vote. The motion to amend the budget to cut \$7,000 from legal line item failed by voice vote.

Chuck Bauer made a motion to amend to instruct the Select Board to cut \$7,000 from the budget to keep the proposed tax rate the same. The amendment was seconded.

Sally Dillon called the question. It was moved and seconded to limit debate on the discussion of this amendment. The motion to limit debate passed by voice vote.

The motion to amend to instruct the Select Board to cut \$7,000 from the budget to keep the proposed tax rate the same passed by voice vote.

The budget motion, as amended twice, 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 \$2,263,100; plus \$6,875 to increase the Recreation Program Coordinator line item; plus such sums voted on Articles 11 through 20 of the warning for this meeting; plus for highway expenses \$1,488,260; plus for library expenses \$418,585; plus for expenditures and transfers of designated reserve funds, estimated at \$276,110, for which no additional taxes are necessary; and that the Select Board be authorized to issue bills for property taxes in the sum of \$3,244,320, less \$7,000; plus such sums voted on Articles 11 through 20 of the warning for this meeting for calendar year 2016. Article 9 passed as amended by voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Skip Flanders, who was joined by Chris Nordle to present the 21st Keith Wallace Award to Jane Willard and Chris Palermo.

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

J. Brown made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$2,648,225 for purchases of vehicles, capital improvements, building operations and the payments of debt identified in the town's capital improvement and building fund budgets. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will, during 2016, appropriate:

- \$1,000 for support of the Capstone Community Action
- \$100 for the support of the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board
- \$750 for the support of the Downstreet Housing and Community Development
- \$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.)
- \$200 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

M. Frier made a motion that the Town, during 2016, appropriate:

- \$1,000 for support of the Capstone Community Action
- \$100 for the support of the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board
- \$750 for the support of the Downstreet Housing and Community Development
- \$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.)
- \$200 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. Anne Imhoff stated that all articles add up to \$51,350, and reminded voters to keep all articles in mind when voting. Chris Wood proposed a different way of managing these line items, perhaps reducing the total by 20% as he is opposed to the amount spent but not the programs. Margaret Luce stated that these are small amounts and the people in Washington County benefit from these organizations. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 in support of the American Red Cross during 2016.

Alex Cawley made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,000 in support of the American Red Cross during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,200 in support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2016.

David Luce made a motion that the Town appropriate \$1,200 in support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,250 in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging during 2016.

Alex Cawley made a motion to appropriate \$1,250 in support of Central Vermont Council on Aging during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,375 for support of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services, and Shelter) during 2016. Margaret Luce made a motion that the Town appropriate \$1,375 for support of Circle (formerly Battered Women's Services, and Shelter) during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury ("Children's Room") during 2016.

Kaitlyn Hollister made a motion to appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury ("Children's Room") during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will appropriate \$7,323 in support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Steve Lotspeich made a motion that the Town appropriate \$7,323 in support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will appropriate \$1,500 for support of Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc. during 2016.

Georgiana Birmingham made a motion that the Town appropriate \$1,500 for support of Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc. during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: 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 2016.

Karol Smith 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 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,500 in support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2016.

Duncan McDougall made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,500 in support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2016. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21: To do any other business that may legally come before the Board during the meeting.

John Malter of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance stated that information was available at the back of the gym, and gave an update on the activities of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance.

Mike Bard thanked the Select Board and Municipal Manager for their budget work.

John Callan expressed concern about the mix used on dirt roads, and asked if the intersection of Route 100 and Hollow Road would be improved. W. Shepeluk stated that there is money in the capital budget to make that a T-intersection.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: _____

Jeffrey Kilgore, Moderator

Chris Nordle, Select Board