

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board & Village Trustees
February 1st, 2016
Steele Community Room
28 North Main Street

Present: C. Nordle, C. Viens, D. Schneider, and J. Brown, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, Village President; 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: Laurie Smith and Chuck Kletecka, Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir; Zoe Gordon, Economic Development Director; Jason Gibbs; Tom Matt; Bill Woodruff and Dan Sweet, Listers.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

C. Nordle stated that the attorney opinion on the Flood Area Hazard Regulations has not been received so the 7:10pm item should be removed. The Boards will meet next Monday with the Planning Commission to determine if a hearing will be warned. C. Viens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

J. Brown made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including Minutes January 25th Meeting, liquor licenses for Thatcher Hill LLC, Kinney Drugs, Barwick Corporation; a resolution from People's United Bank for the opening of an account for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds (Board needs to acknowledge that the account has been opened); and an application for a Special Event Permit for a beer tasting at Craft Beer Cellar by Stone Corral Brewery on February 6th from 2:00 – 5:00pm. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

No public comment.

FRIENDS OF THE WATERBURY RESERVOIR (FWR) GRANT REQUEST

The Agency of Natural Resources has a grant available to fund a boat access greeter program at the Waterbury Reservoir for educational purposes and to start an Aquatic Nuisance Species Prevention Program. The targeted species will be Brittle Naiad and Eurasian Milfoil. The Town must submit the grant and the deadline is Wednesday. Funds would be transferred to the Town and be forwarded to the Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir so there would be minimal work for Town staff.

W. Shepeluk expressed concern about providing benefits to the person that would be employed. If FWR is unable to do this, then the person would have to be employed by the Town. L. Smith stated that FWR has the capacity to hire and supervise this person, and can provide worker's compensation. The grant is for \$3,576 plus in-kind services in the amount of \$2,800. The person would be employed for 33 weekend days from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Most of the administrative burden will be placed on FWR and Laurie Smith has great experience in administering grants. She stated this is a good opportunity to form a relationship with the Town. W. Shepeluk recommended that if the Board accepts the grant that the Town enter into a MOU with FWR. FWR has a certificate of liability insurance and a quote from worker's compensation so the liability issues should be covered. A discussion was held about the certificate of insurance.

D. Schneider made a motion to authorize the Manager to work with FWR to sign the grant agreement. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

The Select Board recessed until after the Board of Abatement Hearing.

The Trustees adjourned at 7:35pm.

BOARD OF ABATEMENT HEARING

The Board of Abatement Hearing opened at 7:35pm. C. Lawrence explained that the Select Board, Listers and Town Treasurer present constituted a quorum. Tom Matt was present to explain that his house at 67 Windridge Lane burned on October 27, 2015 and has been uninhabitable since that date. C. Lawrence distributed a copy of the lister card and an email from T. Vickery, who visited the property on January 30, 2016 and noted that the house is a shell with no interior sheetrock or insulation. They have not lived in the house since the fire, and it is not expected that they will be able to live in the house until May. The property will be revalued on April 1, 2016

W. Shepeluk stated that the Board should be consistent with abatements, many which occurred after flood damage, and that the tax year considered is usually April 1st to March 31st. C. Lawrence explained that past abatements were based on the house value which is \$126,800. The proposed abatement calculation was based on the following information:

House value:	\$126,800
Total assessed value:	\$259,900
2015 property taxes paid:	\$3,555.22
Number of Days from 10/27/2015 to 3/31/2016	157
Number of Days from 4/1/2015 to 3/31/2016	366

Abatement amount: $\$3,555.22 \times (\$126,800/\$259,900) \times (157/366) = \744.04

The Board of Abatement hearing closed at 7:40pm.

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the abatement amount of \$744.04. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

CONSIDER FINAL BUDGET

The Select Board meeting reconvened at 7:42pm. At the last Select Board meeting, the Manager was charged to cut an additional \$20,000. The Manager previously distributed the proposed cuts which included \$45,000 cut at the last meeting. Revenue was added to the transportation liaison position reflecting a decrease of \$80,100 in taxes necessary to support the budget. W. Shepeluk explained some of the cuts developed since last week, as outlined in his memo dated January 30th. Additional cuts were found in the general budget, fire department budget, highway and library budgets. The spending cuts totaled \$65,100 from last week, and the revenue line increased by \$15,000 reflecting income from VTrans to fund the community liaison position. The total tax to be raised, if approved, will be \$3,295,670 for a tax rate of \$0.4566 if the grand list increases by 1.5%.

D. Schneider stated disappointment in the recreation director position as reflected at 38 hours (32 recreation and 6 hours cemetery). W. Shepeluk stated he did not believe the Board directed him to include the position as full time and that a full-time position was discussed prior to the Board asking for cuts. C. Viens concurred.

J. Brown mentioned the Better Back Rounds grant funding opportunities, which could help with road work. W. Shepeluk stated that this is something the Town can look into, but it is too late to budget for it at this point.

C. Nordle stated that the recreation director's hours have gradually increased over time. He suggested that it be determined whether the hours split between recreation and cemetery will work, and requested a weekly allocation of the recreations director's time.

The Perry Hill paving note was discussed, as to whether or not to refund the note. W. Shepeluk stated that the refunding decision can be made at a later date. The transfers to the highway and fire CIP's need to be reviewed, perhaps after Town meeting.

C. Viens made a motion to approve the operating budget of \$4,169,945 and capital and building operations budget of \$2,648,225. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed unanimously.

REVIEW MOTIONS FOR ANNUAL MEETING WARNING

C. Lawrence distributed draft motions for the Annual Meeting. The Board reviewed and assigned the motions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: March 7, 2016