

Waterbury Select Board
October 2, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Present: C. Viens, D. Schneider, M. Frier, J. Brown, Select Board Members; W. Shepeluk, Manager; A. Johnson, RW; E. Coffey, public; M. Hughes, Waterbury Record; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; C. Nordle, Attorney for Main Street project.

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda

The Board considered the agenda. A motion duly made and seconded (Schneider/Frier) to approve the agenda as presented was passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

M. Frier made a motion to approve the consent agenda. D. Schneider seconded the motion. The Board agreed and the motion to approve the consent agenda, which included only the minutes of previous meeting, passed without dissent.

Public

No public comment was made.

Update on Main Street Project

Chris Nordle, attorney representing the Town, appeared to update the Board concerning the Necessity for the Main Street Project and acquisition of easements necessary to “clear” the Right-of-Way, which allows for the final design of the project. He reported that R. Boyle and A. Chorey of Randall Street had appealed the Select Board’s finding that the project was necessary for the public good. He then stated that the appellants had reached an agreement with the Town and that they signed a settlement agreement before a court hearing was held. The executed settlement agreement removes all questions about the “necessity” of the project. In addition, Mr. Nordle reported that Boyle and Chorey negotiated an acceptable payment for the easements that were necessary on their property to allow construction of the project. All other outstanding “offers” or negotiated payments for necessary easements along the project’s route have been accepted by property owners.

(J. Brown entered the meeting at 7:11 p.m.)

Given the information presented by Mr. Nordle, D. Schneider made a motion to direct Nordle to write a letter to VTrans stating that the Select Board has determined that the Main Street Project is “necessary for the public good” and that the ROW for the Main Street Project is “clear” and that VTrans should proceed toward completion of final design and plans for the project to insure the earliest opportunity to solicit bids for the construction. M. Frier seconded the motion which passed 3-0, with J. Brown abstaining.

Manager's Items

W. Shepeluk presented an MOU to the Board for its consideration. If approved, the agreement between the Town and Revitalizing Waterbury would allow RW to work on behalf of the Town to provide support for the business community and to conduct public outreach during the Main Street reconstruction project during 2018, 2019, and 2020. The payment to RW over the three year period is estimated to be \$132,550, which will be made available to the Town via a grant from VTrans. D. Schneider asked if it was likely that RW would hire additional staff to help carry out the scope of services described. A. Johnson, Economic Development Director for RW, answered "yes, that is the plan". She expressed the business support described in the MOU would be the main priority of RW during the construction timeframe. J. Brown made a motion to approve the MOU with RW and to authorize the Manager to sign on behalf of the Town. M. Frier seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

The Manager presented to the Board an easement and a related map to allow the Town to own and maintain a storm drain structure across a lot on Randall Street that is owned by the State of Vermont. He reported that the structure and the storm drainage system it is part of has existed for as long as anyone can remember. The State Department of Buildings and General Services cannot find that any specific easement presently exists for this structure and believes it is best to memorialize the existence of the structure and the ability of the Town to operate and maintain it and replace it when necessary. He recommended executing the easement in question. D. Schneider made a motion to agree to the easement and to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign it on behalf of the Town. J. Brown seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Shepeluk reported that the Town had made a job offer to Tracy Haerther to be the archivist for the Waterbury Historical Society. She will work 10 hours per week. The position is being funded by a private donation to the Waterbury Historical Society, which will pass along the money to the Town to reimburse all expenses related to her employment.

Shepeluk reported that the MOU with RW concerning the position of Economic Development Director required the Town to report to RW by October 1st any intention by the Town to eliminate funding for the position after March of the next year. He apologized that he had forgotten that deadline, but recommended no thought be given to discontinuance of the position given the pending Main Street Project. The Board, by consensus, agreed with that sentiment. D. Schneider asked that the issue be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjourn

M. Frier made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. It was seconded by J. Brown and passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

Approved on: October 23, 2017