

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board & Village Trustees
November 6, 2017
Steele Community Room ~ 28 North Main Street

Present: D. Schneider, M. Metayer, J. Brown and M. Frier, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, L. Sayah and N. Sherman, Village Trustees; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; B. Farr, Long Term Community Recovery Director; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; M. Hughes, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Alyssa Johnson, Linda Parks, Paul O’Kane, Frank Balco, Theresa Wood, Everett Coffey, Eileen Peltier, Karen Nevin, Alec Tuscany, Gary Dillon.

The meeting of both Boards was called to order at 7:04pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Metayer made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Metayer made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, including the minutes of the October 23rd meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

E. Coffey stated that RW has done great things in the community and that he would like them to provide money towards gravestones in the cemetery that need restoration, versus spending money on a replacement fence by the roundabout.

JOINT BUSINESS

Consider Draft Town & Village of Waterbury Hazard Mitigation Plan

B. Farr stated that the Floodplain Management Working Group has been working on the plan for over a year. It has to be submitted to FEMA every five years and this is the year it is due. She distributed a summary that hits on the highlights of the plan and reviewed vulnerabilities that are of highest concern. B. Farr asked the Select Board and Trustees to consider authorizing the document to be sent to Vermont Emergency Management and then forwarded to FEMA for their review and approval, at which point it be returned to Waterbury for a formal adoption by the Boards.

M. Metayer made a motion to authorize the submission of the Waterbury Town (and Village) Hazard Mitigation Plan dated November 6, 2017 and Appendix to Vermont Emergency Management for their review and subsequent submission to FEMA for their review and approval. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

L. Sayah made a motion to authorize the submission of the Waterbury (Town and) Village Hazard Mitigation Plan dated November 6, 2017 and Appendix to Vermont Emergency Management for their review and subsequent submission to FEMA for their review and approval. The motion was seconded by N. Sherman and passed unanimously.

Downstreet Housing & Community Development

Eileen Peltier was present to ask the Boards to consider assignments of interests concerning the Green Mountain Seminary Housing Limited Partnership (Town) and Stimson Graves Limited Partnership (Village). Downstreet Housing and Community Development & CLCVT Ventures will serve as the general partner, formerly shared by the non-profit Housing Vermont. She asked the Boards to consider resolutions to let Housing Vermont step out of the agreements.

J. Brown made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the Consent to Assignment of General Partner and Limited Partner Interests for the Green Mountain Seminary Housing Limited Partnership. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

N. Sherman made a motion authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the Consent to Assignment of General Partner and Limited Partner Interests for the Stimson and Graves Housing Limited Partnership. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

REVITALIZING WATERBURY

Community Meeting

K. Nevin distributed information on a Revitalizing Waterbury Community Summit proposed for January 6th. The proposal is to conduct an event that will allow RW to gather information community-wide that will help to develop a strategic plan. RW would like input from the Boards, Town employees, local business owners, residents, non-profits, students, seniors, families, etc.

Budget - 2018

K. Nevin distributed 2018 financial requests and recommendations for RW. The request is level funded from that of last year. RW is requesting a total of \$17,000 for general operations for FY2018, of which \$5,000 will be used to continue to support the Brand Stewardship strategy.

In 2018, RW will have a strong focus on Main Street Reconstruction. They are requesting \$51,300 for the support of the economic development services for the full year. In addition, RW recommends \$5,000 for the Planning Department 'beautification' line item. RW will submit a complete 2017 report to the Town in early January.

An edit was made to the letter to increase the amount to economic development services to \$51,600 due to an oversight.

Police Services Study Committee

M. Metayer recognized members of the Police Services Study Committee. He first reviewed the poll results from public information meetings (see attached). The respondents supported the establishment of a town-wide community police department. They also supported the concept of a VSP resident trooper contract. A majority of the respondents supported implementing a local option tax to minimize the impact on the property tax burden.

M. Metayer reviewed the results of the online survey (see attached). There were 370 responses, of which over 91% were residents of Waterbury.

The committee made the following recommendations:

- 1.) Establish a town-wide community police service
- 2.) Use the VSP Resident Trooper option during the developmental phase of a community police department
- 3.) Initiate steps to explore a local option tax to mitigate property tax share

M. Metayer then reviewed costs and details of the recommendations (see attached).

L. Parks asked why the survey participant count was considered a good sampling. P. O'Kane responded that Survey Monkey provides information on statistical significance.

On behalf of the Trustees, P. H. Flanders thanked the committee for all of their hard work.

W. Shepeluk stated that to fund the full community police force, it would cost an additional 10 cents on the municipal tax rate. It would be a large increase for Town residents, but nominal change for Village taxpayers.

F. Balco expressed concern about some of the numbers and asked if they were low. He asked if a force the size proposed could cover all the area that needs to be covered. M. Metayer responded that the areas of most concern are the high density areas, like the Village. The committee looked at other communities of the same population and geographic area.

M. Frier expressed concerns about the costs of the recommendations. He asked if there are other options to contract services during the three-year transition that might be less expensive, and expressed concern that people will vote against the recommendations based on price. M. Metayer responded that the staffing can be assessed year by year.

M. Frier asked if a Special Town Meeting should be called if the direction is to institute a Town wide department and get the State Police on board. A discussion can be held at Town Meeting with regard to hiring a Chief. W. Shepeluk responded that the Town can enter into a contract with the VSP without having a Town Meeting.

T. Wood asked about process and next steps. She thought it not well advised to contract VSP services without voter approval. She questioned the need for 24/7 coverage by the community police department. She also questioned hiring a chief who will spend a full year developing a police department.

F. Balco asked what the contingency is if the recommendations are turned down. W. Shepeluk stated that the VSP will have the responsibility for the whole Town starting January 1, 2018.

Discussion continued as to how to move forward, especially with regard to voter approval. W. Shepeluk suggested obtaining voter approval to enter into an agreement with VSP with the understanding it would be a year-long contract starting in July 2018.

M. Frier asked that the overlap he perceives between VSP resident troopers and attaining a town-wide department be reviewed.

P. O'Kane pointed out that there will be an increase in VSP call volume with no additional coverage after January 1st. He noted that of the communities that were studied, Waterbury has spent the least on policing and has the highest grand list. M. Frier reiterated his concern that the focus will be price versus the need for police coverage. The process of instituting a local options tax was discussed.

Discussion continued about hiring a Police Chief and their interaction with a community advisory committee to determine the type of policing, getting newly trained officers up to speed, and what services VSP resident troopers would provide.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Third-quarter Financial Statements 2018 Budget - Preliminary Discussion

Due to the time, these items were passed over until the next meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: November 20, 2017