

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 22nd, 2018
Steele Community Room ~ 28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, D. Schneider, M. Metayer, J. Brown, M. Frier, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; W. Woodruff, Public Works Director; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: M. Hughes, Waterbury Record.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

J. Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of a discussion about the Special Town Meeting tomorrow evening. The motion was seconded by M. Metayer and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, including the minutes of the January 15th meeting and a liquor license for Pete's Greens. The motion was seconded by M. Frier. C. Viens asked that the January 15th minutes reflect that he abstained from the proclamation vote because of his disgust of things that are happening in Washington. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

General Fund Budget

W. Shepeluk previously distributed the general fund budget and narrative. W. Shepeluk reviewed the additional requests for funding under the Special Articles, and some other changes in the numbers since the budget was distributed earlier.

W. Shepeluk reviewed some of the sources of the general fund revenues, as shown in the budget. He then reviewed the general fund expenses, with detail included in the narrative. He reviewed the Fire Department budget that changed slightly since the last meeting, as well as the Parks budget and Planning Department budget.

M. Frier asked about the procedure for Special Articles. W. Shepeluk explained that if the request is new or there is an increase in funding requested, the organization needs to submit a petition. Special articles less than \$2,000 are included in one article on the warning, and new articles and those \$2,000 or more are in separate articles on the warning.

W. Shepeluk reviewed the Highway fund budget revenues and expenses. If the budget is adopted as currently presented, the tax rate will be 43.27 cents compared to 45 cents last year. It assumes a 1.5% increase in the grand list.

Highway CIP Budgets

A brief discussion was held about the playground at Hope Davey field. It will be discussed under the Recreation CIP next week.

W. Shepeluk distributed the Highway CIP Budgets, including highway infrastructure, highway vehicles, and fire vehicles. Under highway infrastructure, there is \$550,000 budgeted for bridge improvements (the bridge by the roundabout), and \$135,000 budgeted for culvert improvements. The Town tried to get the bridge improvements included in the roundabout project and Route 100 project but was unsuccessful.

Discussion continued about projects under the CIP. W. Shepeluk stated that it will be difficult to keep the tax rate at 45 cents and get these projects completed. The Town is at its capacity in terms of borrowing. It still remains to be seen what will happen with regard to funding police services, which would add another 2.4 cents to the tax rate.

W. Shepeluk asked for the opinion of the Board as to whether the bridge improvements should be done this year. There is a possibility of receiving a grant for \$175,000, but this is unknown. M. Frier asked what the urgency was in replacing the bridge, when the lifespan is 7 to 12 years, and debt will fall off the books in a few years. M. Metayer asked if repair work needed to be done in the meantime and the response was that repairs would need to be done in the near term. Discussion continued as to when the project should be done and whether it should happen before or after the Main Street project. Staff recommends doing the bridge improvements this year.

J. Brown asked to see a paving plan at a future meeting. W. Shepeluk stated that the Board has discussed a paving plan but that staff needs a commitment from the Board as to how much they are willing to fund road projects each year. W. Woodruff reviewed several other projects that could be done if the bridge improvements are not done this year. A discussion was held with regard to future work that will have to be done on the Stowe Street Bridge.

W. Shepeluk will rework the CIP for next week under two scenarios – with and without the bridge improvements this year.

By consensus, the Board wants to see a 45 cent tax rate with the police expense included.

Recreation CIP Budgets

This was passed over until next week.

Special Town Meeting Process – January 23rd

Jeff Kilgore will moderate the meeting. He will open the meeting, introduce the Board and read the article. Hopefully, he will then let the Board put a motion on the table, with a second at which point discussion will follow. M. Frier feels there should be some discussion tomorrow evening about where the Board is with the budget. W. Shepeluk stated it will be best if the Select Board takes the lead.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: January 29, 2018