

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 29th, 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; D. Fowler, Recreation Director; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: M. Hughes, Waterbury Record; Kris Delorme, Bill Minter, Alec Brecher, D. DeSanto.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

D. Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by M. Metayer. M. Frier asked to add a discussion about Winterfest. The motion to approve the agenda as amended passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Metayer made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, including the minutes of the January 22nd meeting and January 23rd Special Town Meeting; and liquor licenses for Best Western Plus, Kinney Drugs, and Billings Mobil. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

WINTERFEST DISCUSSION

The Town expressed concerns about Winterfest opening ceremonies, which included a vehicle parade and the distribution of jello shots. A member of the committee was explicitly told at the January 15th Select Board meeting that the opening events should be family friendly and no substances were allowed. A. Brecher was present and stated that he has been part of the Winterfest organizing committee since its inception. He was in charge of the procession on the opening evening, and organized the jello shots and confetti during the procession from the GMCR café to Anderson Field. He also asked Sun Common to provide the music. He took responsibility for any misjudgments that were made that evening.

C. Viens stated there were clear violations as to what the Board requested for that evening, and that now the Board is in a precarious position. A. Brecher asked that the Board consider the good natured events of Winterfest. C. Viens stated that if alcohol is considered during an event, the Board needs to be made aware and notified. D. Schneider stated that the bonfire is a family event and had concerns about what happened at Anderson Field. Jello shots were distributed until the Recreation Director asked that they be put away.

W. Shepeluk stated that one issue concerns the use of alcohol on public properties, the distribution of such, and state laws that are violated. The other issue involves proper notice to the Town. M. Frier asked if there were rules around alcohol consumption on Town property. W. Shepeluk noted that it is stated that there is to be no consumption of alcohol in Park Rules and organizations can seek permission from the Board. There are also State laws with regard to open consumption of alcohol.

B. Minter apologized to the Board, and it was clear to him that it was intended to be a family event. He apologized to D. Fowler as well, and recognized that the intent was not to disrespect anyone. He stated he would have preferred to have had this discussion in a different setting.

W. Shepeluk stated that staff is not considering cancelling or postponing any events this year. A meeting will follow and recommendations can be made to the Board about future processes and procedures with regard to Winterfest. J. Brown stated that the Sponsors expect that the event will be run well.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Library Budget

W. Shepeluk previously emailed budget information to the Board and reviewed the Library budget with D. DeSanto, Chair of the Library Commission, present. The total budget is 7.5% higher than that of last year. The amount of taxes to be raised is 2.77% higher than that of last year. W. Shepeluk recommended that the Board accept the budget and present it to the voters.

D. Schneider asked about the increase in the book line item. D. DeSanto stated that line item had been trimmed after the flood and is now getting back to a former level.

Recreation and Fire Station CIP Budgets

W. Shepeluk reviewed the Recreation CIP budget. The proposal for spending is to upgrade the playground at Hope Davey field. Funding is included for some work in the pool building for improvements to bathroom facilities.

W. Shepeluk briefly reviewed the Fire Station CIP budget.

Highway CIP Budgets

W. Shepeluk presented and reviewed two options for the Highway and Fire Vehicle CIP budgets. They differ as to whether or not the Board decides to approve the bridge improvements by the roundabout. He stated that both proposals are very ambitious. Other potential bridge projects were discussed.

D. Schneider stated he was in favor of the bridgework by the roundabout only if the \$175,000 grant is received, which is unknown at this point in time. If the grant is not received, it makes sense to postpone the project. If the bridge is not done, two smaller bridges on Guptil Road can be done at less expense.

M. Frier stated he cannot support spending money on a bridge that still has a 7 to 12 year lifespan, unless the grant funding is awarded, and asked how grants might be awarded in the future. Discussion on the Highway CIP budget continued. W. Shepeluk stated that a reasonable case could be made to borrow money for the bridge project. If the bridge is not done, other road projects can be done including McNeil Road, Loomis Hill, Wisell Mountain, Armory Ave, Armory Drive, Swasey Court, and several other small projects. By consensus, the Board decided to postpone the bridgework and put funding into additional paving projects.

D. Schneider asked who makes the decision to pave a dirt road, like McNeil Road. W. Shepeluk stated that he has received several complaints about the road and there is a heavy business presence which causes a lot of maintenance issues for the Highway Department. The Select Board ultimately makes the decision.

Finalize Budget

W. Shepeluk previously distributed the operating fund budget, with changes as discussed at previous meetings, and including funding for police services. The budget reflects a 45 cent tax rate, equivalent to that of last year and assumes collection of some additional delinquent taxes.

M. Frier made a motion to approve the operating budget as proposed and adjusting CIP budgets as discussed. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

Amendment to Contract for Zoning Bylaw Rewrite

S. Lotspeich has recommended that the amendment to the contract for the Zoning Bylaw rewrite be approved. The amendment is to approve an extension to the contract to April 30th. J. Brown made a motion to authorize the Manager to sign the amendment for professional services. The motion was seconded by M. Metayer and passed unanimously.

Finalize Budget (revisited)

W. Shepeluk distributed information on reserve funds and gave a brief overview.

REVIEW AND SIGN WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

W. Shepeluk reviewed the Warning for the Annual Town Meeting. He reviewed Article 7 which asks the voters permission to transfer the assets of the Calkins Fund to the Community Action Service Team. Gains from this fund have been transferred to the Good Neighbor Fund over the years and it was suggested shortly after last year's Annual Meeting that the entire fund be turned over. By consensus, the Board agreed.

C. Lawrence explained that three organizations that were on the warning in years past did not submit a request for funding or a report. She asked the Board if these organizations should remain on the warning or be removed. By consensus, the Board decided to exclude those organizations that did not submit funding requests or reports. M. Frier made a motion to approve the Warning of the Annual Meeting of the Town of Waterbury on March 6, 2018. The motion was seconded by D. Schneider and passed unanimously.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: February 12, 2018