

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
May 20th, 2019
28 North Main Street

Present: C. Viens, M. Bard, M. Frier, N. Fish, J. Brown, Select Board Members; A. Imhoff, Orca Media; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner and W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager.

Public: J. O’Gorman, Waterbury Record; A. Johnson, Economic Development Director; L. Sayah, EFUD Commissioner; E. Gross, K. D’Angelo, M. Staskus, K. Belliveau, M. Koen, Planning Commission; A. Coffey, E. Coffey, and C. Koliba.

Chairperson Viens called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

M. Bard made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

M. Frier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. M. Bard seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

No member of the public had comments for the Board.

As the meeting was ahead of schedule the Board, prior to opening the scheduled public hearing on interim zoning by-laws, considered reports about police services. W. Shepeluk distributed and discussed with Board reports about police activities for the months of March and April 2019, as well as for the period July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019. Board members expressed their satisfaction with the contracted police services through the Vermont State Police. C. Viens asked when the State Troopers would be next meeting with the general public to answer questions and receive information. The date was not known, but W. Shepeluk stated that he would find out and then share the date and time with the Board.

C. Viens recessed the Select Board meeting at 7:20pm and opened the Public Hearing for Draft Interim Sign By-law Amendments as scheduled. See above list of public attendees.

S. Lotspeich, Community Planner, presented the draft by-law to the Board and to the public. He explained their purpose was to allow businesses impacted by Main Street Reconstruction to install additional signage without the burden of the permit process. K. Belliveau, Planning Commission Chairperson, spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission to express the Commission’s support of the interim by-law. A. Johnson, Economic Development Director for Revitalizing Waterbury and representing the business community, expressed support for the interim by-law. She thanked the Planning Commission and municipal staff for taking up this issue and completing it in a timely fashion, given the heavy workload. Mark Frier recused himself for the purposes of discussing and voting on the by-law as a member of the Board as the by-law benefitted him as a business person in the construction zone. Speaking for himself, he said “the by-law has the potential to be an important tool” for businesses during the construction project. M. Bard moved to close the public hearing and J. Brown seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the hearing closed at 7:34 p.m. J. Brown moved to approve the interim by-law as presented. M. Bard seconded the motion. It passed 4-0, with M. Frier abstaining.

C. Koliba appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of erecting a memorial bench and planting an heirloom tree in the Dascomb Rowe Recreation Field in memory of Eli Brookens, a Waterbury teen killed tragically along with 4 other students in 2016. There was some discussion about the location and specifications of the memorial. M. Frier made a motion to approve the memorial as requested, subject to an approval by staff of the design and location. M. Bard seconded the motion. During further discussion, M. Bard indicated his support for this request but asked that some criterion be developed to be used by the

Board to decide which persons may deserve to be honored with a memorial. The rest of the Board concurred. The original motion passed 5-0.

The Board took up the “Manager’s Items”. W. Shepeluk updated the Board on the progress through the legislative process of bills intended to regulate and tax the sale of cannabis. It appears that a bill to allow for the retail sale of marijuana will not be passed in the 2019 legislative session. There are indications, according to VLCT, that a bill is likely to appear next year and that for now, the legislature is leaning toward allowing for retail sale in all Vermont cities and towns, unless the voters of a particular town “opt out”. This stance is very broad and will force opponents of retail sales in particular towns to work harder than would be necessary if towns had to “opt in” for retail sales. W. Shepeluk recommended seeking public comment sooner rather than later if there was any desire to prevent retail sales of cannabis products in Waterbury. The Board took no action.

The Select Board considered the compensation of the Municipal Manager as his pay was not changed in April when other municipal employees received pay raises. C. Viens invited Lefty Sayah, a Commissioner of and spokesperson for the Edward Farrar Utility District to join the Board at the table. The Board asked the Manager a number of questions, specifically focusing on the municipally owned car that is provided to him and retirement plan that he participates in. M. Frier suggested that as the current municipal car was 11 years old that some consideration should be given to leasing a new vehicle if the current one needed to be sold or traded. After discussion, it was suggested that a raise in salary of 2% was reasonable. L. Sayah stated that 2% was in line with the thoughts of the EFUD Commissioners and he stated it was their hope that the current municipal car could be kept for one more year, at least. M. Frier asked if the utility district paid for any of the Manager’s compensation. W. Shepeluk answered in the affirmative and he described that the district is paying the town \$98,000 in 2019 to pay its share of the compensation for all the town administrative employees, including the Manager. M. Frier made a motion, that was seconded by M. Bard, to increase the base salary of the Manager by 2%, retroactive to the week ending April 6, 2019, when wage and salary increases for other employees took effect. The motion passed 5-0.

M. Frier moved to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed without dissent.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

Approved on: June 4, 2019