

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
TOWN OF WATERBURY  
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

*Due to the potential of a school closure because of a winter storm, the meeting location was moved to the Steele Community Room at 28 North Main Street. The school was closed on November 12, 2019.*

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

The inhabitants of the Town of Waterbury who are legal voters in Town Meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Thatcher Brook Primary School gymnasium at 47 Stowe Street in the Town of Waterbury on Tuesday November 12<sup>th</sup> at seven o'clock in the evening to act on the following matters:

G. Dillon made a motion to take a recess until 7:20pm due to the change in meeting location. The motion did not require a second and passed unanimously. The moderator reconvened the meeting at 7:21pm and reviewed the rules of procedure.

**ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to borrow by note, for a period not to exceed five (5) years, a sum not to exceed One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the purpose of acquiring two (2) replacement fire trucks through direct purchase or through reimbursement of purchase advances from the Town's Capital Reserve Fund?**

M. Frier made a motion to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$950,000 by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to be used to finance the purchase of one fire pump truck and to finance the reimbursement of the Town's Capital Improvement Fund, from which the Select Board voted to spend up to \$465,000 in advance of voter authorization for the emergency purchase of a fire pump truck, and that such authority to borrow for these trucks be valid for the period of time as authorized by the "Declaration of Official Intent of the Town of Waterbury to Reimburse Certain Expenditures From Proceeds of Indebtedness" approved by the Select Board on October 10, 2019. The motion was seconded.

C. Viens explained that the Fire Department has let the Board know that two fire pump trucks have reached the end of their life expectancy and are in need of repair. G. Dillon stated that the two trucks were purchased 20 years ago. A couple of months ago, during regular maintenance, it was determined that there were serious engine problems on one of the trucks. The tank on the second truck leaks. G. Dillon stated that the department has been planning to replace the trucks for a year and a half. He then reviewed cost figures and stated that trucks ordered may be demo trucks at a significantly reduced price. The savings for both trucks will be approximately \$70,000.

Questions were asked as to what type of tank is on the trucks and how often the trucks are used. G. Dillon stated that multiple trucks are used on most calls. The department has the ability to work on more than one incident at a time. W. Shepeluk pointed out that there are a total of three pump trucks. G. Dillon stated that Town would most likely try to sell the two trucks in need of repair.

W. Shepeluk distributed a spreadsheet of the Town of Waterbury Fire CIP and gave a brief history of the purchase of the two trucks and the merger of the Town and Village Fire Departments. If approved, the Select Board will have some time to decide whether or not to purchase the trucks. W. Shepeluk stated that he feels that the borrow can be \$900,000 versus the \$950,000 stated in the motion. He then brought attention to the Town of Waterbury Debt Service spreadsheet and reviewed some of the current debt, some of which has been paid off.

W. Shepeluk reviewed different scenarios of borrowing and associated tax rate increases with the worst case scenario being 3.25 cents. The hope is to refund the debt and pay it off over 20 years so that the tax rate increase will be a fraction of a penny. W. Shepeluk stated that \$2.3 million has been spent for fire

vehicles since 2010, and the Town has set aside \$1.1 million during that time frame in the fire CIP. W. Shepeluk stated that the debt is manageable and gave a further explanation of the CIP funds. W. Shepeluk explained that the decision to borrow will not be made right away, but one truck is being purchased this week for \$465,000 with funding from the fire CIP.

L. Wilder made a motion to limit debate. The motion to limit debate was passed by a two-thirds voice vote. The motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to spend up to \$110,000 to purchase a roadside mower for use by the Highway Department and to authorize the Select Board to borrow by note, for a period not to exceed five (5) years, a sum not to exceed \$110,000 for the purpose of financing said purchase.**

M. Frier made a motion to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$95,000 by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to be used to finance the purchase of a roadside mower to be used by the Town's Highway Department. The motion was seconded.

M. Frier explained that there is a used roadside mower that the Town has been leasing that is now available for purchase. W. Shepeluk stated that members of the Conservation Commission asked the Select Board to consider buying a mower. The Town currently rents a mower for two weeks per year at a cost of \$9,600 this year. The Conservation Commission would like the mower available throughout the season to prevent the spread of invasive species. W. Shepeluk stated that a new mower is approximately \$125,000. The Select Board will discuss the merits of new versus used if this motion is passed, or this motion can be amended. The expected lifespan is 10 to 15 years.

F. Wilder suggested that the Town purchase a new mower as leased mowers may experience some abuse. M. Hedges encouraged the Town to explore their options but really consider purchasing a mower. He thanked the Town of the great effort mowing this past season. Additional concern was expressed as to the number of hours this used machine has been in service. It was suggested to wait until Town Meeting day to make the decision and do some more research in the meantime. Discussion was held about leasing, purchasing used or purchasing new.

M. Raymond made a motion to amend the original motion and raise the amount from \$95,000 to up to \$125,000 to purchase a new mower and to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to that amount. The motion was seconded. It was suggested that the discussion take place at Town Meeting to do more market research in the meantime. M. Frier suggested that the Select Board get the authority to buy used or new and research the merits of each.

J. Kilgore made a procedural comment in that the original motion was amended to borrow up to \$125,000 to purchase a **new** roadside mower. The amendment cannot be amended to give the Board authority to look into a used mower. The amendment to the original motion to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$125,000 to be used to finance the purchase of a new roadside mower to be used by the highway department failed by a vote of 23 to 17.

S. Wells made a motion to amend the original motion to authorize the Select Board to borrow up to \$125,000 by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to be used to finance the purchase of a roadside mower to be used by the Town's Highway Department. The motion was seconded.

J. Grace made a motion to table the amendment to the motion until Town Meeting day. The motion was seconded. J. Grace stated that there is urgency around the purchase of fire trucks but that this item can wait. J. Sherman stated that the Select Board was elected to make decisions. K. Grace made a motion to call the question. The motion was seconded and passed by a two-thirds vote. The motion to table failed.

It was moved and seconded to call the question on the amendment to the motion. The motion to limit debate was passed by a two-thirds voice vote. The amendment to the motion passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 3: To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.**

There was no other business discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 2, 2019