

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
December 2nd, 2019
28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Frier, M. Bard and N. Fish, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Kathleen Daye, Duncan McDougall, Lucy Pagan, Janet Cote, Bill April, Faith Bieler, and Lawrence Dennis.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Frier made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the November 4th regular meeting and November 12th special town meeting. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Consider Request for Article on Town Meeting Warning on Climate Change

K. Daye was present and read a resolution that she would like warned as an article, as follows: Whereby the climate crisis is real and affects us in Waterbury, as in every part of the world; be it resolved that we will do everything in our power to preserve the earth for future generations by carefully weighing the effect on the environment in all our decisions and actions. K. Daye would like a discussion at Town Meeting on the critical issue of climate change. F. Bieler expressed concerns with the deterioration of the climate and the effect on the world, and stated that this is something that needs to be discussed. People need to take responsibility.

W. Shepeluk explained that the Select Board will need to decide whether they will put the article on the warning or will require a petition. This article is not asking for any funding. W. Shepeluk expressed concerns with the 'we' in the resolution as it is the Town of Waterbury. M. Bard feels a discussion is appropriate but perhaps should be done other 'Other Business' at Town Meeting as opposed to a binding resolution. W. Shepeluk expressed concern that the resolution is too broadly stated. He will be happy to work with the group on the wording of the resolution. K. Daye prefers that the discussion take place under an article, and expressed that the article can be reworded.

D. McDougall is in support of having some article to start the conversation. He does feel it is Town business and a serious issue that needs to be dealt with at the local level. M. Frier feels the wording can be redrafted and presented to the Board at a later date. M. Frier made a motion to include an article on climate change on the annual Town meeting warning and to redraft the wording. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Consider Contract with Redstart Resource Management for Preparation of Emerald Ash Borer Preparedness Plan

W. Shepeluk stated that there is \$2,200 in the budget to inventory and develop a plan for ash trees. The plan is intended to give the Town direction as to what to do. It was the hope that Hunger Mountain Forestry would develop the plan, but there is a conflict of interest as federal funds are being used and a member of Hunger Mountain Forestry is a town employee. Hunger Mountain Forestry recommended Redstart Resource Management for the project and they presented a quote in the amount of \$3,900. W. Shepeluk recommended the authorization of the contract for \$3,900, and to include an additional \$1,700 in next year's budget. M. Frier made a motion to accept the contract and authorize the Manager to sign. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

PILOT – Posting of Excess Payment

W. Shepeluk explained that the town receives a PILOT payment from the State each year. The PILOT payment this year was higher than that budgeted. W. Shepeluk reviewed the paving and recreation CIP's and recommended that the excess be placed in the recreation CIP as it is significantly over budget due to issues with the lights at Dac Rowe field. By consensus, the Board agreed to deposit the PILOT funds in excess of budget into the recreation CIP.

Consider Resolution Allowing Municipal Regulation of Cannabis

W. Shepeluk explained that VLCT has recommended that all towns adopt a Resolution Supporting Municipal Authority in a Commercial Cannabis System to allow for local control that they will present to Legislature early in the next session. The resolution is simply asking the Town to ask the State to have a say in our own communities as to whether retail establishments will be allowed. If the legislation is developed, it would be on the warning of a future town meeting. Concerns were expressed about the part of the resolution that the town support a local cannabis tax of five percent. It was suggested that this wording be removed. N. Fish made a motion to approve the resolution with the change. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously. The Manager will make the change and the Board will sign the resolution at their next meeting.

Consider Amending Purchase Order Requirements

The Board received a copy of proposed changes to the Purchasing Policy, changing the limit from \$500 to \$1,200 and another minor change in wording. M. Bard made a motion to approve the amended purchasing policy. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously. The policy will be effective on January 1, 2020.

Preliminary Discussion of 2020 Budget

W. Shepeluk asked the Board if they have any goals for the 2020 budget season. It is time to start thinking about it and perhaps have a discussion at the December 16th meeting. W. Shepeluk explained that level funding the budget is very difficult, but the Board may decide to try to keep the tax rate level. M. Frier stated that he prefer that the tax rate remain level. He also asked for a review of the road plan being worked on by the Town Engineer and Public Works Director. By consensus, the Board would like to have the tax rate remain level.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 16, 2019