

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 13th, 2020
28 North Main Street**

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

Public: G. Dillon, Fire Chief; K. Nevin, Revitalizing Waterbury; J. Grace, HUUSD Board Member.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

C. Viens asked to add a brief discussion about the HUUSD budget proposal. N. Fish made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Frier made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the January 6th meeting and a liquor license for Shaw's Beer and Wine. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

DISCUSS HUUSD PROPOSED BUDGET

C. Viens stated that he met with two Waterbury School Board Representatives over the weekend. The School Board is having a hard time reaching a resolution on which of the six budget options to choose. If the budget stays status quo, the tax rate for Waterbury would increase 7.1%. The lowest tax rate scenario is 2.8%. C. Viens would like the Select Board to draft a letter in support of option 6 that has the lowest tax rate increase. James Grace, School Board member, came to the meeting to answer questions. M. Frier asked J. Grace to explain the list of reductions to meet School Board directives. The School Board hopes to make a decision on the budget on Wednesday.

A discussion was held as to whether the Select Board should submit a letter to the School Board, and if so, to what affect in terms of budget option or percentage increase. W. Shepeluk stated it might be difficult to come up with a letter at this late date. It was discussed that the letter could request that the School Board choose a budget option that reduces expenses through consolidation and not program reductions. M. Frier suggested that the letter also express concerns about increased costs and affordability. M. Frier made a motion that the Manager draft a letter asking that the School Board consider a budget that reduces expenses through consolidation and also express concerns about affordability. M. Bard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Revitalizing Waterbury Funding Request

K. Nevin was present to present the funding request of Revitalizing Waterbury. She distributed RW's annual report and a three-year historical revenue comparison. The request is level funding from that of last year. The request includes \$17,000 of municipal funds, \$53,160 of municipal funds for the support of the Economic Development Director, and \$5,000 from the Planning Department 'Beautification' line item. K. Nevin stated that the 2020 budget is very conservative.

Fire Department Budget

G. Dillon was present to discuss the Fire Department budget. The budget was distributed over the weekend to the Board and proposes a 5% increase in expenses. G. Dillon explained that there is a proposed 50% increase in the new equipment line item because it includes replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. This item and several others will move to a rotating schedule of purchase. The building maintenance line item increased by 70% due to a new contract with Honeywell. There is also an increase in dispatching costs.

Planning Department Budget

S. Lotspeich was present to discuss the Planning Department budget that has a proposed increase of 3.5%. The budget, budget justification and the 2020 Planning Department Work Plan Update was previously distributed to the Board. S. Lotspeich reviewed the budget justification.

State Caring for Canopy Grant Application for Street Tree Planting

S. Lotspeich reviewed the grant request with the Board. The area of focus includes Winooski Street near the river, Dac Rowe field, Hope Cemetery and over by the Pilgrim 5 building. The amount of the grant is \$2,000 that will be matched with \$2,000 in cash for a total project budget of \$4,000. M. Frier made a motion to authorize the application of the State Caring for Canopy Grant of \$2,000 with a \$2,000 cash match. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

Other Budget Discussions

W. Shepeluk stated that the final budgets will be reviewed next Monday. The Library Commissioners have approved their budget and will come to the meeting next week. Last week the General Fund budget was discussed. W. Shepeluk then reviewed the Public Safety, Resource Management, Health & Social Services, and Debt Management Expense budgets.

Borrowing on the roadside mower and fire pump trucks was discussed. The Town may be able to borrow from itself to purchase the roadside mower. W. Shepeluk reviewed several of the fund balances.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: January 20, 2020