

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE TOWN OF WATERBURY
TO BE HELD MARCH 3rd, 2020**

The inhabitants of the Town of Waterbury who are legal voters in Town Meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet in the Thatcher Brook Primary School Gym at 47 Stowe Street at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon on March 3rd, 2020 to act on the following matters:

ARTICLE 1: To elect a Moderator to preside at the meetings of the Town whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year.

C. Viens made a motion to elect Jeff Kilgore to preside at the meetings of the Town whose term of office shall be for the ensuing year. The motion was seconded. There being no other nominations, Jeff Kilgore was elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by Australian ballot the following offices: Clerk for 1 year; Treasurer for 1 year; one Select Board member for 3 year term and two Select Board members for 1 year terms each; Lister for a 3 year term; Grand Juror for 1 year; Town Agent for a 1 year term; Library Commissioner for a 5 year term; and Cemetery Commissioner for a 5 year term.

ARTICLE 3: To elect by Australian ballot for the Harwood Unified Union School District a School Director for a 3 year term.

Note: The polls for voting by Australian ballot on Articles 2 and 3 will be open from seven o'clock in the forenoon to seven o'clock in the afternoon at Thatcher Brook Primary School at 47 Stowe Street.

The Moderator recognized Representatives Thomas Stevens and Theresa Wood who were present to give the residents a legislative update.

ARTICLE 4: To act upon the reports of the several Town Officers with the exception of claims for fees or compensation during 2019.

N. Fish made a motion to accept the reports of the several Town Officers as printed in the annual report, with the exception of claims for fees or compensation by town officers for services rendered during 2019. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

The Moderator recognized John Malter of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance. J. Malter gave an update of the Alliance's activities over the past year.

P. H. Flanders and C. Viens came forward to present the Keith Wallace Award.

P. H. Flanders made a motion to suspend the rules to present the Keith Wallace Award. The motion passed on unanimous consent. P. H. Flanders announced that the award is presented to Annie and Everett Coffey. Their daughter, Sally Dillon, was present to accept the award on their

behalf. P. H. Flanders described all of the various community volunteerism by both recipients since they moved to the community in 1962. P. H. Flanders moved the following resolution:

Resolution by the Town of Waterbury

Whereas Annie and Everett Coffey are recipients of the Keith Wallace Community Service Award at Town meeting March 3, 2020.

Whereas Annie and Everett were unable to attend and receive the award in person it is therefore resolved that the voters of Waterbury express their appreciation of Annie and Everett as worthy citizens for their life long contribution to the public health, welfare and prosperity of the citizens of Waterbury.

Further be it resolved that this resolution be remembered on the Town records and a copy presented to Annie and Everett by appropriate officials.

The resolution was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To act with respect to claims of Town Officers for their services during 2019.

W. Shepeluk made a motion to pay the claims of the Town Officers for their services rendered during 2019, as appears on page 8 of the Annual Report. Select Board Chair, \$1,450; Vice Chair, \$1,450; other Select Board members, \$1,200 each; Listers, \$500 each. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see what action the Town will take with reference to fixing the date of the tax warrant and to set a date or dates when taxes on such property shall become due and payable and to specify the time of acceptance, the method of delivery, and to see whether the same shall be paid with or without discount and to provide for interest and penalty on such taxes as are not paid when due.

M. Bard made a motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2020, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 14, 2020, and the second installment be due and payable on November 13, 2020, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 4:30pm on the due date, without discount and that interest be charged at the maximum allowed by statute, not to exceed one and one-half percent per month or portion thereof on each installment, and a late penalty of eight percent be charged as allowed by statute on taxes not paid when due.

The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters will authorize a sum of money to be expended from the capital funds for capital projects.

J. Brown made a motion to authorize the expenditure of \$2,281,230 for purchases of vehicles, capital improvements, building operations and the payments of debt identified in the town's capital improvement and building fund budgets and authorize the select board to borrow an

amount not to exceed \$300,000 to finance the expenditures for a period not to exceed 5 years on terms agreeable to the Select Board. The motion was seconded.

W. Shepeluk stated that the \$2,281,230 is explained on pages 21 and 39 of the Annual Town Report. He explained that some of the spending has already been approved, such as the roadside mower line item shown on page 36, and money has been expended on fire trucks as shown on page 37. W. Shepeluk explained that the \$300,000 of borrowing included in the motion has not yet been authorized. W. Shepeluk stated that there is a correction on page 21 in that Howard Avenue will be paved, not Hollow Road as shown.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8: To vote sums of money for necessary general government, highway, and library expenses, with the same to be expressed either in specific dollar amounts or as a rate or tax on the grand list.

M. Frier made a motion to approve for the Town of Waterbury sums of money for the interest of its inhabitants and for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, for laying out and repairing highways and other necessary expenses: for general expenses \$2,956,540, plus such sums approved in Articles 10 through 18 of the warning for this meeting; plus for highway expenses \$1,988,910; plus for library expenses \$509,725; plus for expenditures and transfers of designated reserve and special purpose funds, estimated at \$299,560 for which no additional taxes are necessary; and that the Select Board be authorized to issue bills for property taxes with a total municipal tax rate on the Town's Grand List not to exceed \$.55/\$100 of property valuation for calendar year 2020. The motion was seconded.

C. Viens spoke to the motion. He stated that with the purchase of two fire trucks, additional borrowing is difficult. It has been the Board's desire to really think about borrowing necessary to keep up the infrastructure. The Board decided to ask the voters to increase the tax rate to help offset some of the borrowing. C. Viens then explained the conditions of some of the roads in Town.

J. Grace asked a question about the tax revenue shown in the budget and asked why it is less than that of last year. W. Shepeluk pointed the residents' attention to page 22 that shows the tax revenues. He also explained the delinquent tax revenue on page 18. More taxes will be billed in the Highway while the taxes in the Library fund remains the same as 2019. When all funds are added together, more taxes will be collected.

C. Shaw asked how long the Main Street reconstruction project would last. W. Shepeluk stated that the project is to last from April of 2019 to June of 2021. Construction will start again in April and last for as long as weather permits. The time frame for 2021 is from April through June 30, 2021. W. Shepeluk stated that 2020 will be a difficult year and asked the residents for their patience and understanding.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will direct the Select Board to establish a committee to assist elected municipal officials and staff to implement the Energy Plan for the Town of Waterbury, which was adopted by the Select Board on December 3, 2018.

D. Luce made a motion that the Town direct the Select Board to establish a committee to assist elected municipal officials and staff to implement the Energy Plan for the Town of Waterbury, which was adopted by the Select Board on December 3, 2018. D. Luce stated that the Energy Plan is located on the Town's website. The motion was seconded. D. McDougall of LEAP came forward and spoke to the motion. He stated that the State, the Governor and the Town support the comprehensive energy plan. The motion asks that a committee be formed to implement the plan.

S. Lotspeich stated that the Planning Commission worked very hard with Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on the Energy Plan and that the formation of a committee is a great idea to move the plan into action.

C. Viens asked the residents if they believe that climate change is a concern. The residents responded in a resounding yes by raising their hands. He stated that our carbon footprint and pollutants are a huge problem. C. Viens stated that he has been pushing for regulation of salt and sand use on Town roads. He asked for a show of hands as to the residents' acceptance of regulating the use of salt and sand. The residents were divided, by a show of hands.

The motion passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will, during 2020, appropriate:

- \$1,000 for support of the Capstone Community Action
- \$1,250 for support of Central Vermont Council on Aging
- \$100 for the support of the Central Vermont State Police Advisory Board
- \$1,375 for support of Circle
- \$500 for support of Community Harvest of Central Vermont
- \$1,500 for support of Downstreet Housing and Community Development
- \$500 for support of Everybody Wins! Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of the Family Center of Washington County
- \$500 for support of the Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
- \$250 for support of OUR House of Central Vermont
- \$1,000 for support of the People's Health and Wellness Clinic
- \$1,000 for support of Project Independence
- \$1,000 for support of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.)
- \$200 for support of the Sexual Assault Crisis Team
- \$500 for support of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually impaired
- \$600 for support of the Vermont Center for Independent Living
- \$1,500 for support of Washington County Youth Service Bureau, Inc.
- \$800 for support of the Waterbury Community Band

N. Fish made a motion that the Town appropriate said amounts as read by the Moderator in Article 10. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,000 for support of the American Red Cross during 2020.

A. Cawley a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,000 for support of the American Red Cross during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town appropriate \$2,000 for support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2020.

J. Willard made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,000 for support of Central Vermont Adult Basic Education during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury (“Children’s Room”) during 2020.

S. Lotspeich made a motion that the Town appropriate \$4,000 for support of the Early Education Resource Center of Waterbury (“Children’s Room”) during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town appropriate \$7,323 for support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2020.

S. Lotspeich made a motion that the Town appropriate \$7,323 for support of Green Mountain Transit Agency during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will appropriate \$3,000 for support of Washington County Mental Health during 2020.

D. Luce made a motion that the Town appropriate \$3,000 for support of Washington County Mental Health during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will appropriate \$20,000 for the Waterbury Area Senior Association in addition to the amount included in the General Fund Budget for such purpose during 2020.

P. Walbridge made a motion that the Town appropriate \$20,000 for the Waterbury Area Senior Association in addition to the amount included in the General Fund Budget for such purpose during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,500 for support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2020.

D. McDougall made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,500 for support of Waterbury LEAP (Local Energy Action Partnership) during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will appropriate \$2,500 for the support of the Waterbury Area MakerSphere Cooperative to support the creative community for residents of the Town during 2020.

M. K. Monley made a motion that the Town appropriate \$2,500 for the support of the Waterbury Area MakerSphere Cooperative to support the creative community for residents of the Town during 2020. The motion was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 19: To do any other business that may legally come before the Board during the meeting.

W. Shepeluk asked if the voters would allow the Lantern Parade to be a Town sponsored event. Run privately, insurance costs \$400 to \$500 dollars. If the Town sponsors the parade, the liability insurance will be covered. A non binding resolution that the Town sponsor the event was approved.

J. Malter asked why funding for Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice was not included in the special articles. W. Shepeluk explained that the funding is included in the General Fund budget.

R. Boyle stated that the chatter during Town Meeting was disruptive to the assembly. He expressed hope that it can be improved in the future. R. Boyle stated that the Center for Disease Control has put out guidance that the community, individuals and businesses need to start preparing for a Coronavirus outbreak and asked if the Board has discussed this problem. B. Maier, Town Health Officer responded that she and the Emergency Management Director have been in communication with each other and the Department of Health.

R. Patterson asked about page 12 of the Town Manager's report with a question on the increase in workers compensation. He also asked about the lighting project costs at the ball field and whether there were inspections done. W. Shepeluk stated that there were injuries in the Public Works Departments and there was a claim from a Library employee. The Town does have insurance through VLCT and our facilities are inspected. With regard to the lighting, inspections did occur and codes change over time. The project was to upgrade the electrical boxes. When the project commenced, it was discovered that the buried lines were not properly enclosed. The issue had to be corrected and the project went over budget.


D. Schneider congratulated and thanked Jane Brown for her 5 years of service to the Select Board.

M. Bard thanked the community of Waterbury as 2019 was a challenging year for his family. He appreciated the Board and community members support and well wishes.

A. Lewis asked for a response as to how everyone enjoyed the Christmas decorations sponsored by Revitalizing Waterbury. The residents responded well.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:29am.

Respectfully submitted,


Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk


Chris Viers, Chair


Jeffrey Kilgore, Moderator

Received and recorded this 11th day of March 2020