

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
September 21st, 2020
28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Bard, K. Martin, M. Frier and N. Fish, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; K. Petrovic, Utility Billing Clerk, and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Public: Cheryl Casey, Eric & Francine Chittenden, ORCA Media.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

M Bard asked to add a conversation about emergency preparedness. M. Frier made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

K. Martin made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the September 8th meeting. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

Eric & Francine Chittenden joined the meeting as Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir and are interested in the second agenda item.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Designate Voting Delegate for VLCT Annual Meeting

The VLCT Annual Town Fair is on September 30th and the Town needs to appoint a voting delegate. K. Martin made a motion to appoint William Shepeluk as the voting delegate to the Annual Town Fair. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

Discuss Waiver of Petitions for Annual Meeting Funding Requests

W. Shepeluk explained that the Town has always required new organizations asking for funding at Town Meeting to submit a petition. E. Chittenden stated that there was a plan in place to get signatures, however the COVID situation made it very difficult. He explained how the Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir support the Reservoir. W. Shepeluk stated that the Town works with this organization by way of applying for a grant for the Friends and that the grant application takes some staff time. The grant pays for greeters to talk about invasive species. The organization had planned to ask for \$1,000 in funding. W. Shepeluk stated that the program is worthwhile and that the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation realize what a resource the reservoir is. W. Shepeluk stated concern about setting a precedent that no petitions are needed because where would the Board draw the line. He suggested that the Board consider placing the funding in the general government budget if they feel that this is a worthwhile organization to support. M. Bard expressed concern about special articles in general and suggested that the funding come from additional state grant money. He asked what the Friends have done for fund raising. E. Chittenden stated that the Linthilac Foundation has been supportive. C. Viens expressed surprise that the State doesn't do more in terms of funding some of the programs. W. Shepeluk stated that the Town spends about \$70,000 on special articles, most organization of which are not in Waterbury. Discussion continued about the concept of placing the line item in the budget and the Friends doing some of their own fundraising. The funding will be discussed at budget time in a couple of months.

Discussion on Emergency Preparedness

M. Bard expressed interest in filling the Emergency Management Director roll when Barb Farr steps down. He feels the Select Board needs to be more involved with emergency preparedness. M. Bard stated that there is a conference coming up on September 29 and 30. W. Shepeluk stated that the position is a volunteer one.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Budgets and Investments Update

W. Shepeluk previously distributed financial statements and information on investments. He reviewed the general fund, the highway fund and the library fund. The Town is through 67% of the year and expenses are far below that percentage. The revenue stream continues to remain a question mark. Town Clerk and Zoning revenues are up, but it is unknown what the revenues will be from the State. W. Shepeluk reviewed the balance sheet for the general government fund and stated people are paying their taxes even though the due date was pushed to November. He does expect a greater than normal delinquency rate. The Recreation programs have done well in terms of net expenses. The program received a \$33,000 grant from the State. W. Shepeluk briefly reviewed the highway and library funds.

W. Shepeluk discussed the Town's investment portfolio and some actions he has taken as of late. He will pay attention to what is going on in the market and plan accordingly. There may be volatility in the market at least through the election and perhaps the end of the year.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: October 19, 2020