

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
28 North Main Street**

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

Public: Lt. David White, VSP; Karen Nevin and Alyssa Johnson, Revitalizing Waterbury; George Lester, Candidate for DRB Alternate; Marc Metayer; ORCA Media; and Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout.

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

**APPROVE AGENDA**

W. Shepeluk asked to add a request from the Green Mountain Roamers Snowmobile Club for permission to ride on Town Highways 8, 22, and 55. N. Fish made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

M. Bard made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC**

There was no public comment.

**SELECT BOARD ITEMS**

**Revitalizing Waterbury MOU Update**

W. Shepeluk explained that the Town and RW have been operating under an MOU to fund the Economic Development Director. The Board had agreed to let RW know by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year whether or not the position would be funded. W. Shepeluk stated that from his perspective, it is wise to continue into 2021 due to the Main Street construction project. If the Board agrees, money will be placed into the budget for approval at Town Meeting. K. Nevin was present and explained that the MOU was cleaned up to omit references to the Village of Waterbury. It also now states the position rolls over each year until one of the parties no longer wishes to renew the MOU. K. Nevin stated that RW has focused on Main Street construction over the past 3 years and it has been very helpful to have the Economic Development Director support area businesses. M. Bard made a motion to approve the MOU and authorize the Municipal Manager to sign. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

**Vermont State Police – Lt. White Status Report**

W. Shepeluk stated that Lt. White is the supervisor of the two Waterbury resident troopers. W. Shepeluk publicly thanked M. Metayer for putting the monthly statistics in a graphic format. Lt. White was present to give a status update. He stated that the VSP is in year two of the contract with the Town and it is going very well. Lt. White explained some of the statistics between year 1 and year 2. Statistics are posted on the Town website. Lt. White stated that the COVID pandemic put a damper on activities during the early months of the pandemic. The VSP will face a challenge moving into 2021 as the daytime trooper is a member of the National Guard and may be deployed. M. Frier asked how the concerns with residents on speeding are being addressed. W. Shepeluk stated the residents from Little River Road, Stowe Street and Blush Hill attended some of the Select Board Zoom meetings. He stated the State Police were very proactive especially with regard to the concerns on Little River Road. Radar feedback signs have been utilized and are being moved around the community. The Town is receiving far fewer complaints. W. Shepeluk stated that he communicates with the VSP through Lt. White and he has been very responsive. C. Viens asked how speed patrols are handled and

whether a weekday could be traded for a weekend day. Lt. White stated the VSP directs attention to specific concerns or time of day, otherwise the troopers are out patrolling. In terms of switching the days, Lt. White stated he would have to look at the contract to see if there is any leniency but would be in favor of the concept. W. Shepeluk stated that he would also take a look at the contract. W. Shepeluk stated that the contract expires on June 30, 2021 and the Board will be reaching out to the VSP to see if the contract can be extended. M. Bard asked about drug arrests. Lt. White stated that there were 20 arrests in year one, and there are much smaller communities that have larger problems than Waterbury. M. Metayer explained that the graphics show the type of calls and services, and how much is being provided by resident troopers versus troopers from the Middlesex Barracks. The presence of the resident troopers in Waterbury has been a relief to the other troopers out of the barracks. The model for Waterbury has been well received and other Towns may be interested. The Board agreed that they will be pursuing another contract with the State Police.

### **Interview for DRB Alternate for Term Ending April 30, 2021**

George Lester was present to express interest in serving as a Development Review Board Alternate. He stated that he is an environmental engineer and participating on the Board is a way to give back to the community. S. Lotspeich stated that alternates are very active on the Board. M. Frier made a motion to appoint G. Lester as an alternate to the DRB for a term ending April 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

### **Consider a Grant Application to the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program for Roadside Ash Removal and Tree Planting**

S. Lotspeich previously sent out materials to the Board. He has been working on an approach to the emerald ash borer that has been found in several communities in Vermont. There are a lot of ash trees in wooded roadside area, but only about 5% of the tree population is ash. The State has a grant program to address the removal of roadside ash trees. There are two parts to the grant. The first part is the removal of roadside ash, and the other is a complementary planting of trees. The Tree Committee has been very active and working with the Cemetery Commissioners to do a planting in Hope Cemetery where old shrubs were removed. The grant amount is \$6,500 through the State Department of Forest Parks and Recreation. The grant requires an equal match that is currently in the budget. A \$2,000 private unrestricted donation was made to the cemetery fund as well. The scope of the project was discussed. M. Bard made a motion to commit to the \$6,500 match from the Town budget for the emerald ash borer tree program and to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the grant application. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

### **MANAGER'S ITEMS**

#### **Use of PayGov for Zoning Applications and Dog Licenses**

W. Shepeluk asked the Board to approve the use of PayGov for residents for fees for zoning and DRB applications and dog licenses. The Town currently accepts credit card payment for taxes and water/sewer payments. There is a different program for recreation program payments. There is no loss of revenue to the Town, however there is a 3% convenience fee for the vendor. N. Fish made a motion to authorize the use of PayGov for these fees. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

#### **2020 CIP Status Report**

W. Shepeluk stated that \$500K was budgeted for paving, and about \$483K has been spent. The State has yet to make the PILOT payment. About \$429K was budgeted for infrastructure and \$125K has been spent. The Town just received delivery on the tandem dump truck, and the roadside mower that was budgeted was purchased. The second Fire Department truck was delivered last week at a cost of \$489K. W. Shepeluk is working on proposals for borrowing for some of this equipment.

**Health Insurance**

W. Shepeluk stated that he recommends a 3% increase in the employer health insurance contribution for 2021. He stated that the EFUD Commissioners approved the increase at a meeting held last week. M. Bard made a motion to approve the Municipal Manager's recommendation for health care coverage for employees for 2021. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

**Green Mountain Roamers Request for Permission to Ride on Certain Town Highways.**

The Green Mountain Roamer's Club is requesting permission to ride on Woodard Hill, Woodard Hill Extension and Twin Peaks Road. M. Frier made a motion to grant permission on the roads as stated. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

C. Viens asked if any thought has been given as to how Town Meeting will be conducted. W. Shepeluk stated it would be optimistic to think it can be conducted as usual. The legislature has passed a COVID only law to allow Australian ballot voting on the budget. The Board will have to decide whether to explore this option for 2021.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: November 2, 2020