

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
November 15, 2021
28 North Main Street**

Present: K. Martin, M. Bard, C. Viens, and D. Kehlmann, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Planning and Zoning Director; N. Nadeau, Director of Parks Recreation; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held in person and by videoconference to allow for remote attendance and participation.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Margaret Moreland; Trooper Ryan Riegler, Lt. David White, Trooper Tyler Rancourt, VSP; Billy Vigdor; Meg Baldor; Tom Scribner; Denise Green; Kathi Grace; Mal Culbertson; Elisabeth Walton; Duncan McDougall; Jonathan Grace; Tyler Hoare; Samantha Winters and Jeff Atwood.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

W. Shepeluk asked to add a discussion about penalties for late filing of homestead declarations under Manager's Items. D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

K. Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 1st meeting and a liquor license for Thai Smile Restaurant. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

J. Atwood was present to express concerns about affordable housing and the future of the younger generation. The Board recognized this topic is an important issue in the community and will have a future meeting to address affordable housing issues in more depth.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Consider Appointment of Library Commissioner

Margaret Moreland was present to express her interest in being appointed to the Library Commission. The Library Commissioners have recommended her appointment. M. Moreland gave a brief history of her experience in libraries. K. Martin made a motion to appoint M. Moreland to the Library Commission until March 1, 2022. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

Conversation with Vermont State Police

M. Bard stated that the contract with the Vermont State Police has worked well. Lt. White stated that the VSP was happy to enter into a second contract with the Town and that everything has been working very smoothly. The VSP has responded to over 1,000 calls over the last year, with 119 arrests, and 500 traffic stops. Even under COVID protocols, the VSP has responded well. The Board asked several questions of the officers.

Consideration and Possible Repeal of the Town of Waterbury Ordinance Regarding Act 250 Review Designation

S. Lotspeich stated that the Town of Waterbury Ordinance regarding Act 250 review designation has been in force since 2013, with the one-acre threshold for Act 250 review. The Development Review Board also reviews these projects. There are concerns about smaller projects having to go through the Act 250 review. The ordinance can be repealed by Select Board action and there is a notification process. S. Lotspeich explained that the DRB's criteria are limited in scope, and that the Act 250 criteria is much broader with a more robust review. K. Grace read a letter stating concerns about repealing the ordinance regarding Act 250 review designation. Discussion followed. D. Kehlmann made a motion to repeal the Town of Waterbury ordinance regarding Act 250 review designation. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed by a vote of 3 - 1.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Capital Equipment Purchases

W. Shepeluk explained that there are 2 capital equipment purchases planned. The first is a loader that was ordered but not will arrive until January, so it will be 2022 expenditure. There is an excavator scheduled to be purchased in 2022 and it is staff's recommendation to purchase this equipment in 2021. This 'swap' will not negatively impact taxpayers. D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2021 Volvo excavator. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

The second equipment purchase is a recreation van. W. Shepeluk explained that there is \$10,000 left over from the Albertson's grant that was awarded in 2021. Recreation revenues have exceeded budgeted revenues. N. Nadeau distributed a memo with regard to the 2021 recreation revenues and van. The recreation department has outgrown the van purchased last year and would like a second van. There is a van being held now at a cost of \$40,000. It is newer, has fewer miles, and is outfitted for adults with more space inside. The remainder of the Albertson's grant can be used toward the purchase. N. Nadeau stated that recreation expenses are less than budgeted and revenues are up significantly. D. Kehlmann made a motion to authorize the purchase of the van. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

W. Shepeluk stated that N. Nadeau was awarded a doctorate degree from Liberty University. He also received an award from VOREC and the 2021 Spirit of ADA Award.

Consider Authorizing and Attorney to Act for the Town in the Matter of Property Transfer from EFUD to Town

The Board previously met with EFUD to discuss the transfer of 4 properties to the Town. The most efficient way to do this is to allow the same attorney to work for EFUD and the Town on the transfer. K. Martin made a motion that given the nominal consideration already negotiated between the parties in the matter of the transfer of four properties from the Edward Farrar Utility District to the Town of Waterbury, and understanding the same firm will represent the Edward Farrar Utility District in the transaction, I move to engage the law firm Stitzel, Page & Fletcher to represent the town in these transactions. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

Inflation & Resultant Pressure on Budget

W. Shepeluk previously presented wage and salary ranges for employees. At the time the inflation rate was about 2.5% and now it is at approximately 6.5%. Public Works departments are coming under wage pressure. W. Shepeluk stated he took action a couple of weeks ago and made some temporary wage increases in the highway department that he would like to make permanent. The wages will still be within the ranges presented. No action is required by the Board if they are in agreement. By consensus, the Board was in agreement.

Discuss Penalties for Late Filing of Homestead Declaration

W. Shepeluk explained how the homestead declaration functions and that there is a penalty on the tax bill for late filing of the homestead declaration. There is a law that states the penalty percentage amount may be up to 8%. W. Shepeluk asked the Board to retroactively have a 2% penalty for late filing and reimburse the taxpayers that received an 8% penalty. C. Viens made a motion to retroactively institute a 2% penalty for late filing of the homestead declaration and reimburse the taxpayers directly that received an 8% penalty. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 6, 2021