

**Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board &
Edward Farrar Utility District
December 6, 2021
28 North Main Street**

Present: M. Frier, K. Martin, M. Bard, C. Viens, and D. Kehlmann, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, L. Sayah, N. Sherman and R. Finucane, Edward Farrar Utility District; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held in person and by videoconference to allow for remote attendance and participation.

Public (to the extent names were able to be obtained): Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Barbara Walton, Brandon Zollino, Kathi Tarrant, Robert Dabrowski, Paul Vallerand II, Linden Politi, Bob Houle, Jim Sexton, Pat Farrell, Jocelyn DePaolis, Lydia Simpson, Gayle Brown, Flora Scott, Elisabeth Walton, Rick Blake, Gary Dillon, Brian Wright; Matthew Gonzalez, Karen Petrovic, Louise Lintilhac, Timothy Griffith, Angela Wells, Monica Talbot, Sue Minter, David Goodman, Monica Ogelby, Mal Culbertson, Amy Keller, Joe Wurtzbacher Denver Wilson, Michael Thompson, Jonathan Siegel, Glen Andersen, Michael Voldez, and Carol McNair.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

K. Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. D. Kehlmann seconded the motion. M. Bard asked to include a brief presentation from the Waterbury Rotary Club and recognize Tom Messner's 31 years as Chief Meteorologist at Channel 5; and that the first day of winter be named Tom Messner day. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. Viens made a motion to approve the consent agenda item including the minutes of the November 15th meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

A member of the public asked why the Board was set up with their backs to attendees. M. Frier responded that the set up was due to technical constraints.

P. H. Flanders called the meeting of EFUD to order at 7:07pm for the Joint portion of the meeting.

BUSINESS FOR JOINT SESSION OF THE BOARDS

Consider Use of ARPA Funds and Revolving Loan Fund

W. Shepeluk explained the mechanics of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to which only Federal law and rulemaking applies. Municipalities are eligible to receive this funding and Waterbury will receive a total payment \$1,554,964 which will be deposited in an interest bearing account. W. Shepeluk stated that the funds have the potential to be transformational to the community. W. Shepeluk proposed that the funds be used as follows:

- Town appropriate \$600,000 of ARPA funds to EFUD
- EFUD acquires private water system at KFTP and replaces water mains and adds hydrants
- EFUD forgives or restructures \$530,000 UDAG loan to Ice Center
- EFUD transfers ownership of its UDAG and CDBG Revolving Loan Fund to the Town
- Town appropriates \$100,000 to the Ice Center to pay for the replacement of its cooling tower and for deposit into its equipment reserve fund
- Land under consideration to be transferred from EFUD to the Town should remain in EFUD ownership until exploration of a complete merger is accomplished or exhausted and that the Town should consider writing a charter.

W. Shepeluk further explained these steps and reviewed the CDBG balance sheet. There is a great deal of pressure from the public to develop or improve recreational facilities on land owned by the municipalities. W. Shepeluk stated that these steps should only occur in concert with shoring up the future of the recreation gem that exists here. W. Shepeluk then gave some of the financial history with the municipalities and the Ice Center in terms of loans and infrastructure. The Ice Center has always made their payments and have not asked for anything but have struggled through the pandemic. From 2003 to 2021 the Town has appropriated \$1,248,500 to non-profits that have requested funding at Town meeting. The Town has supported Revitalizing Waterbury since 2012. W. Shepeluk reiterated that his proposed plan is the right thing to do for the community.

P. H. Flanders thanked the Municipal Manager for his forward thinking recommendations. M. Frier asked if there has been a discussion with EFUD about a merger with the Town. W. Shepeluk responded in the negative. W. Shepeluk stated that he feels a merger would not be difficult and will be transformational. The topic will be discussed at future meetings.

Update on Status of Search for Zoning Administrator

W. Shepeluk explained that the candidate for Zoning Administrator, that was to be interviewed this evening, withdrew due to salary concerns. S. Lotspeich is continuing to be the Zoning Administrator in addition to his own job. The search will continue.

Other Business

W. Shepeluk stated that at the end of 2022, he will be stepping down as Town Manager. He has been with Waterbury for over 34 years and stated that he feels honored to have served this community. The VLCT can help the Board with the recruitment process.

At 8:30pm, N. Sherman made a motion to adjourn the EFUD meeting. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Consider Graphics for Anti-Racism-Inclusion Banner

C. Lawrence screen shared the proposed graphics of the banner. K. Martin expressed concerns about the colors and suggested white and orange or all white. Concern was also expressed about the font. C. Lawrence will touch base with N. Nadeau about incorporation the Waterbury branding colors and fonts.

Discuss Local Mask Mandate

M. Frier explained that recent legislation allows Towns and Cities to approve a local mask mandate. C. Lawrence screen shared a draft resolution. M. Frier read the resolution and recused himself from the discussion. D. Kehlmann explained that the Board is not proposing the mandate but that it is up for discussion this evening. Several residents spoke to the topic, most in opposition of the mandate. The Board then had a discussion about the proposed mandate and concurred that a mandate is not necessary. No further action was taken.

Schedule DEI Training with Mary Gannon

W. Shepeluk has been in touch with Mary Gannon for an additional training. She is available on Tuesday December 14th or Wednesday December 15th, or during the regular Board meeting on December 20th. The Board is available on December 14th at 4:00pm.

Waterbury Rotary Club

M. Bard presented W. Shepeluk with a \$50 gift card to a local restaurant, on behalf of the Rotary Club.

Recognizing Tom Messner

M. Bard stated that Tom Messner has been so community minded, in addition to his job as Chief Meteorologist at Channel 5. He suggested that the Board approve a proclamation declaring December 21st 'Tom Messner Day'. M. Bard will draft a proclamation.

Other Business

C. Viens questioned mask wearing in the Municipal Center during the meeting. The office has a rule that non-vaccinated people must wear masks, based on CDC guidelines. Discussion followed and the rule will stand, both during Board meetings and office hours.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 14, 2021