

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
January 17th, 2022
28 North Main Street**

Present: M. Frier, M. Bard, K. Martin, C. Viens and D. Kehlmann, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Planning & Zoning Director; Rachel Muse, Library Director; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; Wayne Fisher, ORCA Media; Anne Imhoff; Carl Benes; John Pitrowiski; Christine Wulff; Duncan McDougall; and Frank Spaulding.

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

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Select Board recognized Dr. King with a brief reading and dedicated this meeting in Dr. King's memory.

APPROVE AGENDA

D. Kehlmann made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Bard made a motion to approve the consent agenda item including the minutes of the January 10th meeting. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

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

W. Shepeluk explained that the notice that was approved at the November 15th meeting was not published in the Times Argus; therefore, has to be approved and the timeline followed again upon advice of the Town attorney. The one-acre threshold will be repealed in favor of a ten-acre threshold. C. Viens stated concerns that the Planning Commission hasn't yet written adequate criteria for the DRB to act on projects that would otherwise require Act 250 review and that is why he did not vote in favor at the November 15th meeting. D. Kehlmann made a motion to repeal the Town of Waterbury ordinance regarding Act 250 review designation. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

Discuss Format of Town Meeting

C. Lawrence explained that legislation was recently passed to allow for town meeting by Australian ballot only again this year, with an informational meeting within 10 days preceding town meeting day. W. Shepeluk stated town meeting is on March 1st so the warning will have to be approved at the January 24th meeting and there is still discussion to be held with regard to the budget. C. Lawrence stated that there will still be voting on town meeting day on March 1st from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Voters will also have the option to vote early/absentee either by mail or at the office. The pros and cons of an in-person town meeting were discussed. There was concern expressed that if the meeting is in-person, residents would be apprehensive to attend. By consensus, the Board agreed to town meeting by Australian ballot only.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Library Budget

R. Muse was present to discuss the library budget, as previously distributed by the Municipal Manager. The total budget is proposed to be \$540,845, of which \$485,575 is to be raised by taxes. R. Muse reviewed some of the expense line items. There is an increase in the pay line items due to turnover and rehires during last year and offering competitive pay. There is also an increase in the part time pay line item to hire more substitute employees. W. Shepeluk updated the Board on the library trust fund. W. Shepeluk brought the Board's attention to Fund 76, which is the building maintenance fund. The main source of revenue is from the library and the general funds. A question on library revenues was asked. R. Muse responded that grants are used for special programming but that the library does not charge for programs. The Friends of the Waterbury Library do fund raisers to purchase items for the library and there are also donations.

Planning Department Budget

S. Lotspeich was present to review the Planning Department budget that was previously distributed to the Board along with a justification from him. S. Lotspeich reviewed several of the expense line items and talked about the Planning Departments work plan for 2022. W. Shepeluk stated that the budget is essentially level funded.

Highway Department Budget

W. Shepeluk previously distributed the Highway Department budget. Proposed spending is up 6.33% and the property tax levy is up 8.7%. He then reviewed several expense line items.

CIP Budgets – Funds 70 – 74, 76 (everything except Recreation CIP)

W. Shepeluk reviewed the CIP budgets and projects, including paving, infrastructure, highway vehicles, fire vehicles and fire stations.

C. Lawrence screen shared a draft of the proposed general fund budget. If approved as is, there is a 2.78% increase in taxes over that of last year. There will also be an increase in the grand list. W. Shepeluk explained some of the revenues received in 2021 and projected for 2022. He then reviewed the special articles including ARPA fund expenditures and the offsetting revenues. W. Shepeluk asked that Board what their hope is for a tax rate for 2022. W. Shepeluk recommended that the tax rate not be lower than that of last year. By consensus, the Board asked for a level tax rate.

M. Bard made a motion to approve the library budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: January 24, 2022