

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
July 5th, 2022
28 North Main Street

Present: D. Kehlmann, A. Johnson, R. Clapp, C. Viens and M. Bard, Select Board; R. Muse, Library Director; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: ORCA Media; Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; M. K. Monley; Ingrid Shepeluk; Billy Vigdor; Tom Scribner; Lisa Walton; Jenny Garber; Linda Gravell; Kelley Hackett; Maggie Kerrin; Jill Sackett; and Chiyomi McKibben.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Bard asked to have a discussion about inviting a guest from the Worcester Select Board to a future meeting. R. Clapp made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. Viens made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the June 20th meeting. The motion was seconded by R. Clapp and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

J. Garber was present and expressed concerns that the Select Board survey on FPF did not include anything about conserving natural resources within the Town. D. Kehlmann stated that there was an 'other' button on the survey and the list on the survey was not exhaustive.

M. Kerrin was present and expressed concerns with candidate signs being moved or hidden, primarily conservative candidates. She asked the Board if they were concerned about these actions and would like to see just and fair elections. W. Shepeluk explained that signs that are within the Town highway right-of-way and the roundabout are removed. R. Clapp stated the Board is concerned and thanked M. Kerrin for bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

K. Hackett shared that Dr. Mike Leichter has officially started his tenure as the HUUSD Superintendent and will be doing some public meet and greets. She gave the dates of the meetings which are located on the District website.

L. Gravell, Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Waterbury, stated that she handed out signs for Democratic Party candidates, explained the rules around their placement and asked that no other signs be touched.

J. Sackett echoed the sentiment that conservation was not addressed in the survey and that this topic should be kept in the forefront. B. Vigdor updated the Board on the work of the Conservation Commission. W. Shepeluk stated that if the Board wants to make conservation a priority, perhaps it should be better funded and there should be a strategic plan.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Update from Library Director

R. Muse was present to give the Board an update on the activities of the library. She distributed some statistics to the Board and stated that the library has been fully reopened for a solid year. R. Muse then reviewed some of the statistics and updated the Board on various programs and goals.

Makersphere Request to Paint Electrical Boxes

M. K. Monley was present to discuss a project to paint electrical boxes. She suggested that students could work with the Makersphere artists to paint two electrical boxes in the Village. Discussion

followed as to what would be appropriate art to display in public spaces. R. Clapp made a motion to allow the project to move forward and to see what the artists and children develop. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

Black Back Pub – Entertainment Permit and Outside Consumption Permit

C. Lawrence explained that the Black Back Pub has submitted two Outside Consumption Permits and an Entertainment Permit. The first Outside Consumption Permit is to expand outside consumption to the Stowe Street side of the pub. The second Outside Consumption Permit is to serve beverages at two Music in the Alley events on July 22nd and August 26th. The Entertainment Permit is to allow music on Thursday through Saturday nights in the upper portion of the pub. R. Clapp made a motion to approve all permits. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson and passed unanimously.

Tax Rate / Homestead Filing Penalty

W. Shepeluk previously distributed the calculation of the total tax rates for homestead and non-homestead. He reviewed the calculations with the Board. The tax rate developed is 0.534 cents. The voters authorized a municipal tax rate of no more than 0.53 cents so that rate can be rounded down. W. Shepeluk recommended a municipal tax rate of 0.53 cents, a 0.0017cent tax rate for Hunger Mountain Children's Center and a 0.0017 tax rate for the Veterans exemption. R. Clapp made a motion to approve a 0.53 cent tax rate. The motion was seconded by D. Kehlmann and passed unanimously. C. Viens made a motion to add a tax rate of .0017 cents for both the Hunger Mountain Children's Center and the Veterans exemption. The motion was seconded by R. Clapp and passed unanimously.

W. Shepeluk explained that there is a provision in the state law to file a homestead declaration if applicable and also a provision to charge a penalty if the declaration is not filed. W. Shepeluk suggested a penalty of 2% for the late filing of the homestead declaration that would cover administrative costs to print updated tax bills. R. Clapp made a motion to charge a 2% penalty. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson and passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Discuss Highway Projects & Schedules

W. Shepeluk stated that the Board needs to take action on two projects. The first project is the paving of Stowe, North and High Streets and the project was put out to bid. W. Shepeluk recommended that the Board accept the bid from Whitcomb Construction at a cost of \$83.25 per ton. C. Viens made a motion to accept the bid from Whitcomb Construction for the Stowe Street project paving. The motion was seconded by R. Clapp and passed unanimously. The second project that was put out to bid is for work on Reservoir Road. The low bid was \$192,050 from J. A. McDonald. R. Clapp made a motion to accept the bid from J. A. McDonald for the Reservoir Road project. The motion was seconded by A. Johnson and passed unanimously.

Allocation of ARPA Funds

The discussion continued as to whether the voters or the Legislative body should authorize the distribution of ARPA funds. W. Shepeluk is not in favor of holding a Special Town Meeting and will follow up with VLCT on the process. He then reviewed the draft of the contract with CVFiber for which the Board previously approved a \$50,000 appropriation. W. Shepeluk suggested that the Board get public input on how to spend the ARPA funds.

Budget Report

W. Shepeluk distributed and reviewed the budget report.

Consider Inviting a Guest from the Worcester Select Board to a Meeting

M. Bard asked the Board if they would like to invite a member of the Worcester Select Board to discuss with the Board the cell tower issue the Town experienced on Shutesville Hill. A. Johnson expressed concern that the Board already has a healthy workload. The Board may consider it at a later date.

C. Viens asked if the Board would like to meet with the Deputy State's Attorney to discuss shootings and the ongoing drug issues in Waterbury. The Board may consider it at a future date. In the meantime, the VSP may be invited to attend a meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: July 18, 2022