

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
VILLAGE OF WATERBURY
MARCH 2, 2011**

The inhabitants of the Village of Waterbury who are legal voters in Village Meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the gymnasium of the Thatcher Brook Primary School in the Village of Waterbury on Wednesday March 2, 2011 at 7:30p.m. in the evening to act on the following matters:

Village President Everett Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He gave a brief explanation of some of the Robert's Rules of Order under which the meeting was conducted.

ARTICLE 1: To act on the reports of the officers of the Village of Waterbury.

L. Sayah made a motion to accept the reports of the officers of the Village of Waterbury as printed in the Village Report. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 2: To elect by Australian ballot, the following Village officers: Clerk for 1 year, Treasurer for 1 year, Village President for 1 year, Trustee for 2 years, and Water & Sewer Commissioner for 3 years.

There were 326 ballots cast and the results were as follows:

VILLAGE PRESIDENT (1 year term)	
P. Howard Flanders	281
Write-ins	13
Blanks	32

VILLAGE CLERK (1 year term)	
Carla Lawrence	315
Write-ins	0
Blanks	11

VILLAGE TREASURER (1 year term)	
Carla Lawrence	315
Write-ins	0
Blanks	11

VILLAGE TRUSTEE (2 year term)	
Everett Coffey	151
Natalie Howell-Sherman	171
Write-ins	1
Blanks	3

WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONER (3 year term)	
Mark Alberghini	308
Write-ins	1
Blanks	17

ARTICLE 3: To set the compensation of Village officers for the ensuing year.

N. Dixon made a motion to set the compensation of Village officers for the ensuing year as follows:

President	\$600
Trustee	\$500 each
Water/Sewer Commissioners	\$500 each

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To see what action the Village will take with reference to fixing the dates when taxes shall be due and payable and to provide for charging interest on taxes not paid when due.

P. H. Flanders made a motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2011, and that taxes be due in two installments, the first installment due and payable on August 12, 2011, and the second installment be due and payable on November 18, 2011, without discount and that interest be charged at the maximum allowed by statute, not to exceed one and one-half percent per month or portion thereof on each installment, and a late penalty of eight percent be charged as allowed by statute on taxes not paid when due. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow money from time to time during 2011 and the first quarter of 2012 by note and to pledge the credit of the Village to pay, respectively, 2011 calendar year and the 2012 first quarter debts and running expenses of the Village in anticipation of taxes, grants and bonds for those purposes.

M. Alberghini made a motion to authorize the Trustees to borrow money from time to time, during 2011 and during the first quarter of 2012, by note, and to pledge the credit of the Village to pay the debts and running expenses of the Village in anticipation of taxes, grants and bonds for those purposes. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Village will vote sums of money for payment of debts and expenses for the Village with the same to be expressed either in specific dollar amounts or as a rate of tax on a dollar of the Grand List, and if by specific dollar amounts to authorize the Trustees to set the necessary tax rate and to lodge warrants therefore in the office of the Village Clerk.

L. Sayah made a motion that the Village appropriate the following sums of money for the interest of its inhabitants, for the prosecution and defense of the common rights and for necessary expenses: \$478,140 for general fund expenses, and that the Village raise \$290,200 in property taxes for general fund spending. The motion was seconded.

A. Wells questioned unclassified expenses of almost \$6,000 on page 22. The Municipal Manager explained that this was mainly expenses due to deductibles related to accidents with police vehicles. She asked why Police Department Equipment Maintenance was listed on page 22 and page 23. The Municipal Manager indicated that the line item on page 23 relates to equipment for vehicles, and on page 22 relates to office equipment, and that the headings should be changed. A. Wells asked a question about the water department 'other debt' line item on page 25. The Municipal Manager explained that this is related to expense for short term borrowing done from the floor over past Village Meetings to pay for improvements to the water system. A discussion was held about the phosphorus removal project.

M. Pelkey stated that the report from the Chief of Police on page 12 indicates that a speed cart was destroyed by an intoxicated driver. She questioned whether the speed cart would be replaced. The Trustees have chosen not to replace it at this point in time. The Municipal Manager explained that the Village was paid for the loss but has not yet replaced the speed cart. The speed cart was purchased used in 2008 at a cost of approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000 dollars. It was suggested that the speed cart is a nice reminder to slow down.

T. Stevens suggested small speed limit signs be attached to the speed limit markers throughout the Village. J. Feccia was allowed to speak, and indicated the Police Department tested this type of equipment. They vary in price depending on the type of equipment. A. Imhoff stated that traffic down South Main Street is very fast in the morning.

T. Stevens asked for the status of the State payment revenues. The Municipal Manager gave an explanation of the changes in these payments.

S. Mackey rose to speak about the Police Department and possible merger of the Town and Village. He stated that there are good reasons to have a department, but need to figure out alternatives for funding, and his intent was to force the Village and Town to deal with this issue.

S. Mackey made a motion to amend the Village budget, appropriating \$413,794 and authorizing the Village to raise \$225,854 in property taxes for general fund spending. The motion was seconded. S. Mackey spoke to the motion and it was his recommendation to remove the \$64,346 from the police department budget, allowing it to operate for 10 months at the service level recommended by the Trustees. He also expressed that it was his hope that the cut would spur merger negotiations between the Trustees and the Select Board.

A lengthy discussion followed with regard to the amendment, and what the Village would do if merger did not happen by November 1st. The Municipal Manager stated a special meeting could be warned to authorize borrowing money and to make the amount up on the tax rate the following year. It was asked if the Police Department could be dissolved on November 1st and the Municipal Manager indicated that this could happen.

A question was asked as to whether there are plans to talk about merger in the future. The Trustees stated that Merger was suggested at Town meeting yesterday, and it would be the plan of the Trustees to revisit this issue and have conversations with the Select Board.

A question was asked as to whether there are any alternatives to entice the Town to see a reason for merger. It was discussed that the Town has not had incentive to have a police department as this would raise Town taxes, and that the Boards may have to look at a different way of doing things from a fresh perspective. A local options tax was suggested to relieve the burden on property tax payers. It was asked what the Trustees had done to move merger forward during the past 12 months, as was suggested at the previous annual meeting. There have been no merger discussions. T. Stevens gave a little bit of the history on the merger issue and suggested there are other facets to merger such as the water & sewer situation. It was suggested another solution might be to look into dissolving the Village Charter.

POINT OF ORDER: The Charter for the Village of Waterbury on page 14 paragraph 19 states that the Village President as presiding officer at a Village Meeting has the same powers and duties as moderators at Town meetings. The Charter does not address that the Village President when presiding as moderator can speak to subjects being discussed. Based on that fact the presiding officers responsibilities fall under Municipal Law and not the Village Charter. Therefore to remain impartial the Village President needs to act with unanimous consent when possible and appoint a temporary moderator. To implement this procedure it is required to state what you intend to do and state "if there are no objections I will appoint 'a specific person' so named to act as Moderator Pro temp."

At this time the Village President stated that he wished to speak to the amendment moved under Article 6. The Village President then appointed Tom Stevens to act as moderator pro temp with unanimous consent for Article 6 of the Village Warning. The Village President stepped down as presiding officer until action on Articles 6 was completed.

E. Coffey addressed the Village residents, stating that there have been issues brought before the Board relating to the integrity and professionalism of the Police Department. The Moderator interrupted him and asked if the litany of pros and cons of the current Department was germane to the amendment of the motion. E. Coffey continued to discuss the police department and was subsequently told he was out of order. E. Coffey stated that the police budget is too high to cover 1.1 square miles of area and he would support cutting the amount further.

A motion to call the question was made. The motion was seconded. A paper ballot was requested and the amendment was approved with 19 yes and 13 no. Article 6 then passed by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

E. Coffey resumed as Moderator. The Board was asked for a commitment to work on the merger issue and report back by October 2011. P. H. Flanders gave his assurance the Board will have discussions with the Select Board and report back periodically and may involve other interested parties to the discussions. T. Stevens suggested holding the special meeting 1 1/2 months prior to November 1st so as to allow for rescission. It was also suggested that the Town & Village make identical petitions to create a merger committee.

E. Coffey addressed the voters and noted the high voter turnout. He stated he appreciated the support given to him and will continue to work for the betterment of the community either as a Trustee or a taxpayer.

The Board was asked if they support merger and gave unanimous support.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Village Clerk

Approved on: March 9, 2011

P. Howard Flanders
P. Howard Flanders, Village President

Lawrence Sayah
Lawrence Sayah, Trustee

Natalie Howell-Sherman
Natalie Howell-Sherman, Trustee