

JOINT MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD & VILLAGE TRUSTEES

March 28, 2011

Wesley Methodist Church – 6:30p.m.

Present: Rebecca Ellis, Chair; John Grenier, Pam Clapp, Karen Miller and Bob Butler, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, Village President; Lawrence Sayah and Natalie Howell-Sherman, Trustees; William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; Anne Imhoff, Scott Mackey, Public; and Chris Preston, Waterbury Record.

The meeting of the Select Board and the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30p.m.

W. Shepeluk provided details about local option taxes to the Boards. A one percent tax on all eligible sources would generate \$336,000. Leaving the tax on sales out, \$127,000 would be generated by a one percent tax on alcohol, rooms, and meals.

L. Sayah provided a history of merger votes going back to 1992. There were four votes in the decade of the 2000's, including a rescission vote after the victorious merger vote in 2004.

S. Mackey spoke and suggested that the merger will not happen if a property tax increase occurs in the Town. He stated that the local option tax on all sources could provide a property tax break for all as the local option tax could raise \$336,000 and the police budget required \$290,000 of property tax.

R. Ellis and W. Shepeluk reported on the timeline for a merger. There is no requirement that voters approve a merger committee before the Boards can proceed. The two Boards would prepare a document that would be the charter for the Town. Once it was ready, a vote would be allowed on 30 day notice. If approved, and if it survived rescission, the document would be submitted to the Legislature. The earliest effective date would appear to be July 1, 2012.

R. Ellis walked the Boards through sections 101 – 501 of the 2007 merger document. P. H. Flanders reported on sections 601 – 608. W. Shepeluk reported on sections 701 – 806. B. Butler reported on sections 807 – 809. W. Shepeluk reported on sections 810 – 811.

W. Shepeluk presented information to the Boards describing the impact of the merger in 2007 on the Town budget and property taxes. In addition, the information contained material that showed how the full cost of the police department to the town would have been phased-in over a six-year period using money raised in a "special service district" whose boundaries would be the existing Village.

The boards and others in attendance agreed that the concept of a town-wide police department and its funding will be a very controversial issue in the discussion about merger. All agreed it will be helpful to determine the need for and size of any proposed town-wide department before the merger document is drafted. Those conclusions could inform discussions about a budget for the proposed department before the merger document was voted on. The boards agreed to meet in joint session on April 25th to begin discussion about the needs for a police department to serve the entire town.

The boards moved on from the topic of merger and discussed a letter to the Moretown DRB that pertained to the development proposed by Top Notch Properties near the intersection of Rts 2 & 100 in Moretown. There was considerable discussion about the interests of the Town and Village vis a vis the proposal. For the Town of Waterbury R. Butler made a motion that was seconded by P. Clapp, and for the Village of Waterbury N. Howell-Sherman made a motion that was seconded by L. Sayah, to direct the Manager to send a letter to the Moretown DRB concerning the proposal

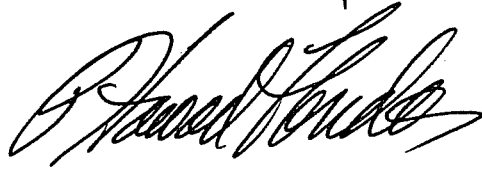
in question stating that the town was in agreement with points 1, 2 & 4 presented in a letter by the WDM Citizens for Responsible Growth dated March 24, 2011, that addressed traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and adherence to the principles of the Moretown Town Plan and Zoning Regulations. In addition, the motion requested that the DRB require that the proposed sidewalk shown on the site plan in front of the proposed Family Dollar store be extended to facilitate greater pedestrian access and safety within the development and at the intersection of the two state highways. The Select Board voted in favor of the motion by a 4-0-0 vote, with J. Grenier not present to vote, and the Trustees voted in favor of the motion 3-0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Shepeluk

Approved at a meeting held on: April 27, 2011



Nathaniel Borneu Shorn

