

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL VILLAGE MEETING OF  
THE VILLAGE OF WATERBURY  
APRIL 26, 2011**

The inhabitants of the Village of Waterbury who are legal voters in Village Meetings are hereby notified and warned, in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Charter of the Village of Waterbury, to meet in a Special Village Meeting at the Thatcher Brook Primary School Cafeteria in the Village of Waterbury at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon on April 26, 2011 to act on the following matters:

**ARTICLE 1:** To see if the Village will appropriate a sum of money to supplement the village budget that was approved by voters at the Annual Village Meeting held on March 2, 2011 and to raise such supplemental appropriation by a tax on real property, such tax warrant to be dated July 1, 2011 and payable in two equal installments, without discount on August 12, 2011 and November 18, 2011, subject to the same late penalties and interest rates as taxes on real property approved by the voters on March 2, 2011.

The Special Village Meeting was called to order at 7:00p.m.

Tom Stevens moderated the meeting and reviewed the rules of engagement for conducting the meeting.

P. H. Flanders made a motion that the Village appropriate \$64,345 to supplement the Village budget that was approved by voters at the Annual Meeting held on March 2, 2011 and to raise such supplemental appropriation by a tax on real property such tax warrant to be dated July 1, 2011 and payable in two equal installments, without discount on August 12, 2011 and November 18, 2011, subject to the same late penalties and interest rates as taxes on real property approved by voters on March 2, 2011. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah.

P. H. Flanders described how the motion was arrived at by the Trustees. He gave a summary of the action at the Village meeting on March 2, 2011 to cut \$64,345 from the budget of \$386,075, leaving a police operating budget of \$321,740. The Trustees have had several weeks to consider the impact to the police department and the safety of the Village of Waterbury. The majority of the budget is related to personnel costs. P. Flanders described the affect of the cuts on police officer shifts and discussed the amount of time there would be no police presence in the Village. He indicated that it was proposed at Village meeting to fund each month equally for 10 months, but this is impractical so the Trustees have spread the budget over a 12 month period. The Select Board and Trustees have met twice and spent 4 hours in the past 8 weeks discussing the possibilities of a merger and/or local options tax.

J. Grenier, Select Board member, was given permission to speak. He stated that the Boards will be gathering information and addressing issues such as the local options tax and a town wide police department, and try to get some input from Town residents. P. Flanders indicated that there is not time to have a merger vote this year.

A lengthy discussion followed. A question was asked about the current of level of services. Patrol hours have been spread over the 12 months at a lesser level, versus maintaining full services for 10 months and revisiting the situation in late October. The original budget provided for 140 hours of coverage and this would be reduced to somewhere between 100 hours and 118 hours, with the elimination of part-time officer pay.

A discussion was held about borrowing money in November and what the affect would be, versus fully funding the budget now.

It was asked if it is the intent of the Trustees to spread the budget over 12 months if the motion fails. The Trustees responded in the affirmative. It was asked what the impact of reduced coverage would be, in terms of crime. The police presence would be reduced; there would most likely be reduced income from tickets and the PILOT payment from the Town. Chief Feccia indicated that he felt public safety would be adversely affected, in that response times would be slower if an officer was not on duty. It was asked what the recommended coverage should be for a Village the size of Waterbury.

The budget and hours of coverage approved in 2011 were reduced from the 2010 budget. The Trustees feel the budget that was presented, prior to the reduction, was the minimum acceptable. A question was asked about scheduling shifts. The Chief explained the current coverage and indicated that discussions about shifts are ongoing.

Discussions continued about merger and a local options tax. W. Shepeluk reminded the public that these cannot be done without legislative approval. Both require a great deal of research and analysis. W. Shepeluk explained the affects of voting the money back in now versus waiting until later in the year. Some discretionary items have already been put on hold. The difference in the amounts budgeted in 2010 and 2011 was explained.

It was explained that there have been immediate effects of the cut in budget on police staffing and shifts. Several schedules have been discussed between the Chief and Manager under different scenarios. Members of the public questioned how a cut in the budget would force Town residents into a merger. W. Shepeluk stated that before you ask the Town to pay for a service, you have to see if they want to buy the service. He described the police services to the town over that past couple of years. There was concern expressed about the danger to business owners, safety of children, and increased theft and vandalism if hours are cut. T. Stevens indicated that there is a fairly high standard to receive a local options tax and that this is a process that has to be done through the legislature.

There being no further discussion, Article 1 was voted on by paper ballot and passed by a vote of 36-20.

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**ARTICLE 2:** To do any other business that may legally come before the Board during the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence  
Village Clerk

Approved on:

*April 11, 2011*

*P. Howard Flanders*

P. Howard Flanders

*Lawrence Sayah*

Lawrence Sayah

*Natalie Howell-Sherman*

Natalie Howell-Sherman