

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
VILLAGE OF WATERBURY
MARCH 8th, 2017**

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 8th, 2017 at 7:30 P.M. in the evening to act on the following matters:

P. H. Flanders welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. He then read the dedication of the Annual Report to the Waterbury Jaycee's and Jaycee Ann's. P. H. Flanders recognized Everett Coffey for his years of service to the Jaycee's.

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

John Sherman 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. J. Sherman asked a question with regard to the Main Street Reconstruction project (page 9). It mentions savings of \$2.3 million to the users in construction costs, and asked if that is because the federal government is paying for a portion of the costs. W. Shepeluk answered in the affirmative.

Robert Grace asked if the sewer study insinuates that the sewer system may be extended into the Town. P. H. Flanders responded that the study will provide information about where future sewer extensions may be feasible.

Kathi Grace asked if the relocation of water & sewer mains as part of the Main Street reconstruction project would include moving some utility poles. W. Shepeluk responded that he believes so but he is uncertain as the plans are at the Municipal Center.

The motion 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.

NOTE: THE POLLS FOR VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON ARTICLE 2 WILL BE OPEN FROM SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON TO SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON AT THE WATERBURY MUNICIPAL OFFICE, AT 28 NORTH MAIN STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF WATERBURY.

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

Natalie Sherman made a motion to set the compensation of Village officers for the ensuing year as follows:

Village President	\$1,700
Trustees	\$1,200 each
Water & Sewer Commissioners	\$1,200 each

The motion was seconded. N. Sherman stated that the Village President and Trustees pay is the same as previous years. The Water and Sewer Commissioner pay was increased by \$200. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To see what action the Village will take with reference to fixing the date of the tax warrant and to set a date or dates when taxes on such property shall become due and payable and to specify the time of acceptance, the method of delivery, and to see whether the same shall be paid with or without discount and to provide for interest and penalty on such taxes as are not paid when due.

L. Sayah made a motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2017, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 11, 2017, and the second installment be due and payable on November 17, 2017, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 4:30pm on the due date, 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 a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the water system.

Peter Plagge made a motion to authorize the Trustees to borrow up to \$150,000 by note for a period not to exceed 5 years on terms agreeable to the Trustees to pay for improvements and equipment for the Water Department. The motion was seconded. W. Shepeluk explained the projects to be undertaken which included replacing 500 feet of main on the Crossroad and pressure reducing vaults. The motion passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the wastewater system.

Peter Plagge made a motion to authorize the Trustees to borrow up to \$160,000 by note for a period not to exceed 5 years on terms agreeable to the Trustees to pay for improvements and equipment for the Wastewater Department. The motion was seconded. W. Shepeluk explained that since the completion of the upgrade to treat phosphorus, there has been a significant increase in operational costs of the wastewater treatment plant. Projects to be undertaken include emergency repair and replacement of a sewer main, work on the aeration system on the lagoons, and finishing up work to flood proof the main pump station. Roger Clapp asked if fees would cover the annual costs of operating the station. W. Shepeluk indicated that there will most likely be an increase in rates, and the Commissioners are looking closely at the revenues. The motion passed by voice vote.

After hearing no objections, Jeff Kilgore stepped to the head table to moderate Articles 7 and 8 as the Trustees wished to speak to the Articles.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the voters will direct the Trustees to begin the process of developing amendments to the Village charter that will result in the elimination of most or all of the Village's general government functions, including the possible elimination of its authority to have a police department and the consolidation of the Boards of Trustees and Water-Sewer Commissioners into one Board that will be the legislative body for the Village that would

oversee the Village's remaining functions, and to bring such proposed amendments to a vote of the Village at a Special Village Meeting to be warned and held no later than November 30, 2017.

Natalie Sherman made a motion that the Trustees and Water-Sewer Commissioners take action to prepare amendments to the charter of the Village of Waterbury, to present such amendments to the voters no later than November 30, 2017, and that such amendments, at a minimum, will result in the following:

- the retention of all real estate presently owned by the Village
- the retention of all cash and invested assets presently owned by the Village
- the retention of revolving loan funds presently owned by the Village
- the ability to manage assets, including the ability to buy and sell real estate for the benefit of Village residents
- one governing board of five members to oversee the Village's water system, wastewater system, real estate, loan funds, reserve funds and all other assets owned by the Village
- the abolition of the Village's authority to provide all other government functions, including the provision of police services.

The motion was seconded. P. H. Flanders stated that this article is on the warning due to a request at last year's annual meeting. If passed, the charter changes will be explored and the Trustees will work with an attorney to draft the changes to be voted on by Australian Ballot no later than November. He then reviewed the points of the motion.

The second step is to hold public informational meetings on the proposed charter changes, and hold a vote by Australian Ballot by November 30th. A flowchart was distributed to illustrate the various possible sequences of events (attached to these minutes).

P. H. Flanders stated that this is an alternative way to create one Waterbury with one government. Prior merger attempts have been passed by the Village and voted down by the Town. P. H. Flanders stated that this is a better solution for Village residents as they are able to retain all assets. With no proposed changes to the 2017 budget, the full funding of the police department will remain until December 31st, 2017.

P. H. Flanders directed the voters to the paper previously distributed that also shows the financial information relating to the Village and Town Grand lists, and what various size police department budgets would cost Village and Town residents, and the effect on the tax rate (attached).

Cammie Mason asked how long it would take to develop a Town wide department. P. H. Flanders responded that the answer is unknown as it would be a Town discussion and vote, but that the Vermont State Police would cover in the meantime.

Scott Stockwell asked if the Town is in favor of Town wide police department. P. H. Flanders responded that there has been no discussion with the Select Board, but some Town residents in the past stated they were not interested in a Town wide Department while the Village has a department.

Roger Clapp asked if the Trustees have calculated the tax rate assuming this article passes and what services would be covered. P. H. Flanders responded that the Village tax rate would be zero. W. Shepeluk explained that if the Village keeps all assets including real estate (51 South

Main) there would be small carrying costs to be placed in the water or sewer budget, also some general government insurances. These amounts would be nominal.

Pete Martel asked if it is possible to pay the Sheriffs Department for additional coverage. P. H. Flanders stated that it is possible and it is also possible to contract for extra hours with Vermont State Police. W. Shepeluk stated that if the charter changes are passed, that would not be possible because they will have eliminated the authority to have police.

G. Birmingham attended a meeting where the Select Board was asked what they would do if charter change passed, and they indicated committee could be formed to explore options, or the Town could contract with Sheriff or State Police.

Kathi Grace asked how many Village and Town residents there are, and C. Lawrence responded that there are approximately 1,400 registered Village voters and a total of just over 5,000 Town residents (including the Village). K. Grace thanked the Trustees for their work. She stated is is not equitable that the Village residents have to pay for the police services that benefit Town residents as well. She found it interesting that there is no Village police on weekends, but the weekends are covered by the Vermont State Police. P. H. Flanders stated that the decision was made to go with a 5 weekday schedule to cover times when school is in session and the Vermont State Police preferred solid blocks of time on the weekends.

Dana Allen asked about the logistics and scheduling provided the article passes, and what would the timeline be for discussion with the Town. P. H. Flanders stated that discussions would be initiated with Town if article passes, and it may be possible but perhaps not probable to put something on the Warning for the next Town meeting or call a Special meeting.

Discuss ceased and by paper ballot the motion passed by a vote of 79-13.

ARTICLE 8: 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.

P. Howard Flanders made a motion that the Village appropriate the following sums of money for the interests of its inhabitants, for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, and for necessary expenses: \$396,000 for general fund expenses, and that the Village raise \$281,255 in taxes for general fund spending.

N. Sherman pointed out some highlights of the budget, including:

- Page 34 Total proposed spending is\$396,000 of which 82% is the police department, which is level funded.
- Page 33 There is a reduction in general government expenses over last year primarily due to a budget decrease in professional services and legal expenses.
- Page 32 Revenue highlights included lowering traffic ticket revenue and a reduction in the transfer from reserve.

The anticipated tax rate will be 13 cents or a 16% reduction over last year.

Anne Imhoff asked why there was a decrease in the PILOT payment over that of last year. W. Shepeluk stated that he hopes it is a conservative number as those numbers are not yet available.

Chris Nordle moved to amend the proposed total budget of \$396,000; to reduce it by \$162,500 to \$233,500. The amendment was seconded. C. Nordle stated that the purpose of the amendment to reduce the police department by half is in response to the overwhelming response of the prior article. If the Village is ready to take this step, the Village is stating that they are no longer able to fund the department and it is time for the Select Board to take up the issue. S. Stockwell asked how quickly it would go into effect if passed, and if the Trustees have done any studies about the impact on crime from removing police from small communities.

W. Shepeluk responded that the budget started on January 1st, therefore two full month of the police budget have already been spent. The Village would have to start to take action now to dissolve to not have a police department by about July 1st. Certain line items cannot be cut, like the lease which requires one year's notice causing expense into next year, debt on the cruiser, etc. It would be challenging to have efficient and orderly transition out of the police department.

P. H. Flanders stated that the Trustees considered reducing the budget when putting the budget together, but decided to recommend funding the department for the year to allow a more orderly process of closing down the department.

The amendment to the motion failed by voice vote. The original motion passed by voice.

The results of Article 2

With 80 votes cast by Australian Ballot, the results of Article 2 are as follows:

VILLAGE PRESIDENT (1 year term)

P. Howard Flanders	66
Write-ins	1
Blanks	13

VILLAGE CLERK (1 year term)

Carla Lawrence	80
Write-ins	0
Blanks	0

VILLAGE TREASURER (1 year term)

Carla Lawrence	80
Write-ins	0
Blanks	0

VILLAGE TRUSTEE (2 year term)

Natalie Sherman	68
Write-ins	0
Blanks	12

WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONER (3 year term)

Robert Finucane	75
Write-ins	0
Blanks	5

ARTICLE 9: To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

E. Coffey asked if anyone felt that the fence at the roundabout is offensive. An individual was given permission by the Select Board to raise funds for a replacement fence. E. Coffey stated he does not feel the fence should be replaced and encouraged everyone to talk with Select Board.

Kathi Grace stated that in early 2000, she was on a committee to help build the ice rink, and with the Trustees help that was made possible. She expressed gratitude for them moving ahead with very forward thinking, and stated that the rink has contributed considerably to the economy. She mentioned that Harwood High School boy's hockey is in the State championship Thursday night for the second time in 10 years.

Chris Triolo asked about the status of 51 South Main Street. P. H. Flanders stated that the Village voted an amount up to \$50,000 last year to demolish the building and got permits. There has been some interest in the property. The Trustees are going to have some discussion with interested parties, but want to ensure that parking is available during the Main Street Reconstruction.

Derrick Pitstick stated it has been several years since Tropical Storm Irene. The voters authorized removal of the building and it should be demolished soon. He stated that the Trustees should not have waited this many years and this is wasted space in the center of the Village.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Village Clerk

Approved at a meeting held on

P. Howard Flanders, Village President

Lawrence Sayah, Trustee

Natalie Sherman, Trustee