

**Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board & Village Trustees
October 23, 2017
Steele Community Room ~ 28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Metayer, J. Brown and M. Frier, Select Board; P. H. Flanders, L. Sayah and N. Sherman, Village Trustees; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; A. Tuscany, Town & Village Engineer; Anne Imhoff, ORCA Media; M. Hughes, Waterbury Record; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: A. Durkin and E. Coffey.

The meeting of both Boards was called to order at 7:05pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Frier made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by M. Metayer and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

M. Metayer made a motion to approve the consent agenda items, including the minutes of the October 2nd and October 11th meetings. The motion was seconded by M. Frier and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

E. Coffey spoke to the unacceptable condition of the sidewalks on Winooski Street and expressed several concerns. He asked that the problems be corrected in the near future. C. Viens stated that he is aware of sidewalk issues throughout the Town and that it most likely will not be addressed this late in the year, but can be considered during budget season. W. Shepeluk stated that the issue is deferred maintenance, and that the Select Board continues to try to keep the tax rate low.

JOINT BUSINESS

W. Shepeluk brought the Boards attention to a memo dated October 19, 2017 on employee health benefits that was previously distributed (attached). There are cost increases in Blue Cross Blue Shield plans ranging from 7.7% to 11.2%, with the average increase of 9.65%. The out of pocket maximums and deductibles are increasing considerably.

W. Shepeluk gave a brief history of benefit from 2014 and recommended an increase in the stipend offered to employees of 5%. Most employees buy a plan that costs less than the monthly stipend provided by the Town or Village. The excess is then placed in a health savings account. Overtime, there has been a constant cost shift occurring between the insurance company and the employees.

P. H. Flanders stated that the Water Commissioners met earlier today and voted to go with the Manager's recommendation of a 5% increase in the monthly stipend paid to employees. In 2017, \$196,395 was budgeted for health insurance. The 2018 budget will include a line item of \$206,214, or a \$9,819 increase.

M. Frier made a motion to approve a 5% increase in the monthly benefit paid to employees. The motion was seconded by M. Metayer and passed unanimously. N. Sherman made a like motion on behalf of the Trustees. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

W. Shepeluk previously distributed the Manager's report for the month of September. A discussion was held about ongoing costs and additional projects that require taxpayer dollars.

M. Frier asked about the sale of assets related to the police department, and asked if the Trustees would be willing to hold some of the assets while the Police Services Study Committee is exploring option for future coverage. W. Shepeluk stated that Village assets will remain with the Village even after the charter change goes into effect. Some assets purchased with grant funds have to be transferred to another law enforcement agency, of which there is currently none in the Town.

C. Viens asked when there might be a Town meeting to discuss the future of police services. The intention of the Village, while the charter change will not be effect until July 1, 2018, is to eliminate the Village police department as of January 1, 2018. The Police Services Study Committee will be reporting back to the Select Board at their next meeting as to their findings.

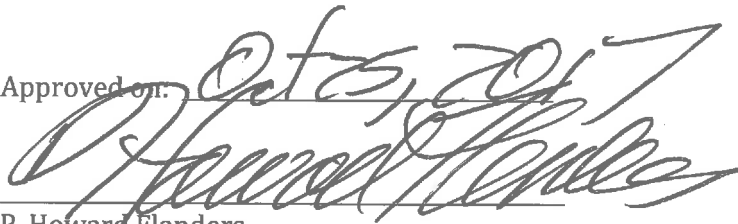
P. H. Flanders thanked the Manager for continuing to provide the monthly reports.

The meeting of the Trustees adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Lawrence, Town Clerk

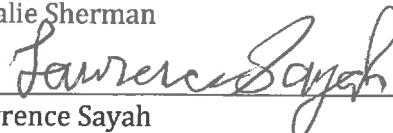
Approved on:

Oct 5, 2017


P. Howard Flanders



Natalie Sherman



Lawrence Sayah