

**Edward Farrar Utility District  
Commissioners Meeting  
Wednesday, November 8, 2023  
4:30 pm in the Steele Room**

Commissioners present in the Steele Community Room: P.H. Flanders, C. Parks, N. Sherman

Commissioners present via Zoom: R. Finucane

Staff in Attendance: Thomas Leitz, William Woodruff, Kenneth Ryan

Members of the Public in Attendance: Alyssa Johnson, Anne Imhoff, Cheryl Casey, Tom Gloor

Chairperson Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

**Approve Agenda: N. Sherman made a motion to approve the agenda. R. Finucane seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Public: There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Discussion of Loss of Commissioner Lefty Sayah: P.H. Flanders read into the record a resolution of sympathy regarding the death of Lefty Sayah. P.H. Flanders noted the resolution should be attached to the official meeting minutes.

A discussion was held regarding the open seat. P.H. Flanders noted he had spoken to former Commissioner Mark Alberghini who had expressed interest in the position. **C. Parks made a motion to appoint Mark Alberghini to the position, and R. Finucane seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Briefing on Edward Farrar Plaque Dedication: P.H. Flanders reviewed the dedication ceremony and noted attendance was quite strong. Pastor Peter Plagge read a benediction at the ceremony, which P.H. Flanders read at the meeting and noted the benediction should be attached to the official meeting minutes.

Update on Downstreet Project at 51 South Main Street: Thomas Leitz updated the Commissioners on the status of the project and the approval by the Town Development Review Board. Mr. Leitz noted there was an option for Downstreet to purchase the property, which would expire on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Leitz requested the approval of the Commissioners to sign a one-year extension of the purchase option. **N. Sherman made a motion authorizing the District Manager to sign the extension, and R. Finucane seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Briefing on New Staffing: Mr. Leitz noted that Kia Nealy had been hired to fill the vacant position of Tax and Utility Billing Clerk. Her first day was November 15<sup>th</sup>.

Update on Oakwood Water System and Possible Ownership: Mr. Leitz and Mr. Woodruff briefed the board on correspondence they had in regards to the water system. Staff noted that the District, by taking ownership of the system, was assuming a long-term liability, and therefore we did not feel compelled to assist the current owners of the system with any transition costs. The Commissioners noted their agreement with that plan of action.

Discussion on Evaluation of Potential Savings Between EFUD and the Town: Mr. Leitz presented a memo related to savings if EFUD and the Town were to merge. Tom Gloor made several comments noting his general support for a merger, and he noted his belief that all town voters should have some control over matters that are currently the purview of the District and its voters. He noted there are opportunity costs to having two municipalities.

Mr. Leitz was asked about voting procedures post merger, and he indicated he would research that question and report back to the board.

Update on Waterline Construction Project: William Woodruff briefed the board on the status of the project. He noted that a substantial portion of the line was in place and has been pressure tested, and the culvert has been replaced. He further noted the project would soon shut down for the winter, and construction would be resumed in the spring when weather permitted.

Discussion of Rates for the State of Vermont: Mr. Leitz presented the total amounts billed to the State of Vermont, and how those amounts have declined precipitously. Mr. Leitz noted he was seeking board input about creating a new rate structure for public institutional customers. The board indicated their interest in pursuing this matter, and Mr. Leitz he would bring forward a specific proposal at a future meeting.

Department Reports: William Woodruff walked the Commissioners through the department reports. Mr. Woodruff noted they had found a hole in a sewer line, and that problem would be addressed in the spring.

Minutes of Meeting September 27, 2023: It was noted minutes were not circulated, and they would be at the next meeting. Therefore, minutes were not yet approved.

Adjourn: **N. Sherman made a motion to adjourn. C. Parks seconded the motion. A vote was held and passed unanimously.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

# Resolution of Sympathy

**WHEREAS:** The community of Waterbury was deeply saddened by the death of Lawrence "Lefty" Sayah on Monday October 30, 2023; and

**WHEREAS:** Lefty, the Honorary Mayor of Randall Street has lived with his family at 18 Randall St since 1972; and

**WHEREAS:** Lefty has served 27 years faithfully and dutifully as an elected Public Official in service to his fellow Waterbury citizens for the betterment of community life; and

**WHEREAS:** Lefty's example of public service included kindness, politeness, respect and honesty creating an oxymoron exemplifying an "**Honest Politician**"; and

**WHEREAS:** Lefty was presented with the 2017 Wallace Community Service Award by the citizens of Waterbury in recognition and appreciation for his service for the betterment of his community; and

**WHEREAS:** Lefty passed away preparing for his favorite holiday "**Halloween**" to show his love of community and it's children, out of love and respect, a neighbor carved a memorial "**Lefty Pumpkin**" for display on Randall Street during Halloween 2023; and



**WHEREAS:** His passing is sorely felt, leaving a big hole in the heart of his family, his friends, his neighbors and the entire community of Waterbury.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town of Waterbury Select Board and the Edward Farrar Utility District Commissioners that we hereby express our sincere sympathy to his family: his son Jeff, daughter Julie and son in-law Frank, grandchildren Elizabeth and Sam, son in-law Tom and grandson Jacob.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent records of the Town of Waterbury and Edward Farrar Utility District and copy of this Resolution be presented to his family as a token of our sympathy on his passing and share our respect and appreciation for Lefty's service among us.

Dated the Sixth day of November 2023  
At Waterbury Vermont

Handwritten signature of Roger Clapp in black ink.

Roger Clapp  
Chairman Selectboard



Handwritten signature of P. Howard "Skip" Flanders in black ink.

P. Howard "Skip" Flanders  
Chairman EFUD Utility District

# Utility district honors namesake with graveside ceremony, plaque

October 21, 2023 | By Cheryl Casey | Correspondent



*EFUD Commissioner P. Howard "Skip" Flanders speaks beside Edward Farrar's Hope Cemetery gravestone ahead of the plaque unveiling. Photo by Cheryl Casey*

A special ceremony took place at Hope Cemetery last weekend that traced its origin back more than a century.

The commissioners of the Edward Farrar Utility District and representatives of the Waterbury Historical Society gathered in the graveyard to honor the utility district's namesake.

As part of the ceremony, commissioners unveiled a special plaque affixed to the back of Farrar's gravestone, detailing his extensive public service to the Village during the late 19th century.

Commission Chair P. Howard "Skip" Flanders led the program and opened with a summary of Farrar's life and service. Born in Moretown in 1844, Farrar moved to Waterbury with his wife Eva (Hasseltine) and son John in 1880. At the first Village meeting in 1882 under the new charter, Farrar was elected as a Fire Warden.

"Edward was a lifelong public-minded citizen," Flanders said, "and from that time forward [he] was often elected to multiple positions serving his community."



*Public Works Director Bill Woodruff shares local lore of Farrar's ill-fated service. Photo by Cheryl Casey*

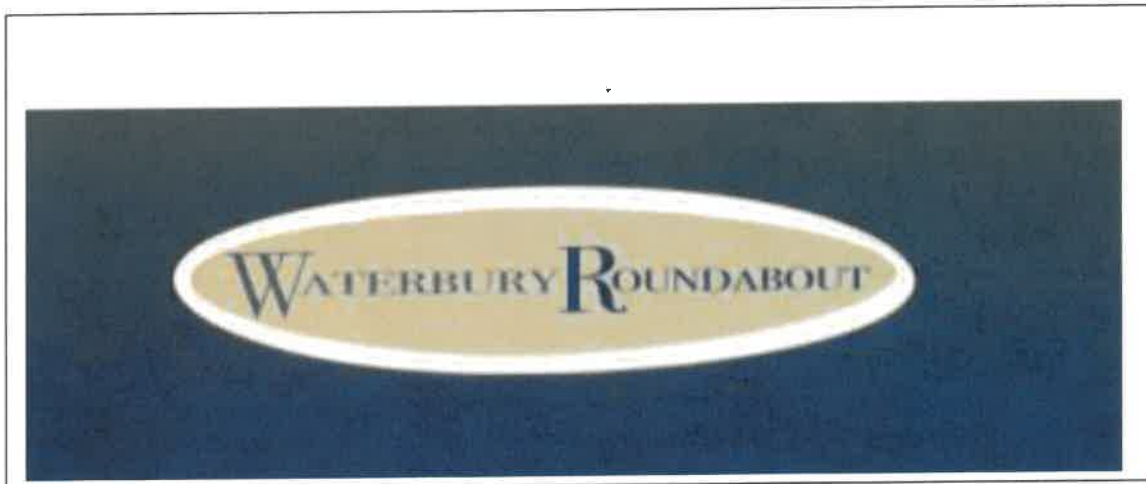
One of those positions was Water Commissioner, to which he was elected by acclamation at the 1903 Village meeting. A year and a half later, on Oct. 13, 1904, Farrar was supervising a sewer project at the head of Elm Street when the trench he was standing in collapsed. Farrar was almost immediately trapped, and despite nearby workers pulling him out within a matter of

minutes, “he was beyond medical aid, his lungs and chest being crushed in. He gasped twice after being taken out, and died,” reported the Waterbury Record newspaper at the time.

Public Works director Bill Woodruff followed Flanders’ remarks with a short history of the water and sewer misadventures at the ill-fated intersection of Elm and South Main streets. He recalled how former wastewater operator, Pete Krolczyk, “who never had a bad word to say about anybody,” despised the intersection as “trouble from day one” with its numerous water and sewer issues.

Woodruff also told of how, while digging at the intersection for the Main Street project, the crew came across an empty basin, about large enough for a grown man to fit inside and very near to where Farrar had died.

“Not to say it’s a cursed spot, but Edward must feel that right now. [His] spirit is telling us to be careful,” Woodruff said.





*Left to right: EFUD Commissioner Natalie Sherman, Rev. Peter Plagge, Public Works Director Bill Woodruff and EFUD Chair Skip Flanders. Photo by Cheryl Casey*

Along with his many public service roles, including Village President at the time of his death, Farrar was also a developer, and the neighborhood of Butler, Intervale, Prospect, and Wallace streets are known as Farrar's Addition. The 30 acres, formerly part of Gov. Ezra Butler's farm, were subdivided into 47 lots and the neighborhood was formally incorporated into the Village in 1902.

At the Village Meeting in 1905, Waterbury Record publisher Harry Whitehill introduced a resolution which was approved by voters and is now engraved on



Farrar's plaque:

*Whereas, we believe that the long, faithful and correspondingly efficient service of the late Village President and Water Commissioner, Mr. Edward Farrar, deserves an expression of recognition.*

*Therefore be it resolved that the voters of the Village of Waterbury hereby express their appreciation of Edward Farrar as a worthy citizen, faithful official and an honest man. Geniality, integrity and industry were striking elements in his character.*

*Further be it resolved that this resolution be subscribed on the Village records and a copy be given to members of his family.*

Rev. Peter Plagge of the Waterbury Congregational Church concluded the ceremony with a benediction, saying of Farrar: "You cannot claim that his good will, which resulted in the betterment of the lives of his neighbor, no matter who they were, or where they lived, could be anything but good."

Flanders said he came across Farrar's story in 1995 while researching the Village water system. When the Village municipality was dissolved and the utility district established in 2018, the commissioners, including Flanders, chose to name the district after Farrar.

But the name alone could not tell Farrar's story, Flanders explained. So the commissioners decided that having a plaque on Farrar's grave marker would be appropriate. "[We] wanted to do something to recognize Edward's service and

sacrifice so that it would not be lost to history,” he said.

The ceremony on Oct. 14 took place 119 years and one day after Farrar met his tragic end.



*The commemorative plaque on Farrar's gravestone in Hope Cemetery. Photo by Cheryl Casey*

*Cheryl Casey is president of the Waterbury Historical Society and a professor of communication at Champlain College.*