

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
April 3, 2017
Steele Community Room ~ 28 North Main Street

Present: C. Viens, M. Metayer, M. Frier, J. Brown, D. Schneider (arrived at 7:25pm), Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; C. Clark, Highway Supervisor; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media;

Public: E. Coffey, H. Murray, K. Kassis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by the Chairperson.

Agenda: M. Frier made a motion to approve the agenda that was seconded by M. Metayer. W. Shepeluk asked that an item pertaining to the North Hill Cell Tower issue be added as item (g) of the Manager's items. The vote was unanimous to approve the agenda with the added item.

Consent Agenda: M. Metayer made a motion to approve the consent agenda. J. Brown seconded the motion and it passed 4-0.

Public:

- E. Coffey informed the board that he wanted to be allowed to speak when the agenda item concerning the fence at the roundabout came up later in the meeting.
- Herschel Murray appeared and told the board that after 3 terms and 9 years on the Recreation Committee that he was not seeking re-appointment at the end of the month. He provided a brief oral history of the accomplishments of the Recreation Committee during his time on the committee. He made specific mention of successes as: Community Path, Camp Smith at Little River State Park, Picnic Pavilions, Dog Park, River of Lights Parade, Winterfest, and the Recreation Director's position. He advocated for continued cooperation between the Recreation Committee and the Select Board.
- E. Coffey then re-appeared before the Select Board to commend the Recreation Committee for its work, but informed the Board that the predecessors of many of the programs and events that the Recreation Committee sponsors or extends efforts on were initially conceived and run by the Jaycees. He made specific mention of the Winter Carnival that may have transformed into Winterfest.

Tree Canopy Grant Application: S. Lotspeich appeared to inform the Board about a grant opportunity that would allow tree planting in the Maple Street Cemetery and the community green in Waterbury Center. The grant requires a 50% match from the local community. As the identified projects are valued at about \$7,000, the Town would have to contribute \$3,500. The expenses will be shared by the Town's cemetery fund (approx. \$6,000) and highway fund (approx. \$1,000) and the revenues will be applied proportionally to both funds. J. Brown spoke to the importance of this project and its value to the community as a whole. She recommends it highly. J. Brown made a motion to move forward with the project and apply for the grant as described by staff and authorized the Municipal Manager to sign the application. M. Frier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Don Schneider arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Manager's Items

- A. The manager provided a report to the Board about two more of the Town's reserve funds that are in actively managed investment portfolios. He reported on the CC Fisher Fund that provides supplemental funding for fire department training/equipment. The Manager also reported on the origins of the Veterans Monument Fund which was given to the Town by the VFW in 2009 (see attached).

- B. The Manager and Celia Clark, Highway Superintendent, presented information about the purchase of a grader for use by the highway department. The board discussed information and compared the merits of a John Deere 672 GP (\$284,900) and a Caterpillar 120M2AWD (\$277,900). Both prices included taking the Town's existing machine in trade. Ms. Clark explained that the Deere machine met the specifications the Town was looking for and the Cat machine did not. Specifically, the CAT was undersized in the Town's opinion. M. Frier made a motion to purchase the John Deere grader as described and authorized the expenditure of \$284,900 to make the purchase. M. Metayer seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.
- C. The Manager reminded the board that no policy was yet in place to allow for rental of the Steele Community Room by groups or organizations that are unaffiliated with the town. At present we allow the room to be reserved and used by these groups or organizations, but no fee is charged save for a key deposit. Last year the Board indicated it wanted to wait to see how use patterns developed before imposing a fee structure. By consensus, the Select Board directed staff to do some research concerning use and rental fees at similar venues and to bring a rental fee proposal to the board at a future meeting.
- D. The Manager told the Board that despite its recently approved fee schedule for fields and facilities that was researched and proposed by the Recreation Director and Committee, requests for a waiver of fees were continuing to come in with reservation requests for use of facilities. He wondered whether the Board wanted to continue to entertain these requests. By consensus, the Board stated that the fee schedule should be applied without discrimination and without respect to persons or organizations requesting use of the facility. It should be applied universally, as written.
- E. K. Kassis appeared to get final permission from the Board to replace the chain link ROW fence at the roundabout with a new black colonial aluminum tubular fence that is in keeping with the other amenities such as the lamp posts. Steve Lotspeich informed the Board that an easement was necessary from Main Street Cottages, LLC to erect the fence in the vicinity of their private property which is adjacent to the roundabout and Union Street. Ms. Kassis stated that enough money had been raised and donated to Revitalizing Waterbury to cover the costs of the project, including the legal fees for the easement.
- E. Coffey addressed the Board to reiterate his opposition to the project. He stated that it was an unnecessary project and even though money had been raised to cover all the direct costs, he was concerned about costs the Town might incur through supervision of the installation and through maintenance and repair costs into the future. He applauded the fundraising efforts, but thought the effort was misdirected and that there were other projects more worthy. E. Coffey asked the Select Board to reject this proposal.

Several board members stated their disagreement with E. Coffey's opinion and after several minutes of conversation about the matter, M. Frier made a motion to allow the project to go forward as described, provided the Town was paid for the full project cost by Revitalizing Waterbury. D. Schneider seconded the motion. It passed 5-0.

J. Brown then made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign necessary documents related to the easement and to accept the easement to allow the fence to be built in the vicinity of property owned by Main Street Cottages, LLC. D. Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- F. The Manager reviewed the newest draft of the proposed governance document for the Recreation Committee. He described the changes he is proposing and answered the questions of the Board. The Board expressed thanks for the work done and the clarifications to the language. The Board directed staff to deliver the new document to the Recreation Committee for its input and expressed a desire to approve the final version at the April 17th meeting or the May 1st meeting.

- G. The Manager circulated a notice stating that a date for the Technical Hearing for the proposed Verizon North Hill Cell Tower had been set: People's United Bank Conference Room, April 18, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. If necessary, the hearing may stretch out from the 19th-21st. He stated that staff would be present to assist the Town's attorney. Several Board members suggested they may try to attend.

The Board discussed future meeting schedules. D. Schneider reported that he would not be in attendance at the next two meetings. The Board agreed to cancel its scheduled meeting on July 3rd and will hold two meetings in July; one July 10th and the second, if necessary on July 24th.

D. Schneider asked if a financial report could be presented at an upcoming meeting. Shepeluk suggested one could be presented on April 17th or May 1st. D. Schneider expressed disappointment that he would be absent both days, but said the report should be provided anyway.

M. Frier made a motion to adjourn. J. Brown seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk
Municipal Manager