

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
July 22nd, 2019
28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Frier, N. Fish, and J. Brown, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Community Planner; A. Imhoff, ORCA Media and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk.

Public: Josh O’Gorman, Waterbury Record; Herschell Murray.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVE AGENDA

W. Shepeluk asked to discuss a property on Little River Road. C. Lawrence asked the Board to consider an Outside Consumption Permit for the Best Western. M. Frier made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

N. Fish made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the July 8th meeting and an Error and Omissions letter adding Khifer O’Connor’s name to Parcel 290-0054. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

H. Murray had comments on the proposed contract for the Community Center Feasibility Study and expressed support.

AUTHORIZE CONTRACT FOR GBA ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY CENTER FEASIBILITY STUDY

S. Lotspeich was present and refreshed the Board’s memory on a grant received for a Community Center feasibility study. A request for proposals was put out in April and three solid proposals were received. GBA Architecture and Planning were chosen and plan to research several sites and develop needs and costs. Partners in the project include Waterbury Recreation, the Senior Center and Children’s room. The process will be very open to the public.

J. Brown stated that the capacity of the recreation facilities has maxed out due to the popularity of the programs. S. Lotspeich explained that this conversation will be part of the process and that the idea is to have a multipurpose facility.

C. Viens read a letter that he received from an anonymous resident with concerns about taxes and in opposition to the concept of a Community Center. W. Shepeluk stated that reading a letter and not identifying the author is inappropriate, especially in light of jobs taken at Town staff and Board members. M. Frier echoed that sentiments and stated he feels Waterbury must continue to be fiscally responsible while at the same time consider the needs of the community. M. Frier clarified that the Board has already approved the vote for the spending and this discussion is to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the contract. He stated that the Town cannot ignore opportunities to learn what the community needs.

W. Shepeluk reminded the Board that residents, through a Revitalizing Waterbury community forum, developed the idea of a community center. The community then came to the Select Board with the concept. J. Brown stated that she was at that meeting and described the process as to how the concept emerged.

J. Brown made a motion to authorize the Town to enter into a contract with GBA Architecture and to authorize the Municipal Manager to sign the contract. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed by a vote of 3 - 1.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Waterbury and the Waterbury Congregational Church

W. Shepeluk distributed a memorandum of understanding between the Town and the Waterbury and the Waterbury Congregational Church. The MOU formalizes a handshake agreement that has been in effect for decades. The church owns the parking lot and has allowed the parking lot to be used by the public. In exchange for that use, the Town plows the lot. The church has become increasingly busy on days other than Sundays which necessitates the need for more church related parking. There are approximately 18 spaces in the lot. W. Shepeluk gave a review of some of the points in the MOU, including that the church will be responsible for monitoring parking in the lot when spaces are reserved for church use. The Town would be responsible for removing cars that are in violation of the winter parking band.

N. Fish asked if the Town does all of the plowing, sanding and salting. W. Shepeluk stated there is not much sanding and salting, and the church maintains the driveway between the church and the Wells House.

N. Fish made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Waterbury and the Waterbury Congregational Church concerning parking 8 North Main Street. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed with 3 votes in favor of the motion. M. Frier recused himself due to the proximity of his business to the lot.

2nd Quarter Budget Report

W. Shepeluk distributed the second quarter budget report including the general fund, highway fund and library fund and stated that the Town is on track for the year through June 30th. He then reviewed the revenues and expenses.

House on Little River Road

W. Shepeluk brought the Board's attention to an abandoned home on Little River Road that has been the topic of conversation on Front Porch Forum. The home was abandoned and then transients started the house on fire. People are suggesting that the Town should be involved in cleaning up the lot. The mortgage company has been paying the taxes so it still remains private property. W. Shepeluk wrote to the mortgage company, described the condition of the property, and asked the company to board it up. Nothing has happened. W. Shepeluk responded with a post on Front Porch Forum answering people's questions.

OUTSIDE CONSUMPTION PERMIT FOR BEST WESTERN

M. Frier made a motion to approve an Outside Consumption Permit for the Best Western. The motion was seconded by J. Brown and passed unanimously.

C. Viens expressed concerns with vagrancy and homelessness and asked if there should be an ordinance. M. Frier stated that as a business owner and a part of several business groups, he has not heard any concerns. W. Shepeluk stated that there is no simple solution and people are allowed to stand in public spaces.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: August 5, 2019