

**Waterbury Village Board of Trustees Meeting
Steele Community Room
28 North Main Street
December 28, 2016**

Attendees: P. Howard Flanders, Village President; Lawrence Sayah and Natalie Sherman, Trustees; William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; Anthony Mazzilli, Waterbury Police Department; Anne Imhoff, ORCA Media; and Denise McCarty, Board Secretary.

Public Attendees: Phoebe Pelkey, Marcella Pelkey, Harry Shepard, Will Bucossi, Jan Gendreau, Everett Coffey, Georgiana Birmingham, Jane Willard, Sally Dillon, Walter Luce, Norma Luce, Melissa Moore, John Sherman, Paul Giuliani.

Opening and Call to Order

P. Howard Flanders called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Consider any modification to the agenda

N. Howard Sherman moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Sayah and passed unanimously.

Public Discussion on Changing Village Charter

The Trustees have invited Attorney Paul Giuliani to attend the meeting to discuss the options and answer questions for changing Village Government including possibly eliminating the Village Police Department and or other responsibilities. Interested members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend.

P. Howard Flanders introduced Attorney Giuliani and gave the back ground about the Village charter and possible amendments to it.

Public Comments:

Walter Luce

How will this affect the taxes?

Eliminating the town tax – the Town tax rate would not go down. The Village tax rate might go down a little bit. The water rates would not be affected. The tax rate would not be affected unless the Town voted on having services that they would lose after the merger.

Phoebe Pelkey

Dissolving the police department would be the best solution because the police department as it is right now is not valuable because there can't be full time positions, there can't be more positions and the police department has been the sticking point with merging the Village with the Town.

Will Bucossi

Will the grand list go down? Are there two grand lists or just one? Would it be a Village vote or a Town vote to dissolve the police department? Is the main reason to change the Charter to get rid of the police department? What is the difference between voting to not fund the police department versus dissolving/changing the charter?

Georgiana Birmingham

Doesn't want to pay anymore for the police department then she already does, doesn't feel the police department is effective because they are part time. The fear is if the police department is dissolved then the Town will not vote one in and there will never be a police department for either the Village or the Town.

Everett Coffey

He stated that at the Trustees meeting when Lieutenant Nally from the Vermont State Police attended, the statistics he presented about the calls they responded to should be circulated to more people because it shows that there does need to be a police department. He also stated that Waterbury needs a police department.

Melissa Moore, Manager of the Best Western Waterbury

Stated her concern if the Waterbury Police Department is dissolved. She stated that she is representing one of the largest employers in Waterbury and one of the biggest tax payers in Waterbury. There is an opiate crisis in Vermont, there is a human trafficking crisis happening right now. Dissolving the police department would be "criminal". The Municipal Manager stated that her employers should attend a Waterbury Select Board meeting and speak to them about funding the existing police department. Discussion followed.

Sally Dillon

S. Dillon asked what the next step would be. P. H. Flanders stated that the next step would be to warn for an article on the ballot to request the Trustees to come up with a solution to minimize the responsibility of the Village for having a police department. This would mean dissolution of a police department. There would be a vote in November and if the article passed to amend the Charter it would then go to the legislature to approve the ratification of the charter. If the legislature passed it then the Village of Waterbury would work with the Select Board to minimize the Village's responsibility. The Village would transition to only be a Water and Sewer Authority to make sure people were paying for those services. Discussion followed regarding the risks to amending the charter and eliminating the police department. The police department could resign early because they would not have jobs for long.

Marcey Pelkey

Would it be beneficial if Village residents speak with residents of the Town with concerns for funding the police department and sharing the burden? W. Shepeluk suggested discussing police services in the community at a Select Board Meeting in January while the Select Board members are discussing their budget for the upcoming year. The other options are to get a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters or request on Town Meeting day to have a discussion about police funding.

Budget Discussion

The Municipal Manager reviewed the status of the current budget.

51 South Main Street

The Trustees discussed the status of 51 South Main Street. The Trustees agreed to not take down the building until after the Main Street Project was completed.

Minutes

L. Sayah moved to approve the October 12th revised meeting minutes, November 9th, December 6th, and December 14th meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by N. Sherman and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Board of Trustees Meeting on Wednesday, January 11th.

Adjourn

L. Sayah moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 pm. The motion was seconded by N. Sherman and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty
Board Secretary

Approved on: _____

P. Howard Flanders

Lawrence Sayah

Natalie Sherman