

Joint Meeting of the Waterbury Village Trustees and Water & Sewer Commissioners
Steele Community Room
April 9th, 2018

Attendees: P. Howard Flanders, Village President; Lawrence Sayah and Natalie Sherman, Trustees; Bob Finucane and Cindy Parks, Water & Sewer Commissioners; and Carla Lawrence, Village Clerk.

Public: Attorney Paul Giuliani; Representatives Tom Stevens and Theresa Wood; Tommy Gardner, Waterbury Record; and Everett Coffey.

Opening and Call to Order

P. Howard Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Consider modifications to the agenda

There were no modifications to the agenda.

Public

There was no public comment.

Discussion with Attorney Paul Giuliani on Questions Raised by House Government Operations Committee on Proposed Charter Changes

W. Shepeluk and P. H. Flanders have been working with Legislative Counsel on the proposed charter amendments. The Legislative Counsel sent questions on the charter and P. Giuliani and P. H. Flanders drafted responses to the questions. There are questions as to how the UDAG funds will be handled. There is a question as to whether the new district should go under the Public Service Board with rate setting.

The Trustees had three objectives for the charter amendments: remove authority for police, eliminate the Trustees and simplify the government, and change the name from the Village of Waterbury to the Edward Farrar Utility District. It is intended that the UDAG funds will be used as they are now, to provide loans to new or expanding businesses that connect to the water and sewer systems.

P. Giuliani stated that the only substantive change is the name of the entity and the removal of some powers which will make for more efficient delivery of services and reduce redundancies. He stated the Trustees should expel any notion of the Public Service Board getting involved in rate setting as the nature of the district will be a municipal corporation. P. Giuliani stated that there is historical precedence for moving in this direction and that what is being proposed is a simple conversion of one government to a more simple form of government. P. Giuliani asked if the questions had been reviewed by the committee, and stated that the responses prepared are solid.

T. Wood stated that the questions did have committee vetting. She noted that Legislative Counsel Tucker Anderson is an intern and is being supervised by Betsy Ann Wrask. The committee has questions on Section 5 of the charter that deals with the powers and authority of the district. There is a question as to whether the district is more than a utility district and they do not understand the general law application. P. Giuliani stated that there should be no concern that this district will operate under a different set of general laws.

As a successor to the Village, the utility district will also own property and assets. T. Wood stated that there is confusion as to why this is being done if they want to maintain all of the powers of the Village and that the name of the district has thrown off the committee. T. Stevens explained that the discussion is not antagonistic on the committee's end, they are just trying to understand and there are many freshman members on the committee.

P. H. Flanders stated that the bill be withdrawn if necessary. The question arose in committee as to what would have changed if the Town and Village had merged. P. H. Flanders responded that this is a moot question. C. Parks stated that the district is still a public utility, not private, and no profits are being made.

T. Wood stated it would be helpful for Attorney Giuliani to have a discussion with Legislative Counsel. C. Parks stated it might be helpful if the State Division of Drinking Water provide testimony. T. Stevens suggested addressing some of the concerns through discussions prior to the next committee meeting. P. H. Flanders stated that he expects to be asked back in for testimony after the committee has seen the answers to their questions. T. Stevens suggested that a conversation start with Legislative Counsel before answers to the questions are submitted. T. Wood will set up a meeting with Legislative Counsel for P. H. Flanders and P. Giuliani and advise the Chair as to what is happening.

Consider Adopting Resolution for Action if Proposed Charter is Amended Adversely

The Trustees prepared a resolution in the event the charter amendments are unfavorable to the Village. T. Wood stated the resolution is ill advised, and if there is significant disagreement between the committee and the Village, the charter will be put on hold.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Village Clerk

Approved on: _____

P. Howard Flanders

Lawrence Sayah

Natalie Sherman