

**Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
November 16th, 2020
28 North Main Street**

Present: C. Viens, M. Bard, K. Martin, M. Frier and N. Fish, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; Almy Landauer, Library Director; K. Petrovic, Utility Billing Clerk; N. Nadeau, Director of Parks and Recreation and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held via videoconference.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Hadley Laskowski, Valley Recorder; Meg Baldor, Tom Scribner, Bill Minter, Ally Shea, Dani Kehlmann, Alyssa Johnson, Dana Allen, Harry Shepard and Dan Potter.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

M. Bard asked to add a brief discussion about the newspaper of record. C. Viens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by N. Fish and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

K. Martin made a motion to approve the consent agenda items including the minutes of the November 2nd meeting. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

T. Scribner was present to discuss the disc golf course in Waterbury Center and to discuss the sharing of recreational resources. The use of the park has exploded due to COVID-19. T. Scribner asked if there were any agreements with the various groups that utilize the resources, if there is liability insurance, whether fees are collected and other questions about the resources. N. Nadeau stated that when started his job, there was not an existing MOU. He stated that there were issues in the spring about tree cutting, and the group was informed this isn't appropriate. The plan going forward is to create signage so some residents can walk the course safely, and for everyone to know it is a shared facility. N. Nadeau stated he would research T. Scribner's questions. N. Nadeau stated fees are collected for some tournaments held at the disc golf course. W. Shepeluk explained that the main goal is to educate the disc golfers that the course is not exclusively for disc golf. A. Shea expressed concerns with the domination of the trail use by the disc golfers and several bad habits of the participants. She suggested a committee be formed for communication between different types of users of the facilities. W. Shepeluk suggested that the Recreation Committee be the eyes and ears of the Town for this type of concern, and that staff will discuss some recommendations. B. Minter volunteered the Recreation Committee to work on this issue and support N. Nadeau. Discussion continued. T. Scribner asked that while discussions take place, that destruction (removal of trees) and construction cease.

SELECT BOARD ITEMS

Library Director's Report

A. Landauer was present to discuss library activities since March. She reviewed these activities with the Board. The library expanded hours on November 2nd, but returned to curbside service after the Governor's latest press conference. A. Landauer shared some slides as to how the library has been operating during COVID-19.

Discuss Property Tax Delinquencies

W. Shepeluk distributed a memo earlier in the day to apprise the Board of where the Town is with tax collection. In 2019, 155 taxpayers did not pay as of due date and the collection rate was almost 98%. In 2020, the delinquent rate was 4.8% or 2.3 times more outstanding taxes on the day after tax collection date. In a normal year, and 8% penalty and 1% interest would be imposed on the next

business date after the due date. W. Shepeluk stated that 30 people paid their taxes by credit card. Some of those 30 most likely paid by credit card to avoid the 9% penalty and interest. When paying by credit card there is a 3% courtesy fee the property taxpayer must pay to the vendor. W. Shepeluk recommended that the penalty be dropped to 4% and that no interest be charged until at least April. The Board discussed the recommendation. W. Shepeluk explained that the Board can extend the deadline to pay taxes without penalty until December 31st and amended his recommendation. More discussion followed. C. Viens made a motion to authorize the Municipal Manager to reduce the penalty from 8% to 4% for 2020, due now, with no interest payments until April 1st. The motion was seconded by M. Bard and passed unanimously.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Discuss COVID-19 Resurgence and Impact on Municipal Operations

This past Friday, the Governor extended the State of Emergency with more restrictions through December 15th and his order stated that Municipalities should limit in person contact to the extent possible. W. Shepeluk stated that staff will be asked to work from home to the extent possible but no layoffs are planned at this point in time. Some public bodies had moved back to meeting in person. That practice will be stopped. The Board will continue to meet by Zoom for the foreseeable future.

Newspaper of Record

M. Bard stated that Waterbury residents now receive a paper called the 'Waterbury Reader' and asked if that should be the paper of record. W. Shepeluk asked L. Scagliotti if the paper could publish legal notices. She responded in the affirmative and was pleased that the paper could be utilized in this way. The practice will be to still also use the Times Argus as it is a daily newspaper.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: December 7, 2020