

Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board
August 23rd, 2021
28 North Main Street

Present: M. Frier, M. Bard, C. Viens, D. Kehlmann and K. Martin, Select Board; W. Shepeluk, Municipal Manager; S. Lotspeich, Planning & Zoning Director; and C. Lawrence, Town Clerk. The meeting was held in person and by videoconference to allow for remote attendance and participation.

Public: Lisa Scagliotti, Waterbury Roundabout; ORCA Media; Anne Imhoff, ORCA Media; P. Howard Flanders, EFUD Commissioner; Tami Bass; Meg Baldor; Tom Scribner; Jane Brown and Frank Spaulding.

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

APPROVE AGENDA

C. Lawrence asked to add an Error and Omissions letter under Select Board items. M. Bard asked to discuss reports of people being attacked at the Reservoir. C. Viens made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. Viens made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2nd meeting. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

There was no public comment.

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

COVID Update

W. Shepeluk explained that there was a COVID outbreak at the summer recreation camp that affected 31 children at the St. Leo's pod. The venue was closed for one day. The case count continued to rise and there were only about 20 children present during the last couple of weeks of camp. Refunds were made to those parents who withdrew their children. The cases seemed limited to the children. There have been 55 total cases in Waterbury since the camp outbreak.

M. Bard asked for a discussion on a masking policy universally in Waterbury. Some municipalities have gone to an indoor masking policy. W. Shepeluk stated that the Town may not have the authority to require a mask mandate and that the Governor has been unwilling to mandate one statewide. There may need to be approval by the Department of Health. W. Shepeluk suggested not implementing the mandate, see how the next couple of weeks go and get more information from the Department of Health.

Discuss Transfer of EFUD Property to Town

P. H. Flanders was present to discuss the transfer of EFUD properties to the Town. He distributed and explained the list of the properties that include the Welcome Sign, Elm Street parking lot, Rusty Parker Park and River Road Ice Center and Old Dump Site. All of these properties have no relation to water or sewer business that the Commissioners are in charge of.

P. H. Flanders distributed a Memorandum of Understanding that the Municipal Manager and Commissioners drafted. One item is that the Town will not charge EFUD rent to house EFUD employees in the Municipal Center. The EFUD voters have a say in whether or not the property gets transferred most likely through a special meeting. The Town is not required to have a meeting to accept the property. There are no property taxes on these properties. Discussion continued on the properties, in particular the Ice Center property that is used primarily for recreational purposes. The Board expressed interest in the transfer of property and will review the Memorandum of Understanding.

Municipal Manager Compensation

W. Frier stated that the Select Board and EFUD Commissioners determine the Municipal Manager's compensation. The Manager is responsible for all other staff increases, as approved in the budget. EFUD previously approved a 3.5% increase in compensation retroactive to April 1st and a one-time \$5,000 bonus. Board members commended the Manager for his excellent work over the years. W. Shepeluk stated that the offer is generous. He asked the Board to pay back salaried employees that took a voluntary pay cut during COVID. M. Bard made a motion to approve a 3.5% raise for the Manager retroactive to April 1, 2021 accompanied by a one-time bonus of \$5,000 and agree to the Manager's recommendation to reimburse salaried employees who took a pay cut last year. The motion was seconded by C. Viens and passed unanimously.

Errors and Omissions Letter

C. Lawrence shared a letter that the Town Assessor submitted requesting an adjustment to the assessed value, and therefore the taxes, on Parcels 402-0178.V and 401-0000.V. Both adjustments lowered the assessed value and taxes. C. Viens made a motion to approve the errors and omissions as presented on August 23, 2021. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Attacks at the Reservoir

M. Bard stated he is on the Board of the Friends of the Waterbury Reservoir. He saw a press release where there was lewd and lascivious conduct at the Reservoir. As he left the Reservoir today, a gentlemen told him he has been attacked. It was suggested that he should have called the State Police. W. Shepeluk suggested asking Lt. White to attend a September meeting.

MANAGER'S ITEMS

Consider VOREC Grant Application Letter of Interest

F. Spaulding explained that the State grant is for immediate recreational improvements and requires no Town match. The recreation committee would like the Board to approve a letter of intent to start the process. The letter of intent will be submitted and the hope is the Town will be invited to submit a grant application. If awarded, the grant money would be used for improvements at Hope Davey Park, and include a long range management plan. F. Spaulding described some of the proposed improvements to the park. The amount of grant money being requested is \$299,500 based on the project budget. C. Viens made a motion to authorize the Town of Waterbury to submit a letter of intent for the VOREC grant for the Hope Davey Park master plan. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Stowe Street Bridge Alternative

The Board met with VTrans at their last meeting on the Stowe Street Bridge project. Staff's recommendation is that the Select Board support Alternative 3A as suggested by VTrans. Discussion was held with regard to the feasibility of a temporary pedestrian bridge. The Board agreed that a temporary vehicle or pedestrian bridge will not be required during the 60 day closure. M. Bard made a motion to approve Alternative 3A that was presented by VTrans on August 2nd. The motion was seconded by K. Martin and passed unanimously.

Racial Equity Training

W. Shepeluk asked the Board if they would like to have one more training session with Dr. Mary Gannon as was her recommendation. By consensus, the Board decided to have one more training session.

There being no further Select Board business, the meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Town Clerk

Approved on: September 14, 2021