

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
VILLAGE OF WATERBURY  
MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

The inhabitants of the Village of Waterbury who are legal voters in Village Meetings are hereby notified and warned to meet at the gymnasium of the Thatcher Brook Primary School in the Village of Waterbury on Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. in the evening to act on the following matters:

At the opening of the meeting, President Flanders asked if there were any objections to the Municipal Manager William Shepeluk and Police Chief Feccia speaking at the meeting as they are not Village residents. There were no objections.

**ARTICLE 1:** To act on the reports of the officers of the Village of Waterbury.

A. Imhoff made a motion to accept the reports of the officers of the Village of Waterbury as printed in the Village Report. The motion was seconded. P. H. Flanders stated that the Trustees report on page 5 identifies the Trustees project priorities for 2015. E. Coffey asked about the phosphorous project, whether there was any override in budget and how much phosphorous is being removed. A. Tuscany responded that the Village is below 0.8 milligrams per liter or approximately 6 to 7 pounds per day, and is meeting the permit limit. The project is currently with budget. W. Shepeluk explained that some additional work is being done on the facilities, not related to the project, at the Village's cost while the project is being developed. The project is expected to be completed later this spring or summer, and the first payment will occur two years after completion.

**ARTICLE 2:** To elect by Australian ballot, the following Village officers: Clerk for 1 year, Treasurer for 1 year, Village President for 1 year, Trustee for 2 years, and Water & Sewer Commissioner for 3 years.

**NOTE: THE POLLS FOR VOTING BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT ON ARTICLE 2 WILL BE OPEN FROM SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE FORENOON TO SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR OF THE MAIN STREET FIRE STATION, AT 43 SOUTH MAIN STREET IN THE VILLAGE OF WATERBURY.**

**ARTICLE 3:** To set the compensation of Village officers for the ensuing year.

Mark Alberghini made a motion to set the compensation of Village officers for the ensuing year as follows:

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Village President           | \$1,700      |
| Trustees                    | \$1,200 each |
| Water & Sewer Commissioners | \$1,000 each |

The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see what action the Village will take with reference to fixing the dates when taxes shall be due and payable and to provide for charging interest on taxes not paid when due.

N. Howell-Sherman made a motion that the tax warrant on real property be dated July 1, 2015, and that taxes be due in two installments, with the first installment due and payable on August 14, 2015, and the second installment be due and payable on November 13, 2015, that each installment be paid in hand at the Municipal Office by 5:30pm on the due date, without discount and that interest be charged at the maximum allowed by statute, not to exceed one and one-half percent per month or

portion thereof on each installment, and a late penalty of eight percent be charged as allowed by statute on taxes not paid when due.

The motion was seconded. N. Howell-Sherman noted that this is the same article that passed at Town Meeting yesterday, and that payments must be received in hand by 5:30pm on the due date. The motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the water system.

Robert Finucane made a motion to authorize the Trustees to borrow up to \$80,000 by note for a period not to exceed 5 years, on terms agreeable to the Trustees, to pay for improvements and equipment for the Water department. The motion was seconded.

R. Finucane stated the funding will be used to replace a pickup truck and snowmobile that are at the end of their service life, and correct a problem with the Thatcher Brook whereby stone needs to be replaced to stabilize the channel. The motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Village will authorize the Trustees to borrow a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the wastewater system.

R. Finucane made a motion to authorize the Trustees to borrow up to \$175,000 by note for a period not to exceed 5 years, on terms agreeable to the Trustees, to pay for improvements and equipment for the Wastewater department. The motion was seconded.

R. Finucane explained that a fence needs to be reconstructed and the access paved at the treatment plant. The Village needs to pay their match of the grant to flood proof the main pump station. A garage needs to be built to protect the new sledge drying bed handling equipment from the weather, and one aerator on sewer lagoons needs to be replaced. The motion passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Village will vote sums of money for payment of debts and expenses for the Village with the same to be expressed either in specific dollar amounts or as a rate of tax on a dollar of the Grand List, and if by specific dollar amounts to authorize the Trustees to set the necessary tax rate and to lodge warrants therefore in the office of the Village Clerk.

N. Howell-Sherman made a motion that the Village appropriate the following sums of money for the interests of its inhabitants, for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, and for necessary expenses: \$419,560 for general fund expenses, and that the Village raise \$296,280 in taxes for general fund spending. The motion was seconded.

N. Howell-Sherman asked the voters to turn to page 27 of the Annual Report. The amount to raised by taxes increased by \$20,000, and legal expense line item increased by \$20,000 page 28. The figures are being updated because since printing of the annual report more expenses have been incurred related to the Hubacz lawsuit.

N. Howell-Sherman stated that the 2014 police schedule had many open shifts. Vehicle stops and traffic tickets decreased dramatically. The Vermont State Police (VSP) responded when called. The Trustees want to determine how to take advantage of State Police services. The budget provided relies on the VSP on weekends. There is funding for part-time officers to cover vacations, sickness, and special events. With the reduction in the number of officers, the Trustees support having only one vehicle. There is consideration of adding one full time officer later in the year.

G. Dillon stated that he supports having two cruisers in case one breaks down. He asked if there was money in the budget for maintenance of the older cruiser. W. Shepeluk stated that the maintenance budget is the same as it was a year ago at \$2,500 and that Trustees have made it clear that they do not

desire to put much money into the car. P. H. Flanders stated that is no money in the budget to replace the cruiser, and the Trustees question the need for a backup cruiser. G. Dillon expressed concern about having one cruiser in the event it breaks down or needs servicing and stated that it is unacceptable to have a municipal vehicle that will not pass inspection. P. H. Flanders stated that if the cruiser is out of service, the VSP will have to respond.

Dr Lauren Tessier asked to speak. President Flanders asked if she was a Village Resident and she was not. President Flanders asked if there was any objection to her speaking. There were no objections.

Dr. Lauren Tessier stated that she is a business owner in the Village and appreciates the police presence, especially during the evening while she is working. Waterbury is also the crossroads of recreation. She feels it is a liability to the community of Waterbury not to have police presence during the evenings and weekends. She stated that the Trustees priorities during 2015 listed on page 5, numbers 1, 6, 7, 10, and 12, necessitates the need to have a police presence.

E. Coffey asked about the number of part-time officers. He stated that one officer worked 17.5 hours in the span of one year, and finds it difficult to justify paying the cost to continue to train this person. He asked about the availability of the part-time officers, and whether they are certified and passed the physical fitness test. J. Feccia responded that part-time officers are listed on page 12 in the Police Chief's report on page 12. There are 6 part-time officers that will be working fewer shifts during 2015. W. Shepeluk stated that all part-time officers have the proper certification. There was one part-time officer that worked 17.5 officers in one year. Minimal training was required for this officer.

N. Howell-Sherman stated that the Trustees are committed to having a department, but need to do what is practicable and affordable for the community. She stated that the VSP did a good job and were very responsive during 2014. The Trustees are trying to find a good complement to the local police in using VSP services. L. Tessier asked about the parameters of the State Police calls, as sometimes time is of the essence. She is interested exploring in how Waterbury can increase income to be able to hire another full time officer.

Part Time Officer Riley Lessor asked to speak. President Flanders noted that he was not a Village resident and asked if there was any objection to his speaking. There was no objection.

Officer Riley Lessor explained a domestic violence situation early one morning when he was off duty which he had to handle over the phone, as the State Police were unable to respond in a timely manner. There are situations that could develop where 5 minutes will be too late.

G. Miller asked if the Town contracts with the Village police. W. Shepeluk responded that there has never been a contract for criminal services, and that there has not been a contract for speed control for about 5 years. If the Village police make an agency assist at the request of the VSP, the Town is billed for that service. W. Shepeluk stated that the Town, Village, and Revitalizing Waterbury have been trying to work with businesses and suggested that people go to Town Meeting and ask the Select Board why there is no Town police presence.

P. H. Flanders talked about open shifts over the past year, and stated that 50% of weekend shifts were open and covered by the VSP. He feels the Village is better served filling weekday shifts with full time officers and leave weekend shifts to the VSP.

A. Imhoff referred to page 27 of the Annual Report and pointed out that the budgeted amount for parking tickets is less than last year. A parking study was done by Revitalizing Waterbury, and it was found that frequently cars park in a two hour space morning and afternoon with no tickets. She thanked the Trustees for their hard work putting the budget together.

Nicole Tessier asked to speak. President Flanders noted she was not a Village resident and asked if there was any objection to her speaking. There was no objection.

Nicole Tessier, business owner, stated she is new to the area and feels very welcome in the community. She is surprised and concerned about cases she receives in her work with sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse. She asked if there was any way to help the police budget and provide for a greater police presence to help the community be a better place to live.

A Tuscany expressed concern about the reduction of officers and number of open shifts. In March, there is no weekend coverage. He commended the Trustees for trying to keep taxes low, but asked if Village residents have requested a reduction in the police budget. He remembers a meeting where the VSP was surprised that the Trustees were going to reduce hours, and the VSP stated that they would not respond to quality of life issues. There will be an increase in residents with new housing units that are under construction. He feels the Village needs a stronger police presence, and suggested a local options tax on food and drink.

W. Shepeluk explained that the law that allows the adoption of a local options tax does not apply in Waterbury, so a charter amendment for the Village would be necessary, and the Town would have to adopt a charter. It is something that can be researched.

E. Coffey questioned why no officer worked New Year's Eve. It was explained that the budget does not allow for all shift time from 7:00am to 2:00am. No part-time officers work unless a full-time officer is on a scheduled day off, so there are some open shifts.

John Sherman complimented the Village Manager on his explanation of how the department functions, and suggested the Trustees could determine how to shift some of the cost to the Town.

Sally Dillon stated that complaints are that the Village is not getting the biggest bang for their buck, and that because services have not been received, they have been cut.

The motion that the Village appropriate the following sums of money for the interests of its inhabitants, for the prosecution and defense of the common rights, and for necessary expenses: \$419,560 for general fund expenses, and that the Village raise \$296,280 in taxes for general fund spending passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Village will appropriate up to \$1,000 to match grants or donations to fund the Waterbury dog park.

L. Sayah made a motion that the Village appropriate up to \$1,000 to match grants or donations to fund the Waterbury dog park. The motion was seconded.

L. Sayah stated that the Trustees placed this article on the warning to ask the voters to contribute to the project and explained why the Trustees support the project, and how the project will help Village residents.

G. Dillon stated that he has been a dog owner and felt it was his responsibility to care for his dogs. He feels this issue should have been brought up at Town meeting. The Village residents should not pay for a place for someone else's dogs to run. Gordon Miller stated that the Trustees have done a great job to help develop the Ice Center land for recreation. The park will alleviate dogs running in places where they should not be running. He then explained the history of the project, and stated that earlier in the evening the Development Review Board approved the local plan. G. Dillon stated that he is not opposed to the park, but he is opposed to the Village funding \$1,000 towards the park. N. Howell-Sherman stated that it is just a suggestion, and felt it would help the Village to have this type of recreational activity.

E. Coffey asked how much the Town has spent on the dog park to date. W. Shepeluk stated that the materials have been paid for by the dog park committee through donations, and the Town employees spent about four days of staff time working on the park. To date, over \$10,000 has been raised in donations. W. Shepeluk explained that the 2015 Town budget includes \$18,000 for dog park expenses and contemplates \$20,000 of revenue. Last year, the income generated was \$6,500 and expenses were \$4,500 for net revenue of \$2,000. The dog park will be developed incrementally as money is raised.

E. Coffey stated he is not opposed to a dog park, but strongly opposes the Village making a donation to the park. A. Imhoff stated that the dog waste will be composted.

The motion was defeated by a hand vote of 14 to 11.

C. Lawrence read the results of the voting by Australian ballot. There being no contested races, Carla Lawrence was elected as Village Clerk, P. Howard 'Skip' Flanders was elected as Village President, Natalie Howell-Sherman was elected as Trustee, Carla Lawrence was elected as Village Treasurer, and P. Howard 'Skip' Flanders was elected as Water & Sewer Commissioner. There were 49 ballots cast, and the results are as follows:

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| VILLAGE PRESIDENT (1 year term) |    |
| P. Howard "Skip" Flanders       | 37 |
| Write-ins                       | 3  |
| Blanks                          | 9  |

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| VILLAGE CLERK (1 year term) |    |
| Carla Lawrence              | 49 |
| Write-ins                   | 0  |
| Blanks                      | 0  |

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| VILLAGE TREASURER (1 year term) |    |
| Carla Lawrence                  | 49 |
| Write-ins                       | 0  |
| Blanks                          | 0  |

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| VILLAGE TRUSTEE (2 year term) |    |
| Natalie Howell-Sherman        | 40 |
| Write-ins                     | 1  |
| Blanks                        | 8  |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONER (3 year term) |    |
| P. Howard Flanders                     | 40 |
| Write-ins                              | 2  |
| Blanks                                 | 7  |

**ARTICLE 9:** To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

P. H. Flanders stated the Trustees have heard the concerns about the police services. There is a lot of activity relative to the Village police that has not yet been completed, including a management evaluation, and the Hubacz lawsuit. Properties will be added to the Grand List that will help with tax revenue. The Trustees will work towards the most effective and efficient way to address the concerns while keeping costs in mind.

M. Pelkey asked why Village voting cannot occur on Town Meeting Day. W. Shepeluk responded that he believes that the charter states that the Village meeting be held on Wednesday, and the logistically it is not easy for the Clerk to run two elections at the same time.

E. Coffey encouraged voters to attend Select Board, Trustee, and Water & Sewer Commissioners meetings to stay informed.


There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.


Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lawrence, Village Clerk

Approved on: March 25, 2015

  
P. Howard Flanders

  
Lawrence Sayah

  
Natalie Howell-Sherman