

**Minutes of the Select Board**  
**Monday December 2, 2024**  
**28 North Main Street and via zoom**

**Attendance:** Alyssa Johnson, Karen Petrovic, Kane Sweeney, Ian Shea, Mike Bard, Roger Clapp

**Public Attendance:** Rachel Muse - Library Director, ORCA Media, Evan Hoffman

**Zoom:** ORCA Media, Alyssa Johnson, Amy Marshall-Carney, Dani Kehlmann, Elisabeth

**Approve Agenda:** **A. Johnson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an additional consent agenda item. K Sweeney seconded the motion.** The Municipal Manager was unable to attend the meeting due to illness, the board will proceed with the agenda as written. **A vote was held and passed unanimously.**

**Consent Agenda:** **Sweeney moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Bard seconded. Unanimous.**

**Public:** no comments

**VELCO Pole Replacement:** R. Clapp presented the documents as received to him as Chair. The VELCO packet is part of the meeting agenda packet. K. Sweeney stated one of the maps indicates a project boundary that is in the middle of a home.

**1<sup>st</sup> Review of 2025 Budget / Local Options Tax (LOT) Funding:** T. Leitz is not available at tonight's meeting due to a medical emergency. The Board's intent is to review the Town of Waterbury budget in December to prepare for a January public hearing to discuss the budget line by line in advance of the Town Meeting warning.

M. Bard stated the PILOT payment was disappointing seeing the Armory was transformed into a shelter. K. Sweeney believes the impact of Natural Disasters in the area may be a factor in the state PILOT due to softer tourism.

Given the competitive labor market the Board agrees to pay this in full.

I. Shea feels we are operating on the same principle within the labor market.

Reappraisal funds are pertinent.

Proposed 3% cost of living raise to employees. 2024 was a 4% COL raise; inflation has gone down this year.

\$20K to purchase a building security system. K. Sweeney asked if there is a security system now, there is not. There is concern the budget needs to be raised to provide more security.

There is a fixed price from the State Police contract until 2026

Due to staffing shortages in the Recreation Program, the proposal is to reduce camper numbers. Children lack socialization due to COVID.

R. Clapp stated he and Tom spoke about purchasing more gravel opposed just enough to handle mud season. There was also discussion about purchasing another truck to make hauling of gravel more feasible.

R. Muse stated the library budget is pretty straightforward.

K. Sweeney has questions about the utilization of part-time employees and whether that is reliable or

not. Is it accurate to say part-time or were they seasonal employees? M. Bard wonders if they need to create perpetual care agreements on cemetery lots.

The Fire Department has a meaningful decrease due to LOT funds.

Amy Marshall-Carney spoke about the Conservation Commissions desire to have their budget increased to get an Upland, Hydrology and Natural Communities field-based inventory mapping. The Commission will continue to pursue grants but, in the event they do not receive a grant, would like consideration in the budget.

Concerns about the amount of LOT budgeted and the plan for prioritizing the spending and how to bridge a gap in the funds have run out.

**2025 Town Meeting Schedule:** Town Meeting is March 4, 2025; discussion followed regarding the deadlines for Have your Say Day. Proposed time slots of Saturday January 11, 2025 at 10am and Monday January 13, 2025 at 7pm. The board plans to meet on Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> (MLK Day) to get the budget finalized.

**Special Articles / Skatepark:** There was discussion about the Skatepark needing an additional \$50,000 in their funding. A. Johnson states there is LOT funds being proposed in the 2025 budget. Speculation is that the skatepark is being build where the basketball court is now and it is possible the Skatepark Coalition did not budget to rebuild the basketball court. Discussion followed about the size of the skatepark being proposed and drainage issues. R. Clapp recalled guidance on redesigning a smaller park to scale back costs. The board will refer to T. Leitz about allocating ARPA funding to the Coalition.

**TextMyGov:** This will be passed over for tonight.

**Woody Avenue Outreach:** Board would like to know if this is a viable project and moving forward.

**Parking / Woody Avenue / Methodist Church:** R. Clapp spoke to T. Leitz about this last week. There is concern from the school about the loss of parking. T. Leitz and B. Woodruff feel part of this can be addressed by putting parking spots along Woody Ave. T. Leitz is seeking board approval for parking spaces to be added along the road. It might be too late in the season to do line striping. The Methodist Church Board has approved allowing public parking in their lot with conditions such as paving it, improvements to the storm drain, plowing of the lot and line striping. This is a direct consequence of losing the parking lot at 51 South Main. Board would like to know how many parking spots are at the Methodist Church and what the cost is to perform the necessary improvements outlined in the offer. Select Board would require an MOU with the Church.

**Postcard Rental Registry:** A. Johnson stated the Board passed a Rental Registry Ordinance that takes effect January 2025; what is the process of informing people? Staff proposal February 1, 2025 deadline to submit. Mike Bishop, in an email, proposes waiting to send a postcard until January because it might be overlooked over the holidays.

**Next Agenda:**

Response to VELCO Pole Replacement

2025 Budget / LOT Funding

Approve Have your Say Day schedule

Skatepark Funding options

TextMyGov

Woody Avenue Outreach

December 16<sup>th</sup>: Rental Registry Postcard & Skatepark Invitation

**Executive Session:** none needed

**Adjourn:** M. Bard made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by K. Sweeney and passed unanimously.