

## Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Waterbury Select Board January 13, 2025

Location: Grange Cultural Center Howard Street Waterbury Center VT

Attendees: Roger Clapp, Alyssa Johnson, Kane Sweeny, Ian Shea, Mike Bard, Tom Leitz, 21 Attendees: See attached list

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm Approve Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by R Clapp. The motion was seconded by M Bard and passed unanimously.

Public No Comments

Board Chair Alyssa Johnson made opening remarks about why the Board voted to have “Have Your Say Day”. This is an informal discussion of the Town budget to inform residents. It does not replace Town meeting and a formalized vote there is forthcoming. The Board will be looking for input after each section presented by a Board member.

R Clapp Local Option Tax (LOT) LOT is a new revenue tax.

LOT was put in place on July 24, 2024. Was not budget in the 2024 budget due to uncertainty of approval. Took public input on how to use funds. Didn't want to put funds directly in the General Fund but direct funds to

- 1: stabilize town tax rate
2. housing needs
- 3.modernize town office
4. Correct fund balances

Obtaining gravel is a big issue. Want to upgrade roads. New fire truck to be purchased to modernize the fleet. Working on costing out an indoor rec facility for \$17.5K or with grants.

Fund Housing Trust fund \$75K and link with VHIP. Purchase card access system for municipal complex for security. \$55k to fund flexicoat of pool to extend its life.

\$50K for Planning and Conservation Commissions for costs associated with Town Plan. Double digit tax increase without LOT.

General Government, Library, Fire, Planning and Zoning M Bard- No major changes. Reserves used for reappraisal and flood recovery. Lister moved to F/T due to reappraisal needs. VSP budget increase from \$415 to 477K. Ambulance service increase from \$128 to 199K. Lack of volunteer help. ARPA funds 100% allocated and no longer available. Library and FD flat budget. Reduced debt due to Selectboard August 2024 action. Planning Commission to be used for consultant for town plan update and CC needs to do Natural Resource Inventory. \$50K to maintain cemetery as staff vs. vendor cost as reallocation of expense.

Highway Budget K Sweeney

Budget flat. Several employees retiring. New tandem dump truck and gravel funded by LOT. Gravel expense increasing and in short supply. \$150 K to purchase gravel.

Recreation I. Sweet. \$55k to resurface pool. Pool has \$50K operation costs. Summer rec program revenues are down. Mainly due to staffing challenges. \$17.5 Rec facility study. \$128K to maintain parks up from last year but reallocating funds.

A Johnson- increase of budget by 1.5% but LOT will create a net zero budget. Need to warn Town meeting warrants on format of Town meeting in March.

General questions-

T Wood-Using tax resources to reduce debt not in favor of using. State is budgeting increase in PILOT. No hard decrease last year.

L Walton- Is lister going to F/T soon. It has already happened.

Jenny- Has CSO been hired. Town pays Bill S \$100/mo as Town Health Officer. Have not filled ACO as no responses to ads.

C Viens- PILOT surplus, is that protected? T Wood said one time expenses cannot be carried over.

Steffany- When is deadline for feedback?

R Ellis happy to craft motion. Want question by 1-20-25.

M Culverson- \$30K allocated to flood projects. Allocated \$100K for consulting and engineering help,

L Scagliotti- what are staff raises for next year and if labor bargaining unit passes how does this effect raises? Selectboard approved 3% raise. Cannot comment on bargaining unit issues.

M Callan- 2 proposals on LOT for Housing. Talking \$100K seed for trust \$75K for Trust projects. VHIP for ADU's. Increased availability for affordable units.

T Wood- Stanley Wassan site. State has agreed to sell for \$400K with option and very little downpayment by Town and balance from developer.

L Walton- Are we going away from Formal Town meeting. Discussed pros and cons. Have your say day could replace or supplement

Some people don't understand Have your Say Day. Moving Town meeting time discussed. Just moves the demographics of who attends.

K. Sweeney made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by M Bard. Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.