

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 6, 2023

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2023 FEB 10 P 3:34
ATTEST: David L. Campo
TOWN CLERK

Moderator Paul Goldstein called the February 6, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Members remained standing for a moment of silence to recognize the loss of Waterford Police Officer Adam Lapkowski, Clark Lane Middle School Teacher Chris Wicklund, and Board of Selectmen Member Jody Nazarchyk.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Greg Attanasio (7:05 P.M.), Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mary Childs, Timothy Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Steven Garvin, Nick Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Kristin Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Lindsay Khan, Jennifer Kohl, Cheryl Larder, Richard Muckle, Theodore Olynciw, Dan Radin, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue, David Welch.

ABSENT: None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule, Chair of the Board of Education Pat Fedor Selectman Elizabeth Sabilia.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk David L. Campo; Town Treasurer Abbas Danesh; Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple; Finance Director Kim Allen.

AGENDA ITEM C – December 5, 2022 Minutes

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve the December 5, 2022 Minutes with the following corrections noted by Town Clerk Campo: RTM Member Childs only voted in favor of the REDUCTION in CALL ITEM 14 and only voted against the ORIGINAL MOTION in CALL ITEM 14.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

Items received were letters of recommendation (BAA) from the Republican Town Committee, letters of recommendation (Ethics) from the Republican Town Committee and Democratic Town Committee, additional back up for items 7 & 8, updated budget schedule, letter from Moderator Goldstein to other boards, American Rescue Plans Quarterly Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Waterford Resident and Oswegatchie Firehouse Life Member Wayne Gilpin, 6 Albacore Dr, spoke in support of an immediate creation of an Oswegatchie Firehouse Building Committee in order to facilitate replacement.

AGENDA ITEM F

Michael Bono; Chairman of the Public Health, Recreation & Environment Standing Committee of the RTM; noted that his group has met and is expecting to present a recommendation to the RTM at the April Meeting.

Timothy Condon, Chairman of the Public Protection & Safety Standing Committee of the RTM, notified the body that a draft of the volunteer fire services proposed stipends was available online.

CALL ITEM 1 – Updating/Renovating Evidence Room and Armory

PRESENTATION: Chief of Police Marc Balestracci, Lieutenant David Ferland.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$86,016** from Capital Undesignated Line #205-31520 for updating/renovating the evidence room and armory at the Police Department.

RTM Member Driscoll requested a friendly amendment which was accepted to add in “to fund a new project to update and renovate” in place of “for updating/renovating”.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 2 – Radio Communications

PRESENTATION: Chief of Police Marc Balestracci, Director of Fire Service Michael Howley, Director of Emergency Management Steven Sinagra.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas seconded by Driscoll, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$239,729** from Capital and Non-recurring designated Line **#20522-57794 (i.e., Radio Communications)**.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous:

CALL ITEM 3 – Sewer Interceptor Easement Access

PRESENTATION: Director of the Utility Commission James Bartelli, Assistant Director of the Utility Commission Jill Stevens

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Muckle, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$250,000** to fund a new project titled “**Contract#1 Sewer Interceptor Easement Access**”. Appropriated funds for this project will be made available by transferring \$250,000 from the Unassigned Balance of the General Fund to a project line to be created within the Capital Improvement Project Fund.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 4: Clark Lane Chiller Replacements

PRESENTATION: Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, BOE Director of Finance Joe Mancini, BOE Director of Buildings and Grounds James Miner.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$802,000** to fund a new project titled “**Clark Lane Middle School Chiller Replacements**”. Appropriated funds for this project will be made available

by transferring \$802,000 from the Unassigned Balance of the General Fund to a project line to be created within the Capital & Non-recurring Expenditure Fund.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 5 – Auditorium Meeting Room Updates

PRESENTATION: Information Technology Manager Jeff Robillard

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Muckle, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$272,000** to fund a new Capital project titled “**Auditorium Meeting Room Updates**”. Appropriated funds for this project will be made available by transferring \$272,000 from the Unassigned Balance of the General Fund to a project line to be created within the Capital Improvements Project Fund.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Gauthier, seconded by Childs, to amend the motion by reducing the amount from \$272,000 to \$175,000.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Sugrue, to close debate on the motion to amend.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Attanasio, Bono, Bracciale, Condon, Dembek, Garvin, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Muckle, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue.

VOTING AGAINST: Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Girard, Gonzalez, Khan, Kohl, Larder, Olynciw, Welch.

MOTION TO CLOSE DEBATE FAILED: 14-11-0 (2/3rds needed to close)

Further discussion ensued.

VOTING IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENT: Childs, Driscoll, Gauthier, Olynciw.

VOTING AGAINST AMENDMENT: Attanasio, Bono, Bracciale, Condon, Dembek, Fioravanti, Garvin, Girard, Goldstein, Gonzalez, Healy, Holmes, Khan, Kohl, Larder, Muckle, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue, Welch.

MOTION TO AMEND FAILED: 4-21-0

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to table until next meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOR TO TABLE: Attanasio, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Khan, Kohl, Larder, Olynciw.

VOTING AGAINST TO TABLE: Bono, Bracciale, Condon, Dembek, Garvin, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Muckle, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue, Welch.

MOTION TO TABLE FAILED: 10-15-0

VOTING IN FAVOR OF ORIGINAL MOTION: Bono, Condon, Dembek, Garvin, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Muckle, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue, Welch.

VOTING AGAINST ORIGINAL MOTION: Attanasio, Bracciale, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Khan, Kohl, Larder, Olynciw, Radin.

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 13-12-0

CALL ITEM 6 – Fire Station Building Committee

PRESENTATION: Ad Hoc Fire Services Review Special Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski, Director of Fire Services Michael Howley.

MOTION by Steward-Gellinas, seconded by Bono, to approve a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Fire Services Special Review Committee “that due to the extensively deteriorated condition of the Oswegatchie Fire Station, that it be replaced with a new building; and recommend that the RTM establish a building committee to oversee its design and construction” in accordance with **Chapter 2.88 – Building Committees** of the Waterford Code of Ordinances.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Muckle, to amend the motion by adding in “repaired and or” prior to “replaced”.

Lengthy discussion ensued

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT accepted to add in membership consisting of 2 RTM Members, 1 BOS Member, 1 BOF Member, 2 Elector Citizens, 3 Elector Fire Services.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Sugrue, to close debate on the motion to amend.

MOTION TO CLOSE DEBATE PASSED: 22-3-0 (Childs, Gauthier, and Larder voted against)

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: Unanimous

ORIGINAL MOTION WITH AMENDMENTS PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 7 – Non-Union Administrative and Technical Craft Employees Wage Increase

PRESENTATION: Director of Human Resources Christine Walters.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve the funds necessary for a wage increase of 2.25% for the Non-Union Administrative Support & Technical Craft employees effective 07/01/2022.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous (Condon was unavailable)

CALL ITEM 8 – Registrars of Voters Wage Increase

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bono, to approve a recommendation from the Finance, Wage & Personnel Standing Committee of the RTM for a one time increase of \$2,420 per year and an increase in the stipend for a primary or referendum from \$700 to \$1000 for the Registrars of Voters.

A brief discussion ensued in regard to whether the RTM could increase the amount. Attorney Kepple advised that the RTM did not have that authority since the proposed increase was not noticed.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT requested by Driscoll was accepted to make the motion retroactive to January 1, 2023.

MOTION WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENT PASSED: 24-0-1 (Larder abstained)

CALL ITEM 9 – Ethics Commission Appointments

NOMINATION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to reappoint Adam Stone, 16 Windy Ridge Pl, as a regular member of the Ethics Commission (Term 02/06/2023 – 02/03/2025)

NOMINATION by Driscoll, seconded by Attanasio, to appoint Elizabeth Ritter, 24 Old Mill Rd, as a regular member of the Ethics Commission (Term 02/06/2023 – 02/03/2025)

VOTING IN FAVOR of both nominations: Unanimous

STONE and RITTER appointed to the Ethics Commission

CALL ITEM 10 – Ethics Commission Alternate Appointments

NOMINATION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to appoint Paul Helvig, 82 Old Colchester Rd, as an alternate member of the Ethics Commission (Term 02/06/2023 – 02/03/2025)

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

HELVIG appointed to the Ethics Commission

CALL ITEM 11 – Personnel Review Board Appointment

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to postpone the appointment to the April Meeting.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 12 – Retirement Commission Appointment

NOMINATION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, to appoint Paul Goldstein to the Retirement Commission.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 13 – Board of Assessment Appeals Appointment

NOMINATION by Rocchetti, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to appoint Catherine Gonyo, 35 Pepperbox Rd, to the Board of Assessment Appeals. (Term 12/05/2022 – 12/03/2023)

NOMINATION PASSED: 24-1-0

CALL ITEM 14 – RTM Budget Hearing Schedule

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to approve the Budget Schedule as presented with the following accepted friendly amendment by Driscoll: remove Senior Citizens Commission from Wednesday, May 10. (See Attachment)

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Radin, seconded by Olynciw, for the Legislation and Administration Standing Committee of the RTM to study Public Act 22-3, AN ACT CONCERNING REMOTE MEETINGS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, to assess and make recommendations to the RTM about the Town's pertinent ordinances and regulations.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Gauthier, seconded by Larder, to have the Legislation and Administration Standing Committee of the RTM review the creation of an ordinance to require PUBLIC COMMENT on all agendas.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Larder, that we add an American Rescue Fund update to the April Meeting of the RTM.

MOTION by Condon, seconded by Gauthier, to adjourn at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David L. Campo, CCTC
Town Clerk

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS
FY 2023-24**

Town Hall Auditorium
7:00 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 1

Board of Education

WEDNESDAY MAY 3

Ethics Commission
Conservation of Health
Public Health Nursing
Social Services Grants/Review
Registrar of Voters
Tax Collector
Youth & Family Services Bureau
Senior Citizens Commission
Board of Assessment Appeals
Assessor
Contingency
Debt Service
Insurance
Town Clerk
Representative Town Meeting

MONDAY MAY 8

Zoning Board of Appeals
Economic Development Commission
Conservation Commission
Planning and Zoning Commission
Flood and Erosion Control Board
Building Department
Building Maintenance
Recreation & Parks Commission
Board of Selectmen
Public Works

WEDNESDAY MAY 10

Retirement Commission
Waterford Public library
Finance Department
Human Resources Department
Board of Finance
Legal Department
Fire Services
Emergency Management
Board of Police Commissioners
Information Technology
Current Year Capital Improvements
Transfers to Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditu

FINAL ACTION

ATTEST:
David J. Longpre
TOWN CLERK

2023 FEB 10 P 3:41

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