



MINUTES

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING

Regular Meeting

February 3, 2025

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 FEB - 7 P 1:58
ATTEST: David L. Campo
TOWN CLERK

RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein called the February 3, 2025 Annual Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kyrh Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mark Campo, Erica Casper, Mary Childs, Harry Colonis, Timothy Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Paul Goldstein, Kristen Gonzalez, Narciss Greene, Ryan Healy, Christina Jessuck, Matthew Keatley, Lindsay Khan, Kate MacKenzie, Kayla Mullen, Ursula Moreshead, Kathleen Mullen Kohl, Theodore Olynciw, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue

ABSENT: Shawn Monahan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule, Selectman Richard Muckle, Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Greg Attanasio

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

Moderator Goldstein welcomed Narciss Green as a new member of the RTM.

AGENDA ITEM C – December 2, 2024 Minutes

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Khan, to approve the minutes with the following correction noted by Driscoll: add, "with no votes taken" after 10:22 P.M. under Item 14.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

An American Rescue Plan Report received from Finance Director Kim Allen. Also, a letter from RTM member Tim Condon concerning survivors benefits in the line of duty.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following residents spoke out against the building of a new Oswegatchie Firehouse leaving concerns that Quaker Hill Fire Station will be undermanned: Bryan Sayles (See attachment), 54 Wintergreen Dr, Quaker Hill; Tina Dubosque, 45 Wintergreen Dr, Quaker Hill.

The following resident spoke in favor of a new Oswegatchie Fire Station: James Bartelli, 9 Dogwood Dr, Quaker Hill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee report received from Finance, Wage & Personnel. (See Attachment) Verbal reports given by the remainder of the committees updating the body that committees will be meeting in regard to items still in committee.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley to accept the committee reports.

MAIN MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

APPOINTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

Energy Task Force Chair Mary Childs informed the body that the committee has met recently and is meeting in the near future. They have discussed the expected Benchmarking report of 2023 and 2024 Town energy use data. Also received was an Oswegatchie Fire Station appointee report from Ted Olynciw.

CALL ITEM 1 – Energy Efficiency Program

PRESENTATION: Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, BOE Finance Director Joe Mancini

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to appropriate **\$243,335 from the Capital and Non-recurring designated line #20560-57891 (Energy Efficiency Program)** to accomplish the next phase of the program for all five schools.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 2 – Alewife Cove Study

PRESENTATION: Planning Director Jonathan Mullen, AICP; Environmental Planner Maureen Fitzgerald

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to appropriate **\$12,500 from the Capital and Non-recurring designated line #20541-57328 (Alewife Cove)** for the stabilization of Alewife Cove Study.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 3 – Wiemes and Marilyn Ejector Replacements

PRESENTATION: Director of the Utility Commission Jill Stevens

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to appropriate **\$19,800 from the Capital and Non-recurring designated line #20531-57890 (Wiemes and Marilyn Ejector Replacements)** for an engineering study.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 4: Waterford Beach Park Fee Schedule

PRESENTATION: Director of Recreation and Parks Ryan McNamara, Program Coordinator Tim Cieplik

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to adjust the Waterford Beach Park Fee Schedule as presented.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

MOTION AMENDED by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Condon to read as follows; to adjust the Waterford Beach Park Fee Schedule as presented in regard to out of town fees and maintain resident fees at current rates. (Fee Schedule attached)

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: 24-0-1 (Sugrue abstained)

MOTION PASSED: 24-0-1 (Sugrue abstained)

CALL ITEM 5 – Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Report

PRESENTATION: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski, Director of Fire Services Michael Howley

Chairman Tuneski provided an update on the project and answered questions from the body. (See Attachment)

CALL ITEM 6 – Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee

PRESENTATION: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski, Director of Fire Services Michael Howley

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley; to transfer **\$286,000** from the **Undesignated Fund Balance of the Capital Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (line #205-31520)** to line **#20523-57792 (Oswegatchie Building)** and appropriate the funds for architectural and design services from Silver Petrucelli & Associates, Inc. for the Oswegatchie Fire Station.

MOTION PASSED: 22-3-0 (Childs, Driscoll, and Khan opposed)

CALL ITEM 7 – Ethics Commission Appointments (2)

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Khan, to reappoint Elizabeth Ritter, 24 Old Mill Rd, to the Ethics Commission. (Term 02/03/2025 – 02/01/2027)

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to appoint Adam Stone, 16 Windy Ridge Place, to the Ethics Commission. (Term 02/03/2025 – 02/01/2027)

MOTION TO APPOINT BOTH: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 8 – Ethics Commission Alternate Appointment

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to appoint Paul Helvig, 82 Old Colchester Rd, to the Ethics Commission as an alternate. (Term 02/03/2025 – 02/01/2027)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 9 – Budget Schedule

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to approve the budget schedule for the May 2025 budget hearings for the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Friendly amendment offered by Driscoll and accepted to make the following changes: move Conservation of Health, VNA and Social Services Grants prior to the Board of Education on May 5, 2025, place Public Works prior to Recreation and Parks and move Retirement Commission and Human Resources to May 7, 2025.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous (See Attachment)

CALL ITEM 10 – Executive Session

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, that the RTM, along with Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, BOE Finance Director Joe Mancini, BOE Chair Pat Fedor, First Selectman Rob Brule go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy and/or negotiations with respect to current and pending collective bargaining with multiple bargaining units. This action is taken without prejudice to the Town's right to discuss these matters in a private meeting pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §1-200 (2) at 8:50.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

The RTM came out of Executive Session at 9:05 P.M. with no votes taken.

CALL ITEM 11 – Board of Education Administrators’ Contract

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to accept a contract between the Waterford Board of Education and the Waterford Administrators’ and Supervisors’ Association for July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 and to request the funding thereof, pursuant to Connecticut General Statute §10-153d.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion in regard to the attached letter from RTM Member Tim Condon.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to refer to the Public Protection and Safety Standing Committee of the RTM the subject “Survivors Benefits in the Line of Duty”.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

RTM Member Driscoll discussed items in ordinance in regard to RTM and requested an update on the status of the Data Center and the new LEARN Early Childhood Center/Southwest School. (See Attachment)

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Condon, to adjourn at 9:15 P.M.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David L. Campo".

David L. Campo, CCTC
Waterford Town Clerk

February 3, 2025

Representative Town Meeting (RTM)
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

2025 FEB -5 1 A 9:34

Dear RTM Members,

ATTEST: *Daniel L. Langer*

Why are we putting the might of our collective financial resources into one new Oswegatchie Firehouse? Leaving the Quaker Hill firehouse undermanned and mostly stripped of its mission in Quaker Hill. Who let our fire protection services deteriorate this far and why? Why are resources now hoarded at one or two town firehouses leaving Quaker Hill's more or less unable to respond in a timely and safe manner?

The town is making decisions without proper data and feedback from the Fire Services Special Committee whose website includes the following charge; *At the June 7, 2021 Regular Meeting of the RTM they voted to create a special committee (Fire Services Review Special Committee) to review issues including performance, policies, and staffing and present their findings/recommendations of any changes needed to enhance public safety, creating a steering document and strategic plan and shall consist of five Full Voting Members as follows: 2 RTM members (appointed by the RTM), 1 Public Protection and Safety Committee Member (appointed by the Public Protection and Safety Committee), 1 Board of Finance Member (appointed by the BOF), 1 Board of Selectmen Member (appointed by the BOS) and shall consist of five Advisory/Nonvoting Members as follows: Fire Services Director, Emergency Management Director, Waterford Ambulance Manager, 1 Volunteer Fire Chief (appointed by consensus of the 5 Waterford Fire Companies or the 5 chiefs), 1 Full-time Waterford Career Firefighter (appointed by consensus of the Waterford Full-time Firefighters)* Where is that report and why hasn't it been made public? Residents are footing the bill so why haven't we been informed of all the ongoing problems with our fire protection services?

Residents also deserve to know why the town has failed to provide the State of Connecticut with critical data as proven by the attached, twelve-month report provided to me by the Office of the State Fire Marshall.

I ask you, members of the Representative Town Meeting to prioritize spending on fixing the Oswegatchie firehouse and helping the Fire Services Special Committee complete their study unimpeded by town politicians. Then, make it all available so residents can make prudent, fact-based decision about how best to protect ourselves, our families, and our neighbors in Quaker Hill.

Sincerely,

Bryan Sayles
Bryan Sayles
Quaker Hill



Bryan Sayles <bryanjsayles@gmail.com>

NFIRS Reporting

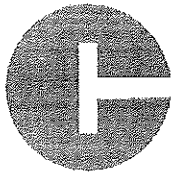
To: "bryanjsayles@gmail.com" <bryanjsayles@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 29, 2025 at 2:03 PM

Good afternoon

Per our records, you have not submitted reports to NFRIS for several Months. (see below). Please be advised that the last date for submitting data is March 1, 2025. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Fire Department	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total	Reported Months	Missing Months
WATERFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12



[REDACTED]
Fire & Life Safety Specialist
Office of the State Fire Marshal
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

**FINANCE, WAGE & PERSONNEL STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE RTM
COMMITTEE REPORT
Monday, February 3, 2025**

Dear Moderator Goldstein,

At the December 2, 2025, the body of the RTM discussed a letter received from the First Selectman (See attached), subsequently referring "Salaries of the Elected Officials" to the Finance, Wage, and Personnel Standing Committee of the RTM.

In considering this request, the committee met on January 27, 2025 to discuss the matter. The discussion focused on how increases are calculated for the paid elected officials. During the discussion it was noted over the last ten years that more times than not, elected officials' salary increases were half as much as non union municipal personnel. With rising costs and in all fairness, the committee strongly felt salary increases for elected officials should be equal and consistent with NUMP to retain our employees and to attract new one's when needed.

After the discussion a Motion was made and accepted unanimously to "report this issue out of committee with a recommendation that the RTM annually increase elected official salaries by the percentage approved for non-union management effective July 1, 2025 to align salary increases."

Please accept this report and put forth this recommendation to the RTM for consideration and possible action.

Sincerely,

Harry Colonis
Chair
Finance, Wage and Personnel Committee

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 FEB - 3 1 A 10:54
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

FIFTEEN ROPE HERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



PHONE: 860-442-0553
www.waterfordct.org

6

December 2, 2024

Mr. Paul Goldstein
Moderator
Representative Town Meeting
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 DEC -2 P 6:22
ATTEST: David Campo
TOWN CLERK

Dear Mr. Moderator:

Paul,

I am respectfully requesting that the RTM's Finance, Wage & Personnel Standing Committee consider amending the procedure used for calculating the salary increases for the following elected officials: Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Registrars of Voters.

Back on January 20, 2022, the RTM's Finance, Wage & Personnel Standing Committee voted to annually increase elected official salaries by the "least" of the following effective July 1, 2022:

- a) Percentage increase of the CPI-U from July of the preceding fiscal year
- b) Half (50%) of the percentage increase approved for non-union management
- c) One point five percent (1.5%)

I am hopeful that the Committee and RTM will consider granting these elected officials increases equal to the RTM approved non-union management employee increases.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Brule

Robert J. Brule
First Selectman

cc: David Campo, Town Clerk.

APPOINTEE REPORT – OSWEGATCHIE FIRE HOUSE – DATED 1-27-25

The Architectural consultants submitted plans for approval to the Conservation and Planning & Zoning Commissions during the month of January.

The Chairman of the Building Committee, Robert Tuneski, will deliver an updated status report to the RTM on Feb.3rd.

The Project Management Consultant will provide the first cost estimate for this project on February 4th.

The Project Schedule shows construction starting in July, 2025 and will be completed in one year.

The total amount spent to date for the consultants is \$176,595

Ted Olynciw, RTM Rep. to this Committee

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 JAN 27 P 6:30
ATTEST: *David J. Lange*
TOWN CLERK

Membership (Stickers)		Fees 2025	
Office Sales			
Non-Res - Town and BOE Full-time Emp	\$	25.00	
Non-Res Add Town & BOE FullTime Emp	\$	25.00	
Non-Resident Additional Beach Sticker	\$	175.00	
Non-Resident Beach Sticker	\$	175.00	
Non-Resident Sticker - Replacement	\$	10.00	
Non-Resident Wristbands	\$	10.00	
Resident Additional Sticker	\$	11.00	
Resident Senior Sticker (65+)	\$	11.00	
Resident Senior Show ID at Gate	\$	-	
Resident Sticker	\$	25.00	
Resident Sticker - Replacement	\$	5.00	
Resident Wristbands	\$	2.00	
Waterford Veterans - Beach Sticker	\$	-	
Waterford Beach Park Admissions			
Gatehouse Sales			
NR Picnic Weekday	\$	8.00	
NR Picnic Weekend/Holiday	\$	11.00	
NR Walker/Biker	\$	5.00	
NR Weekday	\$	25.00	
NR Weekend/Holiday		Sticker Only	
Res Walker/Biker	\$	1.00	
Res Weekday/Picnic	\$	2.00	
Res Weekend/Holiday		Sticker Only	

New Pricing

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 WATERFORD, CT
 2025 FEB - 7 | A 10:30
 ATTEST: *[Signature]*
 TOWN CLERK

Oswegatchie Fire Station

High Level Features

- Modest single story structure addressing current needs and responsibly considering future ones
- Architecturally satisfying
- Training / meeting room sized for 22 people
- Three drive through bays (1/2 contractual, 1/2 for growth)
- Three bunk rooms, sleeping 3 each
- A kitchen
- A day room (common) area
- An exercise room
- Two offices

Town Accomplishments

- Completed Design Development of the New Fire Station
- Negotiated transfer of title of Oswegatchie Property
- Closed on property transfer from Oswegatchie Volunteers to the Town of Waterford-The Town now owns the property
- Negotiated two arrangements with the Oswegatchie Volunteers:
 - To occupy the existing building until the new building is complete
 - To occupy the new building
- Received favorable review from Waterford Planning and Zoning, January 14, 2025; and made the following findings:
 - Planning and Zoning Determined that the building of the Fire House is consistent with the stated goal in the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development, Community Facilities chapter to "Provide adequate services and facilities to meet community needs." (pg. 66)
 - The improvements to the property and construction of the new firehouse facility is consistent with the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development, Community Facilities Chapter Section A. Monitor and Adapt to Changing Community Facility Needs. (pg. 67)
 - The construction of the new firehouse is consistent with the major highlight of the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development Future Land Plan in that "Community facilities and institutional uses will be encouraged and configured to enhance the overall community." (pg. 80)
 - The location of the new facility is consistent with the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development in that the parcel is which the firehouse will be constructed is identified in the Future Land Use Plan as an Institutional / Community Facility (pg. 81)

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 FEB - 5 | A 9:35
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS

FY 2025-26

Town Hall Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 05, 2025

Conservation of Health
Public Health Nursing (VNA)
Social Services Grants
Board of Education

WEDNESDAY MAY 07, 2025

Ethics Commission
Registrar of Voters
Human Resources Department
Retirements Commission
Youth & Family Services Bureau
Senior Citizens Commission
Board of Assessment Appeals
Assessor
Contingency
Debt Service
Insurance
Town Clerk
Representative Town Meeting

MONDAY MAY 12, 2025

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

WEDNESDAY MAY 14, 2025

Tax Collector
Waterford Public library
Finance Department
Board of Finance
Legal Department
Emergency Management
Fire Services
Board of Police Commissioners
Information Technology
Current Year Capital Improvements
Transfers to Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditures

FINAL ACTION

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 FEB - 7 | A 9:57
ATTEST: *David J. Lange*
TOWN CLERK

Feb. 3, 2025

To: RTM Moderator
First Selectman

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

2025 FEB -7 1A 9:58

Title 3 – REVENUE AND FINANCE

Chptr 3.04 – BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION GENERALLY

3.04.070 - Agreements with private organizations report.

Every four years the board of selectmen will review agreements the town has with private organizations and report the results of the review to the board of finance and the representative town meeting. Such reviews may be staggered so that all reviews are not required in the same year.

(R.T.M. 12-7-98)

Request that RTM and Board of Finance members be provided with copies of current agreements with private organizations—including, but not limited to the following:*

- Lease agreement with OSW Fire Company #4 for use of new town fire station (Feb 2024)
- Waterford Ambulance Service ("in negotiations" 2022; renegotiated since relocation?)
- Waterford Public Library
- Eugene O'Neill Theater Center
- Eversource 15-yr contract (signed June 2022; data missing at presentation)
- Agreements with each of the 5 Volunteer Fire Companies (1970s?)

*As the quadrennial reviews have not taken place since the 1998 ordinance was enacted, this list may not be inclusive. So, I respectfully request that copies of any other existing agreements with private organizations be provided as well.

Request that the Moderator work with the First Selectman to schedule the first report/review for this year and work out a schedule of rotation. (The ordinance does not require that ALL agreements be reviewed each year—just that all be reviewed within 4-year cycles.) Also respectfully request that the review schedule include updates on these two agreements:

- Millstone Data Center (initiated Feb 2023)
- LEARN Early Childhood Center/Southwest (Apr 2023)

Chapter 2.84 - UTILITY COMMISSION 2.84.070 - Annual report.

In addition to such financial reports as may be required, the commission shall submit to the representative town meeting, by September 15th of each year, a report concerning its activity during the preceding fiscal year and its proposed program for the next year; such reports shall be printed in the annual report of the town.

(Prior code § 16-7)

While the annual town report provides a snapshot of this semi-autonomous agency's operations, veteran members of the RTM will remember that the UC Director used to do annual presentations for the RTM, detailing activities, upcoming capital projects, etc. (and the result of one of these presentations was a reconfiguration of the UC's billing formula that was designed to cover operational expenses and switch to a usage-based fee that was fairer to residents).

It has been several years since the last presentation, so I respectfully request that the Moderator work with the UC Director to schedule the next one. Since the UC does not participate in the annual budget hearings, this will help RTM members understand the contributions and needs of this vital service, as well as get a heads up for capital requests.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this matter,

Susan Driscoll, RTM 4th District

cc: Board of Finance Chair