



2022 JUN 10 AM 11:33

MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Regular Meeting
June 6, 2022

RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein called the June 6, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Greg Attanasio, Michael Bono, Mary Childs, Timothy Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Steven Garvin, Nicholas Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Kristen Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Richard Holmes, Jennifer Kohl, Paul Konstantakis, Cheryl Larder, Richard Muckle, Ted Olynciw, Dan Radin, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue, David Welch.

ABSENT: Jennifer Bracciale.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule; Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectman Elizabeth Sabilia; Chair of the Board of Finance Glenn Patterson; Chair of the Board of Education Pat Fedor.

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

AGENDA ITEM C - April 4, 2022 Minutes, May 2, 2022 Minutes & the May 11, 2022 Minutes.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to address each set of minutes separately.

MOTION PASSED: 23-0-1 (Attanasio abstained)

MOTION by Radin, seconded by Sugrue, to approve the April 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes with the following correction: The word meeting in the footer should be meetings.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Driscoll, to approve the May 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Bono, seconded by Gonzalez to amend the BOE budget approval on page 3 to reflect abstentions by Fioravanti, Bono, Childs, & Gonzalez.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Healy, to add the word abstained within the parenthesis on page 8, under Police Commission.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Sugrue, to amend the minutes on page 9 to reflect that the BOE Budget motion was made by Steward-Gelinas and seconded by Rocchetti.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Larder, seconded by Driscoll, to amend the minutes on page 9 to reflect that the Current Year Capital Improvement Budget was voted against by Larder.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to amend the minutes to include the following items received for the May 2, 2022 meeting as attachments: All recommendations that were received for the meeting in regard to the Senior Citizen's Commission appointments, the petition in objection to the Civic Triangle Upgrade, the petition to reject the Waterford Affordable Housing Plan, and the letter emailed from Danielle Steward-Gelinas in regard to the creation of a committee to research increased green energy and sustainability. (See attachments)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED with the amendments: 23-0-1 (Attanasio abstained)

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, to accept the May 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

Moderator Goldstein noted that the following items were received: Letter from Economic Development Chair Dan Radin (See Attachment), a summary from RTM Member Ted Olynciw summarizing the Finance Director 03/18/2022 report along with the report, an audit report, additions to Call Item 4, BOE Quarterly Financial report, letter from RTM Member Cheryl Larder in regard to "Non-Meetings" (See Attachment). All copies of correspondence may be obtained from the Town Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Isaac Brody, 57 Lamphere Rd, stated his concerns in regard to a short term rental adjacent to his property.

AGENDA ITEM F

Public Works Planning & Development Chair Michael Rocchetti stated that he was planning a Meeting in June.

RTM Member Susan Driscoll reminded chairs that the majority and minority leader should be included on agenda notifications for standing committee meetings.

CALL ITEM 1 – Public Act 21-29 Opt Out

PRESENTATION: Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission Greg Massad.

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Condon, to opt out of Public Act 21-29: Provisions for Accessory Dwellings.

Discussion ensued

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 2 – Southeastern Connecticut Special Response Team Inter-local Agreement

PRESENTATION: Lieutenant Nicole VanOverloop, Detective Raymond Carroll

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, to approve an inter-local agreement entitled "Southeastern Connecticut Special Response Team" and authorize the First Selectman to sign on the town's behalf, pending the approval of the Town Attorney as to form. (See Attachment)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 3 – Oil Tank at Eugene O'Neill

PRESENTATION: Director of Public Works Gary Schneider

MOTION by Sugrue, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$10,000** from **Capital and Non-Recurring undesignated line #205-31520** for a new oil tank installation at Eugene O'Neill.

Brief discussion ensued.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Condon to amend the motion to read as follows: To approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an emergency appropriation for a new project in the amount of \$10,000 from **Capital and Non-Recurring undesignated line #205-31520** for a temporary oil tank installation to remediate a tank failure at the Eugene O'Neill Mansion.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 4: Southwest School Underground Tank

PRESENTATION: Director of Public Works Gary Schneider

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$155,000** from the **Capital Non-Recurring line #205-31520 (Undesignated Fund Balance)** for the Southwest School Underground Tank Removal/Closure.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gonzalez to amend the motion to add "for a new project" after appropriation.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Garvin, to designate the above motion as "Emergency Legislation", waiving the 15-day waiting period.

MOTION PASSED: 22-2-0 (Larder, Radin opposed)

CALL ITEM 5: Resurface of Roads

PRESENTATION: Director of Public Works Gary Schneider.

MOTION by Dembek, seconded by Rocchetti, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$1,705,358** from the **Capital Non-Recurring undesignated line #205-31520** to resurface the following roads: Lakes Pond Road, Butlertown Road, Daniels Avenue, Niantic River Road (partial), and Gardiner's Wood Road.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Garvin, to designate the above motion as "Emergency Legislation", waiving the 15-day waiting period.

MOTION PASSED: 21-3-0 (Attanasio, Larder, Radin opposed)

CALL ITEM 6 – Cell Phone Tower

PASSED over with no action.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Dembek, seconded by Rocchetti, to refer the review of the Waterford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.36 – Volunteer Firefighters Incentive Program to the Public Protection and Safety Standing Committee of the RTM.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Steward Gelinas, seconded by Rocchetti, to establish an Ad Hoc Energy Task Force with the following charge: 1. Reviewing audits of consumption. 2. Identify any data needs based on those audits. 3. Address the energy policy of the town. The make-up would be as follows: 2 members of the RTM, 1 member of the BOF, 1 member of the BOE, 1 member of the BOS, and 2 residents of the town. The committee would issue a report six months after being established. The committee would be revisited or sundown on 12/04/2023.

Lengthy discussion ensued.

Representative Bono requested a friendly amendment to refer to the “residents” as electors.

Steward-Gelinas and Rocchetti accepted.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Bono, Childs, Condon, Dembek, Garvin, Gauthier, Girard, Goldstein, Gonzalez, Healy, Holmes, Kohl, Konstantakis, Muckle, Olynciw, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue, Welch.

VOTING AGAINST: Attanasio.

ABSTAINED: Driscoll, Fioravanti, Larder.

MOTION PASSED: 20-1-3

Representative Radin referenced the letter (See attachment) from the Economic Development Commission asking that the RTM create an Ad Hoc Economic Strategy Task Force Special Committee to initiate a Waterford economic development strategy that works for our community to create legislation to achieve the EDC defined goals.

MOTION by Radin, seconded by Driscoll, to refer the matter to the Legislation and Administration Standing Committee of the RTM for further review.

Lengthy Discussion ensued.

A friendly amendment was accepted to change the motion to ask the Legislation & Administration Standing Committee to review of The Waterford Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2.56 – Economic Development Commission.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Healy, to move the question.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Attanasio, Bono, Condon, Dembek, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Garvin, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Kohl, Konstantakis, Muckle, Olynciw, Radin, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue, Welch.

VOTING AGAINST: Childs, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Larder.

MOTION TO MOVE PASSED: 20-4-0

VOTING IN FAVOR of original motion with friendly amendment: Attanasio, Bono, Childs, Condon, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Kohl, Konstantakis, Larder, Olynciw, Radin, Sugrue.

VOTING AGAINST: Dembek, Garvin, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Muckle, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Welch.

ABSTAINED: Girard

MOTION PASSED: 14-9-1

MOTION by Radin, seconded by Gauthier, in reference to Helen Kwasniewski’s May 9th letter, to refer to the Legislation and Administration Standing Committee the subject of how the RTM considers recommendations for committee assignments.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Attanasio, Bono, Childs, Condon, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Garvin, Gauthier, Gonzalez, Kohl, Konstantakis, Larder, Olynciw, Radin, Sugrue.

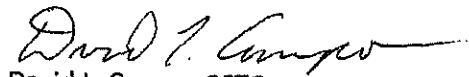
VOTING AGAINST: Dembek, Girard, Goldstein, Healy, Holmes, Muckle, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Welch.

MOTION PASSED: 15-9-0

MOTION by Rocchetti, seconded by Sugrue, to adjourn at 9:49 P.M.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David L. Campo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David L. Campo, CCTC

Waterford Town Clerk

RTM Budget Meeting

May 9, 2022

Helen Kwasniewski

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
MAY 10 2022

2022 MAY -9 AM 11:20

TOWN CLERK

Being a resident of Quaker Hill all my life as well as family ties of approximately 231 years to Quaker Hill these are my concerns and/or issues.

When the moderator/chairperson announces that there is openings on "Committees" these are my concerns: people that sign-up for these "Committees" should be checked out to see if they are qualified.

I know of someone that is on the "Building Committee" and the "Fire Review Committee" just to mention a few which I believe it not qualified.

For example remodel home with no permit (where required) and burned illegal several time.

Salaries: Salaries are extremely high as well out of proportion which in due time is going to bankrupt the town.

As a senior citizen concerns: Taxes are high for us, we have to make the choice of 1. Paying rent/mortgage, 2. Paying for medication(s), 3. Paying for food, 4. Paying for heat, 5. Paying for utilities. I propose that ALL taxes for senior citizens should be frozen for our lifetime period. Frozen means that taxes don't go up, like other town(s) in Connecticut.

Quaker Hill: Quaker Hill IS part of the Town of Waterford. It has an awful lot of history. The Quaker Hill resident needs ASAP a "Kiosk" so that we know what is happening at the elite side of town. I propose that 2 "traffic counter" be place in Quaker Hill 1. On Bloomingdale Road near the Quaker Hill School, 2. On Old Norwich Road near the Quaker Hill Green. Whoever has the highest "traffic count" that is where the "Kiosk" be period. Also public works can and should be able to assist with this install to save the town money.

It is now the time to consolidate some departments as well as re-organize some departments. We do not need heavy personnel load in some departments.

Department Heads/Directors should NOT be in the union like in the private sector. The union is going to bankrupt the town along with the high salaries.

Since taxpayers of the town pay their salaries ALL town workers should live in the town. In essence they work for us and we should be able "fire" where we the taxpayers see fit.

BULLYING: In the last few years there has been too many town resident who are bully, especially senior citizens by town employees and BOARD MEMBER(S). This has fallen on DEAF EARS by department heads/directors period. I propose that ALL department heads/directors have "ANNUAL" meeting along with a sign in sheet with all of their people about BULLYING, which should be "ZERO TOLERANCE" or you will be "fire on the spot" period.

We have to get out of this mode that Waterford is rich and they can pay. News flash Waterford is NOT rich. We do not have Millstone and the Crystal Mall footed the bill.

Inclusion:

Waterford is extremely top heavy in salaries as well as personnel. Some of the departments have too many personnel that need to be assess. I have notice that jobs/positions have been created where some of these jobs/task can and should be added to current personnel in the departments.

Waterford has to take a stand to keep the taxes LOW. We have about 65% of the resident that are SENIOR CITIZENS.

If we don't start to take serious control of the Town Budget we WILL be bankrupt cause by greedy departments as well as the UNION period. I for one have a life style that is not making millionaires on my dime.

As John Sheenan (board member) has stated "keep in mind that we are spending the taxpayers money". Let this year be the year for the taxpayers.

Yes, I know "hope all I want"!

PLEASE PLEASE keep ALL of the residents and concerns in mind when reviewing these budgets.

Please do not vote unanimously. Please do not be afraid to send back department budget. Please vote individual NOT by party affiliate.

The goal is for a ZERO INCREASE!

FIRE SERVICE

WOW! Where to I begin!

Since March 1, 2015 has been poor to sub-standard to the Quaker Hill residents. We were told that if this change does not work out we will go back to what is was. We were lied to.

Never had concerns until last year.

For about 45 years always had a brush pile, which I got a "burn permit" then contacted the Quaker Hill Fire Department to burn my brush pile. This is the only way for me to get rid of it. I am a senior citizen who needs the assistance from the fire department. No problem until we got a new Fire Service Director as well as new Fire Inspector.

I was told by the Quaker Hill Fire Chief that they will get to it. I was lied to. Shame on you. Note that this chief has burn the brush pile in the past himself. Quaker Hill Fire house is definitely not community kind.

I was told by the new Fire Inspector that if the permit expires that he would renew it. I was lied to. Shame on you.

The new Fire Service Director stated to me "we didn't issue burn permits in Middletown. New bulletin this is Waterford and we do.

There are other resident(s) who burn without permits. I absolutely take "burning" VERY SERIOUS". Just because you own property does not mean you can do anything you want on your property.

Also was told that if the smoke from people who burn wood as well as smoke from barbequing that they can be shut down. I would like to see that happen.

Oswegatchie Fire House was deemed unsafe and still is. The town spent \$250,000 on a survey nothing has been done to this date. A pole in the ladies room is holding up the roof. WOW.

I propose that Jordan and Oswegatchie Fire Houses be combine and re-assign some of the fire personnel so that Quaker Hill and Goshen have better coverage.

The Fire Services budget should be decrease due to the fact the Quaker Hill and Goshen coverage is not what is equal to the other fire house in town.

The resident of Quaker Hill and Goshen should be getting a refund on their taxes NO DISCUSSION ABOUT IT PERIOD.

PUBLIC WORKS

This department needs to be "Pro Active" in Quaker Hill. Quaker Hill is part of the town located in the northern part of town.

They need to clean ALL culverts/drains. We had a new resident who moved to Quaker Hill that clear/clean a culvert/drain that is located in from of their house. Shame on Public Works.

I have contacted the director of Public Works about cutting down/trimming some trees, which is on the town side for about a 3+ years so that it doesn't obstruct my view of oncoming traffic (which is a speedway) when existing our driveways. I guess that I have to do their work and then charge them. If the trees land on wires that are across the street, oh well. Shame on Public Works.

I brought to the attention of the Public Works Director that some of these culverts as well as Hunts Brook need guard rails not guard post. I was told that is too expensive. I guess ALL LIVES does not matter to him. Shame on Public Works.

Several years ago there was an accident that left Public Works was notify about it and to this date debris is still has not been cleaned up. I was told this would be done. I was lied to. Shame on Public Works.

Public Works director was notify that one of his employees bully a senior citizen. Nothing was done about it. Shame on you.

In conclusion the director Public Works does not care about Quaker Hill, shame on you.

The employees as well as the director gets a very good salaries. When a resident brings concerns as well as issues should not have to wait 3 plus years. The budget should be decrease.

Thank you!