

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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

MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
5:00 PM
Waterford Town Hall (Appleby Room)

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2025 MAY 23 P 3:54
ATTEST: [Signature]

(Procedural Action: Check register to be signed by the Board of Selectmen in accordance with CGS 7-83)

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call: 5:01 PM**
In Attendance: First Selectman, Robert Brule; Selectman, Rich Muckle and Selectman, Greg Attanasio
Absent: N/A
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment:**
 - Thecla Abbiati – Memorial bench requested in honor of George & Linda Abbiati. Email attached under correspondence.
 - Wayne Gilpin – Oswegatchie Fire Department in support of #15 on this agenda as presented. Handout attached under correspondence.
 - Sue Driscoll - #15 revise language of resolution to reflect Town instead of Oswegatchie. #19 Retirement questions regarding deficit.
 - Mary Childs – RTM Member #15 concerns. Email attached under correspondence.
 - Narciss Greene – RTM Member #15 concerns.
4. **Board of Education:** To consider and act on a request for a FY25 additional appropriation from the Board of Education Director of Finance and Operations, Joseph Mancini, in the amount of \$243,335, for LED, new transformers, new VFDs across the district, to account #20560-57883 (Energy Efficiency) and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.
MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, **VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED**

5. **Board of Education:** To consider and act on a request for a FY25 additional appropriation from the Board of Education Director of Finance and Operations, Joseph Mancini, in the amount of \$197,000, for ACER Chromebooks and iPads, to account #20560-57884 (Chromebooks & iPad Equipment) and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

6. **Tax Collector:** To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 Out-of-Series Transfer from the Tax Collector, Alan Wilensky, in the amount of \$30 to cover an increase in postage rate increased and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

7. **Assessor:** To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 Out-of-Series Transfer from the Assessor, Paige Walton, in the amount of \$261 to cover an increase in copier contract overage charges and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

8. **Library:** To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 In-Series Transfer from the Director of the Library, Christine Johnson, in the amount of \$2,251 to cover unbudgeted sick leave.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

9. **Utility:** To consider and act on a recommendation from Shea Davy, Purchasing Agent, on behalf of Jill Stevens, Director of Utilities, to award the bid to B&W Paving & Landscaping LLC, for the Replacement of Existing Plastic Water Services with New Copper Water Services – Old Norwich Road, with funds available in Line # 20531-57881 (Plastic Water Service Line Replacement).

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

10. **Planning:** To consider and act on a request for a FY25 appropriation from the Director of Planning, Jonathan Mullen, in the amount of \$25,000, from designated line #20511-57767 (Nevins Cottage Structural Repairs) and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

11. **Public Works:** To consider and act on a recommendation from Shea Davy, Purchasing Agent, on behalf of the Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, to award the bid to Action Air Systems, LLC, in the amount of \$44,890 for

HVAC Maintenance. Funds will be available from line #10111-52040, (Service Contracts and Repairs).

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

- 12. Public Works:** To consider and act on a recommendation from Shea Davy, Purchasing Agent, on behalf of the Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, to award the bid to Casella Waste Systems, in the amount of \$400,000 for Oversized Bulky Waste Disposal. Funds will be available from line #10130-52470, (Solid Waste).

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

- 13. Public Works:** To consider and act on a recommendation from Shea Davy, Purchasing Agent, on behalf of the Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, to award the bid to DW Transport & Leasing/Connecticut Scrap LLC, to remove metals for 71% of published price but not less than \$150 per gross tons. Funds will be deposited to line # 10130-44204 (scrap metal revenue).

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

- 14. Fire Services:** To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 Out-of-Series Transfer from the Interim Director of Fire Services, Michael Howley, in the amount of \$12,617 to cover an increase in apparatus repairs and forward on to the Board of Finance if approved.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

- 15. Fire Services:** To consider and amend the following:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Waterford (the "Town") appropriate \$12,000,000 for the construction of a new Town Fire Station as described in the plans prepared by the Oswegatchie Fire Department, as described in the plans prepared by the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee (the "Project"). The appropriation may be expended for design, construction, renovation and installation costs, engineering and professional fees, fixtures, furnishings, materials, equipment, purchase costs, legal fees, financing costs, interest expense on temporary borrowings, and other costs related to the Project. The appropriation shall include any federal, state or other grants-in-aid received for the Project. The Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee for the Project is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project. The Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee may reduce or modify the scope of the Project and the entire appropriation may be expended on the Project as so reduced or modified.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio to table, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

16. Police: To consider and act on a recommendation from Shea Davy, Purchasing Agent, on behalf of the Chief of Police, Marc Balestracci, for surplus disposal of the following:

- asset #101587 CAR 3 2018- Ford-PIU-VIN # 1FMK8AR7JGA84866
- asset #101022 CAR 34 2011- Ford-Taurus-VIN # 1FAHP2HW1BG145602

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

17. Finance: To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 In-Series Transfer from the Director of Finance, Kim Allen, in the amount of \$8,000 to cover ADP processing fee increases after the budget was passed.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

18. Insurance: To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 In-Series Transfer from the Director of Finance, Kim Allen, in the amount of \$21,500 to cover past employee unemployment and long term disability coverage.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

19. Retirement: To consider and act on the following request for a FY25 In-Series Transfer from the Director of Finance, Kim Allen, in the amount of \$566,879 to cover an additional payment into the OPEB Trust Fund approved by the BOF.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

20. Appointments & Resignations:

20a. To consider and act on the re-appointment of Marcia Benvenuti (D) to the Waterford East Lyme Shellfish Commission (WELSCO) to fill the term of 6/1/25-5/31/29 as a member.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

20b. To consider and act on the appointment of Timothy Burrows (R) to the Recreation and Parks Commission to fill the vacant spot and term of 9/1/23-8/31/26 as a member.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

20c. To appoint Chris Haley as the Director of Fire Services pursuant to Charter section 5.20.1, and Town Ordinance 2.36.030 (A).

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

21. New Business:

22. Old Business:

23. Correspondence:

- 23a.** Thecla Abbiati – Email Memorial Bench
- 23b.** Wayne Gilpin – Handout regarding Oswegatchie Fire Station
- 23c.** Mary Childs – Email regarding Town Fire Station
- 23d.** Ted Olynciw – Email regarding Oswegatchie Fire House

24. Consent Agenda

- 24a.** Tax Refund
- 24b.** Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes May 6, 2025

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

25. Adjournment: 6:12 PM

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Attanasio, VOTING IN FAVOR: 3-0 PASSED

#23a

Shannon Withey

From: Robert Brule
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:07 PM
To: Thecla Abbiati
Cc: First Selectman
Subject: Re: basic questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Rob Brule

Hello Thecla,

Sorry for the delayed response. We have public comment at the beginning of the meeting for you to speak regarding the bench dedication. From there, your comment will be in the meeting minutes and I will follow up with the Recreation & Parks Director and Chairman of the Board. I hope this helps Thecla.

My regards,

Rob Brule
First Selectman
Waterford Town Hall
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385
rbrule@waterfordct.org
Phone: 860-444-5834
Fax: 860-444-0273

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL: This communication, including attachments, is for the exclusive use of addressee and may contain proprietary, confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, copying, disclosure, dissemination or distribution is strictly prohibited. If you're not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately by return email and delete this communication and destroy all copies.

On May 19, 2025, at 10:30 AM, Abbiati, Thecla <thecla.abbiati@yale.edu> wrote:

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I have a couple of basic questions:

- Is it possible to raise a question at tomorrow's meeting and, if so, how do I go about it? My question is something which was asked of Parks and Rec a quite some time ago and was never answered. Our family would like to place a "memorial bench" in honor of George and Linda Abbiati in front of the Community Center. George Sr. was very active in the Lions Club and helped to initiate the Kelley Road Race. Since its inception 63 years ago, the family has hosted a water stop along the Boston Post Road and in front of the Community Center since it was built. Linda was at every event until the year of her passing at age 94. If given the privilege of placing a bench in the vicinity, the family will respect the committee's wishes in choosing in design, placement, etc.
- Without using Facebook, how can I get alerts regarding meetings?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Thecla Abbiati

•

#23b

Wayne H. Gilpin
6 Albacore Drive
Waterford, CT 06385-2602
wgilpin53@gmail.com
860-443-6821 (H)
860-884-4301 (C)

5/20/2025

To: Board of Selectman, Town of Waterford

Subject: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee

Good afternoon,

I am Wayne Gilpin, residing at 6 Albacore Dr. I am also a member of the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee serving as a representative of the fire department.

I am speaking tonight to urge your support of Item 15 for the funding of the new Oswegatchie Fire Station as presented. As we are all well aware, this is a can that has been kicked down the road for over 15 years with the cost escalating every year. The committee has spent many hours over dozens of meetings to submit a plan that is designed to serve the residents, businesses, and taxpayers of the town for the foreseeable future. Is it a perfect plan? Was there unanimous agreement on every item? No. But the committee has come to a consensus and voted approval of this plan. If there are one or two committee members that disagree with parts of the plan, it is in poor taste and a disservice to you and their fellow members to try to multiply their vote by trying to sabotage approval of select items at this stage. This is not a taj mahal. It is a well thought out plan for a facility with room for the future and efficient long term operating costs. To cut corners now and argue that the town can retrofit or expand later will come back to haunt future residents. The town has wasted too much time and hundreds of thousands of dollars on studies, committees, professional fees in the past 15 years. It's time to move forward with this project.

Thank you,

Wayne H. Gilpin

Shannon Withey

From: RTM Mary Childs
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:47 PM
To: Shannon Withey; Robert Brule
Cc: gregattanasio@rocketmail.com; Richard Muckle
Subject: Public Comment for 5/20/2025 BoS meeting

Good evening Shannon, I hope this finds you well! I would like to submit the following statement as public comment for the record for the 5/20/2025 Board of Selectmen meeting. Please let me know if you need anything else from me. Thank you,

Mary Childs
District 2 RTM

Mary Childs
22 Beacon Hill Drive
Waterford CT 06385
District 2 RTM Member
May 19, 2025

Dear First Selectman Brule, and Selectmen Attanasio and Muckle,
I request that this letter be entered into the public record for the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for May 20, 2025 at 5:00.
In regards to #15 on the agenda which calls for the item to be resolved by the Board of Selectmen appropriating \$12,000,000 for the construction of a new Town Fire Station as described in the plans by the Oswegatchie Fire Department.

There are several items that need to be addressed before \$12,000,000 is appropriated:

- the building committee was not officially ratified
- there has been no signed lease agreement ever received by RTM
- there has been minimum opportunity for public input at this point
- there is a lack of a town wide plan for fire services coverage based on current buildings/planning structures
- there have been several promises made by OSW building committee reports that the process would go through the RTM, and item 15 circumvents those promises
- currently, there is a request from members of the RTM to prepare and report a design with two double bays as opposed to three, which has yet to be received

It is premature to appropriate this amount of money without the above mentioned items being sufficiently addressed.

It is irresponsible to appropriate this amount of money, which will impact all of the taxpayers in Waterford, without the opportunity for their input.

It would be better to be thoughtful and proceed similarly to the Municipal Complex process as opposed to rushing without proper planning and procedure.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Childs

#23d

Shannon Withey

From: Ted Olynciw <tedolynciw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 11:44 PM
To: Robert Brule; Richard Muckle; Greg Attanasio; Shannon Withey
Subject: Submitted for Public Comment for the BOS meeting on May 20, 2025
Attachments: Scan_20250519 (3).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Rob Brule

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe.**

Due to a conflict, I cannot attend your meeting Tuesday night. However, I wanted to share this information while serving on the Building Committee as you deliberate on the resolution outlined in item # 5 of you agenda.

Ted Olynciw, RTM Rep. 2nd District and RTM Appointed member of the Oswegatchie Fire House Building Committee.
62 Twin Lakes Drive
Waterford, CT 06385

Submitted for Public Comment to the Board of Selectman Meeting on May, 20, 2025

DRAFT COPY OF MY ASSIGNEE REPORT TO THE RTM IN JUNE

ASSIGNEE REPORT OF THE OSWEGATCHIE FIRE HOUSE BUILDING COMMITTEE

May 19, 2025

This report is a summary of facts gathered during the past 2+ years the committee has been working on this project.

1. The Building Committee has never voted on a motion to request funding or bonding from the Town for this project.
 - a. In fact, the Committee agreed, at the April 1, 2025 meeting, that it wanted to bid the project and use the low bidder lump sum proposal for Town funding / bonding since budget numbers have been proven to be unreliable.
 - b. The Committee reaffirmed, at its May 20th meeting, to request funding or bonding only based on hard bid numbers.
 - c. The Chairman, Bob Tuneski, on May 6th, stated during his conversation with Kim Allen, Finance Director, that she decided to ask the BOS to approve bonding for this project based on budget numbers, not actual cost, like we did for the Municipal Complex which was based on actual bids.
2. Fire Services Review Special Committee.
 - a. The RTM formed this Committee at its meeting on 6/7/21 meeting.
 - b. THE MISSION: 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 STATEGIC PLAN.
 - c. This committee has failed after 4 years to provide a full comprehensive report of their findings and recommendations.
 - d. Mr. Tim Condon, at the RTM meeting, on 8/7/23 stated "The decision to approve an Oswegatchie Fire Building Committee was facilitated by the fact that report from the Fire Service Review Special Committee would be provided. As you are aware this report has never been submitted to the Town for review and consideration.
3. The RTM decided without the benefit of a report from the Fire Services Review Special Committee, which was established by the RTM on June 7, 2021, to go forward with a new fire house at Oswegatchie. By not having this report we have

placed the cart before the horse by designing a new fire house before obtaining this report which would have met the needs of all 5 fire houses.

4. The Building Committee was formed on 2/6/23 with the specific instruction to "REPAIR OR REPLACE". This was understood to consider the cost of renovating the existing building versus building a new building. At a subsequent RTM meeting that was changed by majority vote that the new meaning was to "REPAIR AS NECESSARY THE EXISTING BUILDING UNTIL THE NEW BUILDING IS COMPLETED".
5. Jonathan Mullen, Planning Director, provided us with the attached Population Projections which shows that the population in Waterford will decrease between now and 2040.
6. The proposed design, approved by the Fire House Building committee, includes 3 drive through bays. The cost of this additional bay is approximately \$410,000.
 - a. Only 2 drive through bays are needed based upon the present and future needs.
 - b. There are existing unused indoor parking spaces for 7 additional vehicles in the other 4 fire houses.
 - c. According to Director of Fire Services, Michael Howley, there are no plans for the next 10 years to add any additional vehicles.
 - d. The existing structure is 16,000 square feet in size versus the proposed new building which is 10,000 square feet in size.
 - e. The existing building adequately houses 4 pieces of apparatus, the same for the proposed fire.
7. The proposed plans have included the following luxury items:
 - a. Heated floor slab with the garage bays.

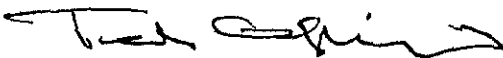
The cost is \$181,000 plus 15% general conditions, overhead and profit, and 5% for contingency for a total cost of \$ 217,000.

There is already in the design a redundant gas fired forced air heating system which is adequate to heat the entire garage. This is the same system that is being used in our Municipal Garage.
 - b. Providing 3 bi-folding garage at the front of the building versus 3 typical rolling overhead doors. Cost for the bi-fold door is estimated to be \$ 108,000 versus rolling overhead doors estimated to be \$ 36,000. These figures

include the 15% for general contractors overhead/ profit plus 5% for contingency.

8. The existing poor soil conditions for the placement of the new building foundation requires an additional \$300,000 cost (including General Contractors 15% fee for overhead/profit plus 5% contingency. The entire footprint of the building has to be excavated to a dept of 6' and the material removed from the site. Additionally, 4' of structural fill has to be installed in the excavation before the foundation can be backfilled. I do not believe that this cost is not included in the budget.
9. The existing traffic light may have to be relocated due to the new location of the building at an additional cost of \$ 600,000. The Chief of Police will make a decision to keep the existing light or install a new one after he reviews the line of site along the Boston Post Road. This cost is \$600,000 including the General Contractor's fee of 15% and 5% contingency.
10. I urge you to review these facts before you cast your vote on the motion to approve funding / bonding for this project.

Ted Olynciw, RTM Representative, 2nd District and RTM Appointed Member
To the Oswegatchie Building Committee



62 Twin Lakes Drive, Waterford, CT. 06385