



MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Regular Meeting
April 8, 2024

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 APR 15 P 2:45
ATTEST: David L. Campo
TOWN CLERK

RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein called the April 8, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jennifer Bracciale, Mark Campo, Erica Casper, Mary Childs, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Nicholas Gauthier, Paul Goldstein, Ryan Healy, Christina Jessuck, Matthew Keatley, Kate MacKenzie, Shawn Monahan, Ursula Moreshead, Kayla Mullen, Kathleen Mullen Kohl, Theodore Olynciw, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue (Speaker Phone)

ABSENT: Kyrach Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Harry Colonis, Timothy Condon, Kristen Gonzalez, Lindsay Khan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule; Selectman Richard Muckle

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Board of Education Chair Pat Fedor, Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson, Selectman Greg Attanasio

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

AGENDA ITEM C – February 5, 2024 Minutes

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, to accept the February 5, 2024 Minutes as presented.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were received: A quarterly American Rescue Plan Report; fifteen letters from residents in regard to fields and playground that do not drain properly at Great Neck School; a letter from Kerry Sullivan voicing concerns in regard to Senior Services, Goshen Fire House staffing, and the Pleasure Beach entrance; letter from Waterford Police Chief Balestracci in regard to Vision Zero Traffic Camera Enforcement Program; a letter from resident David Welch addressing the condition of Vauxhall St Ext from Hunts Brook Rd to the Montville Town Line; a staffing report from HR Director Christine Walters; Email Correspondence from Paul Goldstein and a letter from Ted Olynciw in regard to Item 6 of the February 6, 2023 RTM meeting; a recommendation from the Democratic Town Committee for the Senior Citizens Commission; a letter from Town Attorney Nicholas Kepple in regard to Registrar of Voters compensation. Copies of correspondence can be obtained from the office of the Waterford Town Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following residents spoke in opposition to the Data Center: Ronald Elkin, 8 Doyle Rd; Andrew Lassman, 5 Third Ave; Suzanne Mahan read a letter from the McHugh Family, 87 Cross Rd; Lynn

MacMorrow, 10 Fourth St; Caryn Kreitzer, 5 Third Ave; Tina DuBosque, 45 Wintergreen Dr; Bryan Sayles, 54 Wintergreen Dr.

The following residents spoke in favor of additional compensation for Registrar of Voters: Laurie Wolfley, 15 Anita Ave; David Campo, 3 Colonial Dr; Cheryl Larder, 26 Wiemes Ct.

The following resident spoke in regard to missing correspondence to Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes: Bryan Sayles, 54 Wintergreen Dr.

The following resident spoke in response to the letter written by Kerry Sullivan highlighting the benefits to the community the Senior Citizens Department provides: Jennifer Bracciale, 21 Konomac Ave.

The following resident expressed her appreciation for the help received from the Senior Citizens Department: Suzanne Mahan, 87 Cross Rd.

Attached please find submitted public comment. (See Attachment)

CALL ITEM 1 – Senior Citizens Commission Appointments

NOMINATION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to appoint Susan Marelli, 11 Westwood Dr, as a member of the Senior Citizens Commission. (Term 04/01/2024 – 04/05/2027)

VOTING IN FAVOR: Campo, Dembek, MacKenzie, Goldstein, Healy, Jessuck, Keatley, Monahan, Steward-Gelinas, Sugrue.

VOTING AGAINST: Casper, Childs, Driscoll, Fioravanti, Gauthier, Moreshead, Mullen, Mullen Kohl, Olynciw.

Abstained: Bracciale

MARELLI appointed. 10-9-1

NOMINATION by Dembek, seconded by Bracciale, to reappoint Anita Collins, 95 Clark Lane, as a member of the Senior Citizens Commission. (Term 04/01/2024 – 04/05/2027)

VOTING IN FAVOR: 19-0-1 (Bracciale abstained)

COLLINS appointed

NOMINATION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Bracciale, to reappoint Anne Darling, 132A Shore Rd, as a member of the Senior Citizens Commission. (Term 04/01/2024 – 04/05/2027)

VOTING IN FAVOR: 19-0-1 (Bracciale abstained)

DARLING appointed

NOMINATION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to appoint Cheryl Larder, 26 Wiemes Ct, as a member of the Senior Citizens Commission. (Term 04/01/2024 – 04/05/2027)

Vote did not take place as all three spots were filled.

CALL ITEM 2 – Oswegatchie Fire Station Project Manager

PRESENTATION: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski

Motion by Dembek, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$306,650** from the **Unassigned General Fund Balance** to Line Item #20523-57792 for a Project Manager for the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee.

Friendly amendment was suggested by Driscoll and accepted to add "subject to the signed lease

agreement”.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: 19-1-0 (Childs opposed)

CALL ITEM 3 – Beach Sticker for Waterford Employees

PRESENTATION: Recreation & Parks Director Ryan McNamara

Motion by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Commission to allow Full-Time Government Employees of the Town of Waterford who live out of town, to purchase a beach sticker for the “Resident” rate.

Friendly amendment was suggested by Driscoll and accepted to substitute “Government Employees of the Town of Waterford” with “Town of Waterford Employees”

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 4: Registrar of Voters Compensation

PRESENTATION: Democratic Registrar of Voters Bigi Ebbin

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to approve a request from the Registrar of Voters to establish Registrar of Voters compensation for additional work associated with primaries and elections due to the implementation of early voting.

Discussion ensued.

Friendly amendment offered by Steward-Gelinas and accepted by Driscoll and Gauthier: to acknowledge the use of funds from the Early Voting Grant to compensate the Registrars of Voters at their current hourly rate for work performed for the March primary and to refer the issue of increasing the Registrars’ annual salary due to additional duties and functions required by the implementation of Early Voting to the Finance, Wage and Personnel Committee for consideration.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 5: Energy Task Force Appointment

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to nominate Kate MacKenzie to the Ad Hoc Energy Task Force due to the resignation of Kevin Girard.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion ensued in regard to a request by Tax Collector Alan Wilensky and Emergency Management Director Steven Sinagra to reschedule their budget hearings.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Healy, to move Tax Collector to Monday May 6, 2024, Emergency Management to Wednesday May 8, 2024 and Retirement Commission to Wednesday May 15, 2024.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous (See Attachment)

A brief discussion ensued about the letter and information received from RTM Member Ted Olynciw in regard to the charge of the Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee. It was clarified that repairs to the current Fire Station could happen during the course of replacement.

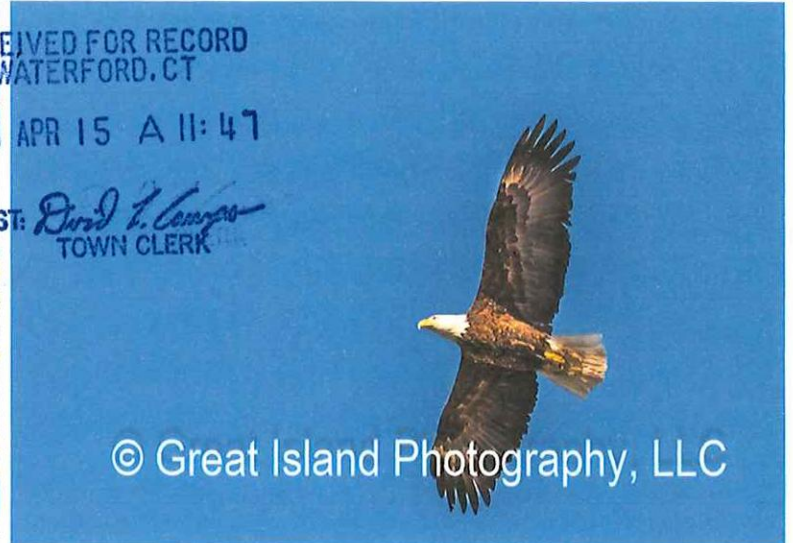
MOTION by Keatley, seconded by Fioravanti, to adjourn at 9:22 P.M.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

Town Clerk Campo excitedly stated “GO UCONN!”

Respectfully Submitted,

David L. Campo, Waterford Town clerk



Referendum Needed ASAP

Photos of Eagles that have made Waterford & Niantic River their permanent home. Eagles are still protected under the <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-22/subpart-A/section-22.6>

"Our family in East Lyme and Waterford never thought a reckless idea like a Data center would go into the Niantic Bay Area. Where's our environmental and security mindfulness? Money cannot replace bald Eagles, (who are still protected), Osprey and the many migrating butterflies and birds who have found a home in Waterford, Niantic River, and Niantic Bay for their nesting sites. The loud buzz (which there will be and those who tell you otherwise are not speaking truth) will drive the wildlife out of our state and severely affect the sea beds - not to mention deter tourism, drive away beachgoers, and eliminate the possibility of a quiet stroll on the boardwalk or along Black Point beach with the new view of a two-story data center rising up behind the Millstone industrial park.

We are truly perplexed by the lack of precautions taken to protect our environment, human health, security, and the preservation of the beauty of our town's coastline, habitats, and the Niantic River. This Data center is completely inexcusable, especially considering the added pressure it will place on our power grid. We should not have to deal with brownouts! The decision makers should be ashamed. We will now be a target for potential threats, even during a possible construction phase.

It is also concerning how all of this is being done in a non-transparent manner while all the seasonal beach homeowners are away. Waterford needs a referendum on this ridiculous idea. The people of Waterford need to have a say - not a small group of leaders blinded by dollar signs leading us all into the coal mine like canaries.

RTM MEETING 4/8/2024

Helen Kwasniewski

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

2024 APR 15 A 11:47

ATTEST: *David L. Campos*
TOWN CLERK

First, it is important to me to say to the elected official from District 2 in regards to the LED Board at the Quaker Hill Green. There was a meeting at the firehouse that this LED Board was going to ^{be} bright, should not be there, and should be at the Quaker Hill School. Well let me tell you, it was approach to the BOE but it fell on deaf ears, this is going to be an asset to our little part of town, as far as the brightness that can be turn down, so what are you doing about the brightness of the vehicle and school buses LED lights. My last point is you held a meeting and all you people were not equip with answers. Ashamed on you.

Item 4

In regards to the Registrar of Voters to establish Registrar of Voters Compensation for additional work associated with primaries and elections due to early voting.

ARE YOU KIDDING!

I believe there was a grant of \$10,500 now they want more.

Every time a department or personnel get "added work" you ask for more money.

Town employees are pay very well.

I urge the RTM to think of the taxpayers for once, especially the Senior Citizens who have limited income. They do have a life style that is little by little being taken away from them.

I have repeatedly asked a department director to do their job so after a couple of request I, Helen a Senior Citizen did their job, so with "added work" to me do I get compensated for. Well let's see if that's going to happen.

Please deny this request.

Item 3

Oh boy!

The request from Rec and Park Commission to allow out of town employees the same benefit that residents have to purchase BEACH STICKER at resident rate.

ARE YOU KIDDING!

NOTE: 1. the resident tax money made this beach, not the out-of-towners, 2. these out-of- towners make good salary that they can afford the rate of \$125, 3. if these out-of-towners want the same benefit as resident then there only option is to move to the Town of Waterford. 4. Also note we are the Town of Waterford NOT the Community Town.

I have requested on several occasion to the Director of Rec and Park for “free beach sticker” for Senior Citizen once again us Seniors are left out.

I strongly believe that this Director and/or Commission puts the out-of-towners before all of us residents and Seniors Citizens.

If you board members allow this to happen I feel that you do not have the residents of Waterford best interest at heart. Therefore ~~more~~, I will no respect for the RTM.

I believe you people think this is wrong.

Please do not vote unanimous or by party vote NO

April 8, 2024

Waterford RTM Meeting
Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

2024 APR 10 P 12:23

ATTEST: *David J. Camps*
TOWN CLERK

Re; Missing Correspondence

Dear RTM members,

There were too many instances of missing correspondence in each of the three (3) last Board of Selectman Meeting Minutes. Copies of all three are attached. Following are the missing items:

BOS, February 20 – Item 14a. Correspondence between resident and First Selectman said to be added as correspondence at the next BOS meeting. Never appeared in 3/5 minutes.

BOS, March 5 – Item 14. Correspondence: Missing

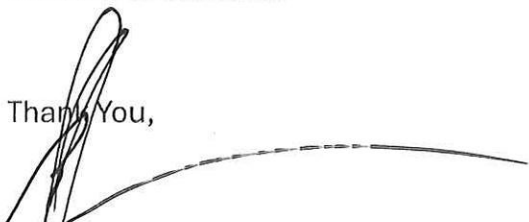
- 14a. Recreation and Parks Thank You Letter
- 14b. Youth and Family Services Thank You Letter
- 14c. Emails from Betsy Ritter & Thomas Sheridan-Quaker Hill sign.

BOS, March 19 – Item 12. Correspondence: Missing

- 11a. Letter from Antonio Grillo-Great Neck School
- 11b. Letter from Robert Nye- Resignation as Municipal Historian
- 11c. Emails from BJ Ferro – Data Center
- 11d. Letter from Waterford East Lyme Citizens Group – Data Center
- 11e. Letter from Mary Grotjan – Great Neck School
- 11f. Letter from Brianna & Brian Hogarty – Great Neck School

Please have a discussion with the First Selectman to arrange for proof reading of minutes before they are issued. Each of the writers deserves that level of attention for their letters to be read by interested Waterford residents.

Thank You,


Bryan Sayles

What I as well as others here in Waterford would like to discuss was the vetting process of NE Edge LLC and their proposal of a 1.5 million square foot Mega Data Center. Since this is a extremely complex, town altering business proposal. No offense to the **excellent hard working town employees** that look at the day to day affairs in building, zoning and conservation. This project is so massive and complex outside professional experts in each field should have been consulted with no matter how long that process takes.

A professional business consultant should have been consulted with to sift through the the 58 pages of documents.

A systems engineering consultant should have been consulted with to look NE Edges LLC engineering plans?

An environmental consultant should have been consulted with to looks at all of the environmental issues?

An acoustic sound engineer should have been consulted with to look at the plans to lower the decibels of the cooling system?

A conservation consultant should have been consulted with by the town?

A corporate business Law firm should have been consulted with to digest this complicated proposal?

What research into NE Edge LLC was done? What other large billion dollar projects has NE Edge LLC completed successfully. What other mega data centers have been built by NE Edge LLC?

The towns of Wallingford, Groton, Norwich, Griswold, and Bozrah have all denied applications for data centers for various reasons.

What did our current administration find to say yes, while all these other towns say no ?

Multi-billion dollar business ventures that alters a community is not something that is decided over a short period of time. A non-political committee should be formed to discuss every aspect of this massive project, not just the RTM and Selectmen that only discussed this for a matter of months without having outside expert independent non-biased information.

I ask the RTM to go back and put on hold this venture until the correct amount of research is done.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS
FY 2024-25**

Town Hall Auditorium
7:00 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 06, 2024

Tax Collector
Board of Education

WEDNESDAY MAY 08, 2024

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

MONDAY MAY 13, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 2024

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

FINAL ACTION

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 APR 15 A 11:58
ATTEST: *Daniel J. Campese*
TOWN CLERK