



MINUTES (Revised)
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
Regular Meeting
February 5, 2024

RTM Moderator Paul Goldstein called the February 5, 2024 Annual Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kyras Augmon-Bossa, Michael Bono, Jennifer Bracciale, Mark Campo, Harry Colonis, Mary Childs, Timothy Condon, Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Timothy Fioravanti, Nicholas Gauthier, Kevin Girard, Paul Goldstein, Kristen Gonzalez, Ryan Healy, Christina Jessuck, Matthew Keatley, Ursula Moreshead, Kayla Mullen, Kathleen Mullen Kohl, Theodore Olynciw, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, David Sugrue

ABSENT: Erica Casper, Lindsay Khan, Shawn Monahan

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert J Brule; Board of Finance Chair Glenn Patterson; Selectman Richard Muckle

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair of the Board of Pat Fedor, Selectman Greg Attanasio

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

AGENDA ITEM C – December 4, 2023 and the January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to accept the December 4, 2023 and the January 8, 2024 Minutes with the following corrections to the January 8, 2024 meeting: That RTM members Mike Bono along with Kristin Gonzalez, Tim Fioravanti and Mary Childs recused themselves from the executive session as a member of the Waterford Federation of Classroom Teachers and under ROLL CALL to remove the reference to Merriman.

MOTION PASSED: 22-0-1 (Keatley abstained)

CORRESPONDENCE

The following items were received: A quarterly American Rescue Plan Report, a letter from Cathryn Girard, an executed contract of the sale for 8 Goshen Road, a letter from Director of Recreation and Parks in regard to beach fees, a report from Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee member Ted Olynciw, a letter from BOF Chairman Glenn Patterson in regard to Item 8, an email from Waterford Resident Cliff Grandjean in regard to non-union employee wages.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina DuBosque, 45 Wintergreen Dr, spoke in regard to the need for greater transparency and communication from the Town of Waterford Government to its' residents. (See Attachment)

The following members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposed Data Center: Tina DuBosque read a letter for public comment from Elaine Lisitano (See Attachment), Millstone Road West; John Valliere, 294 Millstone Rd E.

RTM and Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Member Jennifer Bracciale spoke in regard to the Firestation Building Committee report offered by RTM and Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Member Ted Olynciw that it contained unknown information that could delay the project.

Waterford Resident Rich Cable noted that town radios were provided to the Waterford Ambulance Service and as a contractor what was their long range plan not to burden the taxpayer. (See Attachment)

CALL ITEM 1 – Board of Education Textbooks

PRESENTATION: Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard

Motion by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Gauthier, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$252,044** from the **Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund** to the **Board of Education Budget** for reading textbooks.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 2 – Purchase of 8 Goshen Road

PRESENTATION: First Selectman Robert Brule, Superintendent of Schools Thomas Giard, Chief of Police Marc Balestracci

Motion by Dembek, seconded by Steward Gelinas, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$385,000** from the **Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund** to a new **Capital Project**, Account Number to be determined, for the purpose of purchasing property at 8 Goshen Road.

Discussion ensued.

VOTING IN FAVOR: 22-1-0 (M. Campo opposed)

CALL ITEM 3 – Replacement Computer Equipment

PRESENTATION: Information Technology Manager Jeffrey Robillard

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Bono, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$34,181** from **Line Item 20547-57882 Computer Replacements** to purchase replacement computer equipment from Dell according to State Contract #13PSO280.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 4: Acquisition of 439 & 441 Boston Post Road (Oswegatchie Fire House)

PRESENTATION: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski, Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee, Town Attorney Nick Kepple, Fire Services Director Michael Howley

Motion by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve the Town's acquisition of 439 and 441 Boston Post Road from the Oswegatchie Fire Company No. 4, Inc., pending action on a Purchase and Sale Contract for said properties by the BOS at its February 1, 2024 Special Meeting with an accepted amendment to note that the contract was approved and executed by the Board of Selectman.

Discussion ensued.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 5: Oswegatchie Building Renovations

PRESENTATION: Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee Chairman Robert Tuneski, Oswegatchie Fire Station Building Committee, Town Attorney Nick Kepple, Fire Services Director Michael Howley.

MOTION by Olynciw, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an appropriation in the amount of **\$126,821** from the **Undesignated Fund Balance** of the **Capital Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund (CNR) Line Item #205-31520** to **Capital and Nonrecurring Fund Project Item #20253-57792 Oswegatchie Building Renovations** subject to the execution by all parties of a contract between the Town of Waterford and Oswegatchie Fire Company No. 4, Inc. to purchase 439 and 441 Boston Post Road and a lease agreement between the parties.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 6 – Elevator Reconditioning at Town Hall and Waterford Youth and Family Services

PRESENTATION: Public Works Director Gary Schneider

Motion by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Keatley, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$28,550 from Undesignated Capital and Nonrecurring Fund Balance to Line Item #20511-57874** for elevator reconditioning at the Youth & Family Services Bureau and Town Hall.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 7 – Mobile and Portable Radio Replacements

PRESENTATION: Chief of Police Marc Balestracci, Director of Fire Services Michael Howley, Emergency management Director Steven Sinagra

Motion by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$496,753 from Line Item #20522-57794 Mobile and Portable Radio Replacements** for the purchase of portable radios and the spare parts to support the acquisition.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 8 – Employee Payout

Passed over as it does not fall under RTM purview.

CALL ITEM 9 – Civic Triangle Project Phase 1

PRESENTATION: Planning Director Jonathan Mullen, AICP

Motion by Driscoll, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to approve a recommendation from the Board of Finance for an additional appropriation in the amount of **\$273,428 from the Unassigned Fund Balance of the General Fund** to a new **Capital Project**, account number to be determined (if approved) for the Civic Triangle Project phase I for accessible walkway/park access.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 10: Ethics Commission Appointments (3)

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to appoint Cathy Patterson, 7 Leary Dr, to the Ethics Commission. (Term 02/05/2024 – 02/06/2026)

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to appoint Alan Messier, 63 Colonial Dr, to the Ethics Commission. (Term 02/05/2024 – 02/06/2026)

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to appoint Christopher Nailon, 5 Leary Dr, to the Ethics Commission. (Term 02/05/2024 – 02/06/2026)

MOTION TO APPOINT ALL THREE: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 11 – Ethics Commission Alternate Appointment

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to appoint Sara Mallari, 6 Reed Ave, to the Ethics Commission as an alternate. (Term 02/05/2024 – 02/06/2026)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 12 – Meeting Reschedule

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Dembek, to approve a recommendation from the Town Clerk and the Registrar of Voters to amend the 2024 RTM meeting schedule by moving the April 1, 2024 Meeting to April 8, 2024.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 13 – Ad Hoc Energy Task Force

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Driscoll, to consider and act upon the existing charge of the Ad Hoc Energy Task Force.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Steward Gelinas to amend the motion as follows: that the RTM approves Ursula Moreshead continuing to serve as an elector on the Energy Task Force notwithstanding her service as an RTM Member.

MOTION PASSED: 22-0-1 (Moreshead abstained)

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Gauthier, to remove the sunset date for the Ad Hoc Energy Task Force.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

CALL ITEM 14 – Budget Schedule

MOTION by Steward-Gelinas, seconded by Sugrue, to approve budget schedule for the May 2024 budget hearings for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget as presented with the following amendment: switch Tax Collector and Retirement Commission with each other. (See Attachment)

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion ensued in regard to a request by Director of Recreation and Parks Director to allow Full-Time Government employees of the Town of Waterford whom live out of town, to purchase a beach sticker for the "Resident" rate and on the approval of legal. (See Attachment)

MOTION by Condon, seconded by Bracciale, to add the item to the April RTM Meeting Agenda.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

A brief discussion ensued about the letter and information received from Waterford Resident Cathryn Girard in regard to electronic enforcement of traffic violations. (See attachment)

MOTION by Goldstein, seconded by Dembek, to hold and revisit the subject at the April RTM Meeting after the Police Commission has weighed in and on the approval of legal.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MOTION by Bono, seconded by Bracciale, to adjourn at 10:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



David L. Campo, CCTC
Waterford Town Clerk

Tina DuBosque
45 Wintergreen Drive
Quaker Hill 06375

February 5, 2024

To the Town of Waterford RTM (Representative Town Meeting):

You, RTM members, are elected officials of the Town of Waterford.
I and all Waterford residents are your constituents.
Together, you represent 4 Town voting districts.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB -7 P 3:58
TESTE: *Brian J. Lange*
TOWN CLERK

I propose that RTM members hold meetings in and for their constituent Districts quarterly.

In the 7 years that I have resided in Waterford, I have not seen this happen.
I live in District 2. My RTM members are:

Kyrah Augmon-Bossa
Mark Campo
Mary Childs
Kevin Girard
Kristin Gonzalez
Ted Olynciw

I recently learned, and am glad to hear, that our RTM District will have a meeting with District 2 RTM members on February 15 at the Quaker Hill Fire House.
However, I wonder how District residents will become notified.
Will there be an agenda to entice attendance?

The 2019 Waterford Community survey Question 11 "Is there anything you'd like to tell us about how we can better connect with you?" is well worth reviewing.
It indicates that a combination of FaceBook, notice in the local newspaper and a Town-generated informational frequently published, by-subscription, emailed newsletter would be helpful to inform all of us.

You, and not we, have the right to vote at Town meetings.
The right to vote for us.

Thus, as elected representative officials, it behooves you to be in touch with your constituencies, take the temperature, feel the pulse, make us aware, in advance, of issues where our voices can be heard through your votes, to fully represent us.

Let's learn to listen, discuss, agree, agree to disagree, and banish discriminatory cancel culture.
I yearn for a town government that models transparency.

Thank you

Tina DuBosque

December 4, 2023

Read and Submitted February 5, 2024 by Tina DuBosque for Elaine Lisitano

To the members of the Waterford RTM:

I respectfully ask that you reconsider your approval for the building of a Data Center on the property of Dominion in Waterford. There are several reasons for my concerns:

1. As an immediate neighbor with property abutting the site, I have concerns about the noise that will emanate from the building. Please seek the input of medical professionals in their specific fields to know how even a slight humming can affect individuals, causing hearing loss, stress, and other health issues. Get some good, knowledgeable input from them as well as professional noise meter readings from unrelated firms.
2. Wildlife/Environmental: over 50 acres will be destroyed; some treed, some not. However, we have an abundance of wildlife that live there that we see every day. It would be a shame to devastate their natural habitat. We have birds, deer, turkey, rabbits and yes, even bobcats, that live nearby. I have concerns regarding their fate. I also care about the loss of trees which help with carbon dioxide removal and the loss of oxygen potential. This is NOT a good thing for the environment or for Waterford.
3. Another consideration, and also for even more distant residents, is the larger terrorist threat to this location. During 9/11, everyone was concerned about an attack on the power plant. Besides ground security, we even had the US Coast Guard out on the Bay. Sadly, putting a huge data center is only going to give terrorists a bigger target, with a GREAT Big X on it that will have a far-reaching effect. Please use common sense.
4. I understand the Unions want contracting jobs, however, many of these workers will be brought in and many will not be from our immediate area. These jobs will only last two years as well, but will leave the residents to live with this in the area for most of their lives. This is not fair to local residents.
5. The so-called POSSIBLE tax dollars return to the town of Waterford, which are not guaranteed, will not make up for the loss of property values and quality of life.

Please reconsider your support for this project and consider the concerns of local residents.

Sincerely,

Elaine Lisitano, Millstone Rd West, Waterford

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB -7 P 3:58
TINER
TOWN CLERK

David Campo

From: Mindy Stone <mindyst830@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 6:45 PM
To: David Campo
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

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.

Public comment from Richard Cable

I understand the town approved a capital expenditure project to improve the public safety radio system. During this project it was discovered the radio committee had additional monies available and had elected to purchase radios for the Waterford Ambulance Service. A contractor that bills patients for their services, seeking donations from our residents, and have had a property purchased for them for them to operate day to day. My question is does the town make it a habit to supply contractors the supplies it needs to fulfill its obligations with tax payer funds at a cost of \$3000 per radio? Which I understand they operate 4 vehicles and need two portable radios per vehicle and 4 mobile units.

As a contractor/business with the town, what is their long range plan to sustain their operation without burdening the tax payer?

Rich Cable

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB -6 P 2:31
ATTEST: *David N. Campo*
TOWN CLERK

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS

FY 2024-25

Town Hall Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 06, 2024

Board of Education

WEDNESDAY MAY 08, 2024

Ethics Commission

Conservation of Health

Public Health Nursing

Social Services Grants/Review

Registrar of Voters

Retirement Commission

Youth & Family Services Bureau

Senior Citizens Commission

Board of Assessment Appeals

Assessor

Contingency

Debt Service

Insurance

Town Clerk

Representative Town Meeting

WEDNESDAY MAY 15, 2024

Tax Collector

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 Expenditures

FINAL ACTION

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

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB -7 P 4:01
ATTEST: David H. Lange
TOWN CLERK

FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD



WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886

Recreation and Parks Commission

DATE: May 5, 2023
TO: Mr. Paul Goldstein, RTM Moderator
FROM: Ryan McNamara, Director R&P
RE: Beach Sticker Fee Schedule

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB - 5 1 P 3:27
TEST: [Signature]
TOWN CLERK

Please consider the following adjustment to the Waterford Beach Fee Schedule be put in committee for review:

The allowance of Full-Time Government employees of the Town of Waterford, whom live out of town, to purchase a beach sticker for the "Resident" rate.

The Recreation and Parks Commission has reviewed, discussed, and approved to move forward this request at the April 2023 regular meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission.

The purpose and justification would be to assist in boosting recruitment efforts and provide opportunities for out of town, invested employees to return outside of business hours to enjoy the community they provide/work in.

Currently there are 119 (full time) out of town employees. The current sticker price for an out of town resident is \$125.00 and the resident rate is \$25.00

We are looking to promote a positive work/life balance by removing any deterrents to enjoy the amenities in Waterford.

While we do not have numbers on how many of those individuals will use this benefit, it will help attract additional use of our facilities and businesses in town. We are looking for ways for our Waterford work community to engage leisurely with the town.

Your review and consideration is appreciated. Please let us know if you require any additional information and we look forward to your response.

Cathryn C. Girard
4 Cove View Drive
Quaker Hill, CT 06385
Tel (941)893-7533
CEGirard@aol.com

Mailing Address: Jan-Apr
4337 Oak View Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232

February 1, 2024

Members of the Representative Town Meeting
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT 06385

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 FEB - 1 A 11:42
ATTN: Cathryn C. Girard
TOWN CLERK

Re: Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Violations (Speeding and Running Red Lights on Rte 32 between the USCG Academy and the entrance to I-395)

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Waterford Representative Town Meeting:

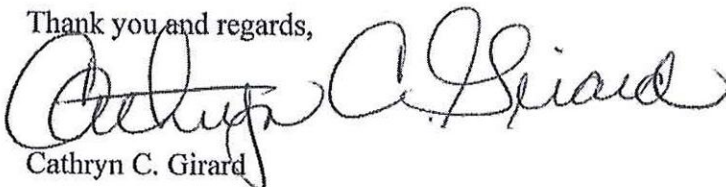
I wish to call your attention to the previously provided packet of information from me concerning the above referenced topic and the VISION ZERO project recently enacted into law by the CT Legislature.

I respectfully ask that you give full attention to the opportunity this represents to the town of Waterford to alleviate one, if not the most, dangerous stretches of roadway in Waterford by using the technology available for electronic enforcement of traffic violations.

This can be accomplished by participating in the VISION ZERO program. To begin the participation process, an Ordinance passed by the RTM is required.

Therefore, I close respectfully requesting that as the legislative body for the town of Waterford, you vote to assign VISION ZERO and Electronic Enforcement of Traffic Violations on Rte. 32 to the Standing Committee on Public Protection and Safety for further study and recommendation for participation.

Thank you and regards,


Cathryn C. Girard