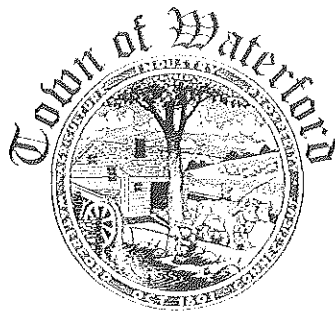


FIFTEEN ROPE FERRY ROAD
WATERFORD, CT 06385-2886



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

MINUTES
REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
ZOOM Conference – Waterford Town Hall
Special Meeting
April 20, 2020

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2020 APR 23 PM 1:37

The April 20, 2020, Moderator Thomas Dembek called the Special Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting to order at 3:31 P.M.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Greg Attanasio, Michael Bono, April Cairns, Timothy Condon (4:34 P.M.), Thomas J. Dembek, Susan Driscoll, Steven Elci, Timothy Fioravanti, Miriam Furey-Wagner, Nick Gauthier, Kathleen Kohl, David Lersch, Valerie Metivier, Richard Morgan (4:34 P.M.), Richard Muckle, Liam O'Leary, Theodore Olynciw, Sally Ritchie, Michael Rocchetti, Danielle Steward-Gelinas, Baird Welch-Collins.

ABSENT Jennifer Bracciale, Paul Goldstein, Robert Swansen.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: First Selectman Robert Brule, Chair of the Board of Finance Ronald R. Fedor.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT: Selectwoman Jody Nazarchyk; Selectman Elizabeth Sabilia; Chair of the Board of Education Craig Merriman.

ALSO PRESENT: Town Clerk David L. Campo; Town Attorney Robert Avena; Town Attorney Nick Kepple; Tax Collector Alan Wilensky.

AGENDA ITEM C – April 6, 2020 Minutes

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Driscoll, to accept the April 6, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes with the following correction made by Driscoll: Finance Director Kim Allen and Director of Public Works Gary Schneider were present.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

AGENDA ITEM D – BUSINESS ON THE CALL

CALL ITEM 1 – Municipal Deferred Program Tax/Utility Bills

PRESENTATION: First Selectman Robert Brule, Tax Collector Alan Wilensky.

MOTION by Welch-Collins, seconded by Rocchetti, to approve Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S, Section 6, and implement a municipal Deferred Program which would defer payments by ninety days for selected municipal tax and utility bills, which become due between March 10, 2020 through July 1, 2020, for all eligible taxpayers pursuant to Office of Personnel Management guidelines, or to provide this relief for all town taxpayers.

First Selectman Robert Brule read a statement to the Representative Town Meeting. (See Attachment) Tax Collector Alan Wilensky reported to the Representative Town Meeting that he would update the members on the outcome of the program.

Town Attorney Robert Avena presented a resolution.

MOTION by Welch Collins, seconded by Rocchetti, to amend the motion, and instead approve the resolution as presented by Town Attorney Robert Avena which allows for the "Deferment Program".
(See Attachment)

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous with one member opposed. (Bono)

MOTION PASSED: 18-1

CALL ITEM 2 – Municipal Rate Reduction Tax/Utility Bills

MOTION by Welch-Collins, seconded by Attanasio, to approve Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S, Section 6, to implement a municipal Rate Reduction Program to provide for a three percent per annum interest rate (reduced from eighteen percent per annum), for ninety days, on selected tax and utility bills due between March 10, 2020 through July 1, 2020.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Bono

VOTING AGAINST: Attanasio, Cairns, Dembek, Driscoll, Elci, Fioravanti, Furey-Wagner, Gauthier, Kohl, Lersch, Metivier, Muckle, O'Leary, Olynciw, Ritchie, Rocchetti, Steward-Gelinas, Welch-Collins.

MOTION FAILED: 18-1

CALL ITEM 3 – Budget Schedule

MOTION by Welch-Collins, seconded by Steward-Gelinas, to consider and act upon a motion to amend the budget schedule for the FY21 budget review and approval.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Welch-Collins, to amend the schedule to accommodate a 5:00 P.M. start time.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION by Muckle, seconded by Welch-Collins, to make a friendly amendment to the motion by changing the start time to 6:00 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

MOTION by Driscoll, seconded by Welch-Collins, to amend the schedule to accommodate a new start date beginning on May 11, 2020.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT to proceed with the same schedule by department, but begin on May 11, 2020.

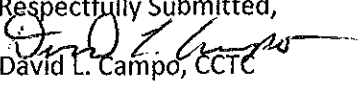
VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

AMENDED SCHEDULE: (See Attachment)

MOTION by Welch-Collins, seconded by Muckle, to adjourn at 4:44 P.M.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,


David L. Campo, CCTC
Town Clerk

First Selectman's statement to RTM prior to action on Tax Deferment 4.20.20

Mr. Moderator:

I appreciate the opportunity to add a few words to the recommendation I have already conveyed to the RTM, that it elect the 3 month deferment of tax and sewer bills, as the best way to provide maximum relief to Waterford taxpayers and sewer customers.

As I indicated in my letter, the rate reduction program provides very modest financial benefit to most who would be affected and would be cumbersome to manage administratively. So I believe the 3 month deferments are the best alternative AND should be extended to all (except the special category of landlords) WITHOUT the necessity of demonstrating hardship by an application, for the following reasons:

I am pleased to share with you that I have reached out to Dominion, which has confirmed they will be paying their ENTIRE annual tax bill in July, which, combined with the escrow revenue, assures us we have adequate funds to operate during the deferment period.

I would submit to you these extraordinarily difficult times for our residents and businesses dictate that we share our town government's good fortune with as many in Waterford as possible. I do so for the simple reason that while everyone may not necessarily reach OPM's guidance of a 20% decline in recent income, virtually NO ONE has been spared some sort of adverse impact by the pandemic. Whether in the form of financial hardship, health issues for family or friends, radical alteration and how they function each day or just plain life altering stress levels, EVERYONE has been hurt by COVID-19.

The revenue will be there after the deferment and we can weather the delay in receiving these funds. I will also be encouraging all who can pay in July to do so and would ask you to do the same and I believe large numbers will do just that.

Let's pass on the benefit of our positive revenue cash flow to all taxpayers without exception and without making people jump through hoops to get something our town can afford to offer without condition. It's the right thing to do and the way we look out for one another here in Waterford. I thank you and the RTM for your time and consideration and for your service to our great Town. My team will be available to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Brule, First Selectman

2020 APR 20 AM 11:51

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT

RESOLUTION RE: COLLECTION OF TAXES AND SEWER CHARGES PURSUANT TO
GOVERNOR LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS 2020-7S AND 7W

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 7S, as amended by Executive Order No. 7W, requiring municipalities, by a vote of its legislative body, or, in any town in which the legislative body is a town meeting, by a vote of the board of selectmen, participate in a "Deferment Program" or "Low Interest Rate Program", or both; and

WHEREAS, the "Deferment Program" would provide all taxpayers and sewer customers, except Landlords, a three month "grace period" for any tax or sewer bill due between April 1, 2020 through July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, participation in the "Deferment Program" is in the best interest of the Town of Waterford,

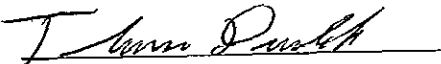
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Representative Town Meeting, by an affirmative vote of its members, hereby adopts the three month tax and sewer "Deferment Program" as set forth in paragraph 6(a) of Executive Order 7S and extends the Program to all categories of taxpayers, sewer customers, businesses, non-profits and residents, except Landlords. Landlords shall be eligible to participate in the "Deferment Program" provided documentation is presented to the Tax Collector as required by the Office of Policy and Management.

The First Selectman, Tax Collector and other staff are hereby authorized to implement the "Deferment Program" in a manner consistent with the requirements of Executive Orders 7S and 7W.

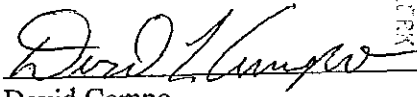
Eligible taxpayers shall not include financial institutions escrowing taxes for residential, commercial, or industrial properties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the First Selectman shall forthwith notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management of the adoption of this Resolution.

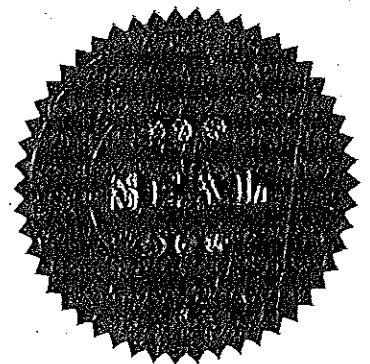
Adopted this 20 day of April, 2020:


Thomas Dembek
RTM Moderator

CERTIFIED BY:


David Campo
Waterford Town Clerk

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2020 APR 20 PM 5:13
TOWN CLERK



REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING BUDGET HEARINGS

FY 2020-21

Town Hall Auditorium

6:00 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 11, 2020

Board of Education

TUESDAY MAY 12, 2020

Ethics Commission

Conservation of Health

Public Health Nursing

Social Services Grants/Review

Registrar of Voters

Tax Collector

Youth Services Bureau

Board of Assessment Appeals

Assessor

Contingency

Debt Service

Insurance

Town Clerk

Representative Town Meeting

THURSDAY MAY 14, 2020

Retirement Commission

Waterford Public library

Senior Citizens Commission

Finance Department

Human Resources Department

Board of Finance

Legal Department

Emergency Management

Board of Police Commissioners

Information Technology

Current Year Capital Improvements

Transfers to Capital & Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund

FINAL ACTION

WEDNESDAY MAY 13, 2020

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

Community Use of Schools

Fire Services

Board of Selectmen

Public Works

AMENDED 04/20/2020