

Waterford Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 8, 2023 @ 6:00PM

Waterford Fire Station

In Attendance: Gary Allard, Mike Barrett, Warner Hodgdon, Sue Hayes, Rob Begin.
Attendance list attached.

Mike Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

There was one modification to the agenda due to scheduling. The update from the Waterford Fire Department will be the first agenda item.

Update for the Waterford Fire Department (Informational)

- Colin Fucci, Waterford Fire Chief provided a brief update to the board regarding the status of apparatus repairs. He reminded everyone that a burn permit is required to burn brush. Colin also reported that the metal roof on the fire department building should be sealed and painted. There was also a wish list item expressed for landscaping help. A donation of time or materials would be welcome. If anyone is interested in helping to beautify around the fire department building please reach out to Colin.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Rob Begin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the April 24, 2023 meeting. Gary Allard seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Appoint Cemetery Committee (Action)

- Gary Allard had five individuals reach out to him to express interest in serving on the cemetery committee. Edie Aremburg, Jennifer D'Agostino, Mark Harpin, Jim O'Malley, and Ashley Whitehill. Sue Hayes made a motion to appoint the five names brought forward to the cemetery committee. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Members of the cemetery committee will be invited to the May 22nd working meeting. They are also invited to the Waterford Historical Society's meeting on June 10th @ 12:45pm at the Davies Memorial Library.

Update from the Delinquent Tax Collector (Informational)

- Marcel Lapierre reported to the board that he has collected \$20,262 since he took office after town meeting. That leaves about \$24,000 left to collect. He is working with several property owners on setting up payment plans.

ARPA Fund Requests (Discussion/Possible Action)

- Replacement of Flooring at Fire Station and Town Office – the town office needs to receive another quote so that is on hold for now. Rob Begin made a motion to approve the bid from Carpet Connection in the amount of \$7,256 and authorized the fire department to order the in-stock flooring. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

- Broadband – Mike Barrett has been working with NEK Broadband and Spectrum regarding the last mile projects within Waterford. He plans to have a quote at the next regular board meeting in June.
- Cemeteries – As a private citizen (prior to being elected to the Selectboard) Warner Hodgdon submitted an ARPA request for clean up and repair of all of Waterford's cemeteries. The original ask was \$12,500. There was discussion about the cemeteries and what needs to be done to them. Sue Hayes made a motion to designate \$20,000 in ARPA funds clean up, repair, and maintain the Waterford cemeteries. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. This funding will be explained to the cemetery committee.

Upgrade Class 4 Road / Turner (Possible Action)

- Waterford's legal counsel researched and provided an opinion that Mike Barrett read to the audience. The selectboard was advised to take no action in this item as the "Old County Road Extension" is a private road and the upgrades will need to be agreed upon by the landowners. It is not a town matter. Road policies need to be updated – agenda item for future working meeting.

Approval of Festival Permit (Action)

- Paul Bellefeuille attending the meeting to answer any questions about the annual Northeast Speedway event. Mike Barrett read the permit request and all was in order. Rob Begin made a motion to approve the festival permit. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Fire Warden Signature (Action)

- Kevin Colby agreed to continue serving as the Fire Warden. This is a five-year term. The board approved and signed the document to be returned to the state.

Clerk of Boards vs. Administrative Assistant (Discussion/Possible Action)

- There was some discussion about duties and the change of title. Gary Allard suggested reaching out to the Vermont Department of Employment and Training with a revised job description. This item will be the focus of the working meeting on May 22nd. Sue Hayes will resend the current job description to the board members.

Woodland Drive – Traffic Concerns (Discussion)

- This was brought to the board due to a conditional use permit that was submitted to the Development Review Board (DRB). There were several threads that came out of the conversation including the road width, the fact that it is not a major artery, are there deed restrictions, and the impact on the neighborhood. The board took no action on this item returning it to the DRB.

Increase in Bag Fee at Transfer Station (Discussion / Possible Action)

- Clem collected size/bag fees from surrounding areas. Currently, the transfer station is operating with a \$2,000 deficit. After some discussion it was suggested that this topic be tabled until July when the board could review the budget vs. actual for the first six months.

Citizen's Concerns

- Kathy Hodgdon requested that someone put a gate up at the Riverside Cemetery (driveway passed the cemetery). There was a lot of trash dumped down there and a gate may stop that.
- Dave Morrison asked about his previous suggestion of pulling together a group of people to review the roads. This should include Jim and members of the board.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Cemetery Committee
- Clerk of Boards/Admin Assistant job description

Executive Session - 1 V.S.A. § 313 – Contract Negotiation

- Rob Begin made a motion to enter executive session inviting Howard Remick, Kevin Gillander, Ann Fielder, Deb Benoit, and Heather Gonyaw. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. The group entered executive session at 7:54PM.
- The group exited executive session at 8:26PM. Action: Mike Barrett will reach out to Chris Brimmer regarding contract.

Adjourn – Gary Allard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM.