

Waterford Selectboard Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 7:00PM

In-person Waterford School Gym

In attendance: Marcia Martel, Sue Hayes, Mike Barrett, Gary Allard, Rob Begin

Sign-in Sheet attached

Gary Allard called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Modifications to the Agenda:

- Approval of Box Culvert bid
- Snowmobile Club would like to talk about
- Entry for Cemeteries
- Cleanway Proposal

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Mike Barrett made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 19, 2022 meeting. Marcia Martel seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Town Meeting Petition Addition (Discussion/Action)

- Two petitions were accepted by the Town Clerk as additional articles on the Town Meeting warrant.
- The first article is regarding an ATV ordinance. Article will read *"Shall the Town establish an ordinance in accordance with 23 V.S.A. 3506 to allow all-terrain vehicles and/or any wheeled vehicle that are registered with the State of Vermont to operate on any town highway or town property/land with restrictions regarding the time and manner set forth by the VLCT Model ATV Ordinance and Guidance."*
- Second article *"Shall the voters rescind the Selectboard's authority to appoint a collector of delinquent taxes pursuant to 17 V.S.A 26512 d(a), making the collector of delinquent taxes an elected position with a term of one year pursuant to 17 V.S.A 2646(9)?*. There will need to be a second article if this article is approved by the taxpayers. The third article will read *"Elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one year."* Rob Begin made a motion to approve the addition of the three articles to the town meeting warrant. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Town Meeting Warrant (Review/Action)

- Maurice Chaloux read the town meeting warrant articles aloud for everyone to hear. There were a few questions regarding language around the delinquent tax percentage of 8% and the 1% per month interest penalty. Gary explained that the 8% is determined by the delinquent tax collector and the 1% is set by the town.
- There is 1 resignation from Planning Board. Marcia Martel made a motion to accept the resignation of Roberta Gilliot. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Highway Department Update

- The highway department is working on the "second mud season". Thursday (01/12) the town garage will be insulated. There were several questions regarding the mold issue. Mike Barrett suggested hiring a company to do an air sample. Mike to follow-up. The Cleanway bid was reviewed by the board. No action was taken.

Fire Department Update

- 12 calls in the month of December.
 - Recommendation to board for Fire Chief – Colin Fucci. Mike Barrett made a motion to approve the recommendation of Colin Fucci as Fire Chief. Rob Begin seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**
 - Mike thanked Jeff for his service. Colin Fucci introduced himself and also recognized Jeff's time as chief. Notable success through COVID.
- Rob received an e-mail from the vendor of the fire truck. They have an offer on the table for someone else to purchase the fire truck. Jeff Gingue gave an update from the fire department. They would like to leave the full budget amount \$153,410.13 in order to put additional money aside in the purchasing fund for the future purchase of a fire truck.
- Additional conversations regarding the future purchase of a new fire truck and the article that is associated with it. Rob and Marcia to work with the fire department on a spec for a future truck. Additional Town Meeting article will be added as follows "*Shall the voters authorize the Town Treasurer to move money, in the sum of \$69,082.13, from the general fund to the special reserve fund specifically earmarks for the fire department and the future purchase of a fire truck?*" Mike Barrett made a motion to approve the article as written. Rob Begin seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**
- Mike Barrett made a motion to accept the article on the town meeting warrant. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Personnel Policy Revision - Life/Disability (Action)

- Attachment to the personnel policy needs to be updated. Life/Disability revised to read 100% contribution by the town due to legal requirements of the current policy. Sue Hayes made a motion to approve the revision. Rob Begin seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

ARPA Fund Requests (Discussion / Possible Action)

- Mike Barrett presented an overview of the request from Charter Communications. The company is onboard to build out onto Slate Ledge Road, Suitor Road, Davis Lane, and Knotty Lane. This would give 17 households access to high speed internet. Mike was asked how many households are still without broadband access. The estimate is 39 would still be without broadband. The request is for around \$47,000 of ARPA funds.

Town Office/Library Exterior Building Painting

- Kandis Barrett has been working to gather quotes. She has received one quote in the amount of \$16,175 from Scott Daggett. Scott is able to begin work in the Spring. Kandis has requested quotes from six addition contractors but has been told they either don't have time because their schedules are booked or they are not providing quotes for new jobs at this time. There was a question regarding ownership of the building. The town owns the building as long as the library exists in the space.

Planning Commission – Amendment Proposal (Informational)

- There is an amendment proposal that has been written and submitted. There should be a hearing. Howard Remick was asked by the board what they needed to do. Howard said they could do nothing, adopt as temporary interim by-laws, change it and give it back to the planning board. Howard reviewed the proposed changes. The board would like this to be the topic of their working meeting on January 24th.

Town Office/Library Building Water (Discussion)

- Gary Allard wanted to begin this conversation as the town is providing water to the church building. The building is now owned by a private citizen. There are questions about water testing and access. Gary will set up a meeting with Josh Oakley to meet to decide how to move forward.

Boat Launch (Discussion)

- Sue Hayes and Mike Barrett have been working with Jennifer Smith re: concerns at the boat launch. Joe Healy presented research from Jennifer Smith. Great River Hydro is not in favor of throwing up the road. Select board to create a sub-committee to meet with Great River Hydro to determine how to move forward. Committee would bring ideas back to the board. Does Great River Hydro still have security? –
- Sue to volunteer for subcommittee.

Box Culvert – Lower Waterford Road

- There was one bid received for the box culvert work. That was from Darrell Mathews/Mathews Excavating in the amount of \$303,642. Rob Begin made a motion to approval the bid. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.** Deb Benoit to follow up.

Waterford Ridgerunner Snowmobile Club Ask

- A homeowner on Mad Brook Road has denied access to their property and the Ridgerunner's are looking for an alternative route. They are proposing the use of Maple Street crossing Lower Waterford Road by Rabbit Hill Inn and passed the Carpenter residence to the Class 4 section of the road. VAST signage would be used. There was discussion about it being a curfew trail – 9:00AM – 11:00PM. Rob Begin made a motion to accept this as a short-term solution under the condition that there is approval from the Rabbit Hill Inn and the three property owners on Maple Street. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Entry for Cemeteries – proposed language should be sent to VLCT for review. Sue Hayes will follow-up. This item will be on the February agenda.

Citizen's Concerns

- None brought before the board.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (February 14, 2023)

- Clerk of Boards – advertisements – Mike to follow-up.
- Town office drawings – looking to sign paperwork. – Mike to reach out to Arthur.
- Approval of Agreement – Cemetery.

Working meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2023. Review of the Planning Commission's proposed changes will be the focus of the meeting.

Marcia Martel made a motion to adjourn. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.