

## Waterford Selectboard Working Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 27 @ 6:00PM

Davies Library

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

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

Modifications to Agenda:

- Add an update from a representative from the Cemetery Committee

Cemetery Committee Update (Discussion)

- Representative Jen D'Agostino asked for updates about the cemetery to be brought to the cemetery committee rather than to the town so the committee can be informed on all happenings to handle them appropriately. A tree fell at Stiles Cemetery in a storm yesterday which will be followed up on.

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Action)

- Gary Allard made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as corrected of September 11, 2023. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Review First Draft of 2024 Budget (Discussion/Action)

- Town Treasurer Heather Gonyaw explained the budget line by line and answered questions from citizens and the Selectboard.
- The unused money in the budget for Listers in 2023 will be moved to the reserve account which is used for reappraisal funds for the dam and power lines etc.
- The Public Safety budget has changed because there is a new contract with the St. Johnsbury Sheriff. The maximum amount is increased to allow for increased policing which has been unanimously requested by citizens and the Selectboard. Calix cancelled the old contract, and the new contract is a pro rate of \$45 per capita. The taxpayers will decide what to do with any surplus.
- The Planning Commission increased its budget to hire NVDA to help with the town plan to ensure all requirements are met.
- The Appropriations budget may change between now and the end of the year if they receive more appropriations letters.
- The Cemetery added a section of its budget for headstone repair as requested.
- The Highway department now has three full-time employees and their benefits increased. It is now open enrollment for Blue Cross Blue Shield, so in the Dec meeting,

they will look into changing plans. Colin Fucci suggested switching from the Platinum Plan to the CDHP Gold Plan for Jan 24 to save money on premiums while maintaining the same coverage.

- Citizens questioned the board about including annual bonuses for the Highway Department in the budget. After deliberation, the Selectboard decided to keep it in the budget and only award a bonus on a merit basis. Colin Fucci suggested shopping for life/disability plans.
- In the Construction and Maintenance budget, there are three additional projects that require matches. Warner Hodgdon inquired about why the salt budget increased, so Heather Gonyaw will reach out to Jim Hayes to get the requested information.
- Fire Chief Colin Fucci went into detail explaining the Fire Department's budget line by line and answered questions from the Selectboard and Citizens. Sue Hayes suggested adding an allowance for emergency repairs. The Selectboard added a \$10,000 allowance for repairs under Truck Maintenance.
- The format of the Fire Department budget will be different in the Dec meeting. The Fire Department will be included in the town budget, the same way the Highway Department is currently its own section of the town budget.
- Fire Chief Colin Fucci suggested raising the budget for training due to increased prices of training programs. He also recommended establishing a capital reserve account going forward of \$16,500 to anticipate large expenses moving forward, such as when equipment needs to be replaced.
- Heather Gonyaw will work on the Town Budget again tomorrow and confirm everything is correct, then send it out again so it can be discussed again in the Dec meeting for approval.

#### Present Draft of Dog Ordinance and Livestock Running at Large Ordinance (Discussion/Action)

- The Selectboard agreed to fees of \$50, \$100, and \$200 for first, second, and third offenses, respectively, with a waiver of 50% off. Minor changes were made to the language of the ordinance. The Livestock Running at Large Ordinance was accepted as written.
- Gary Allard made a motion to approve ordinances as amended. Motion seconded by Rob Begin. Motion passed 5-0.

#### District Name Change (Discussion)

- The official name of the district in question is "Village District." No further action is necessary.

#### Agenda for Next Meeting:

- Review Plans for Blue Cross Blue Shield
- Final review of 2024 Town Budget

- New Fire Truck Proposal
- ATV Survey Update
- Town Clerk Petition for Historical Cemetery name change

Gary Allard made a motion to adjourn. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:17PM.

DRAFT

Waterford Selectboard Meeting November 27, 2023

Sign In Sheet

Name

Signature

~~Suey Watson Thomas~~  
Debra Bennett  
Kathy Hodgdon  
DWAYNE HEATH  
Marcia Martel  
Carolyn Fleming  
Clement Gray  
BRYANT FLEMING  
Howard Remick  
Colin Fuen  
Semi Argenti

~~Suey Watson - Thomas~~  
Debra Bennett  
Kathy J. Hodgdon  
Pearl Heath  
Marcia Martel  
Carolyn Fleming  
Clement Gray  
Bryant Fleming  
Howard W. Remick  
Colin Fuen