

Waterford Selectboard Working Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 13 @ 6:00PM

Davies Library

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

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

Modifications to Agenda

- Mike Barrett made a motion to add a third Executive Session and add Citizen Concerns. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Rob Begin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 11, 2023. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

Act 68 Letter (Discussion/Action)

- Town Lister, Michael Keach summarized the bill which includes several changes and shared some historical context. No action was taken.

Review Dog Ordinance (Discussion)

- A draft form of the ordinance will be presented at the next meeting to vote on. No action was taken.
- Jim Hayes will work with the St. Johnsbury Police Department to train for writing citations.

Review Town Cemeteries (Discussion)

- Warner Hodgdon reported all the tree work that was funded by the board will be completed this winter. He reported there is increased traffic at the cemetery resulting in the need for additional upkeep efforts. He suggested closing the vehicle gate immediately to attempt to control traffic but leaving the gate unlocked so the cemetery is still functional.
- The Cemetery Committee recommended extending the cemetery's closure from Nov-April to Nov-May, while keeping the pedestrian gate open and allowing for approved activities to be conducted as planned. The Cemetery Committee asked for clarification on what their role is in the decision-making process. The Selectboard informed they are responsible for creating policies to present to the Selectboard for implementation. The Selectboard further clarified that they are responsible for maintenance contracting such as lawnmowers etc., but the input of the Cemetery Committee is encouraged.

- Warner Hodgdon asked about removing trinkets and all other things that are left at graves. He suggested running an ad in the newspaper to warn the public of when all things left at graves will be removed. A Citizen recalled that the town did run such an ad last year.

Driveway Permit- Final Signature (Action)

- Mike Barrett signed the permit.

Highway Department Update (Informational)

- Jim Hayes reported that Keith Powers continues to block off a public road, so he will be sent another letter.
- Jim Hayes reported that he spoke with Darrel Mathews concerning the extra box in a citizen's yard and the issue was resolved.
- Jim Hayes reported that the garage is coming down Wednesday, and the dumpster was delivered to the wrong address so he will be working with the company to fix the mistake. Mike Barrett asked if the garage has a permit to rebuild and Deb Benoit informed they do not have said permit. Jim Hayes advised that they are not intending to rebuild the garage in a way that would require a permit.

First Draft of 2024 Budget (Informational)

- Rob Begin gave a rundown about the budget process. He explained that he and Heather Gonyaw had a meeting with each department head to look at where the numbers are to date, discuss anything that is over or under budget, and make the draft for next year. The fire department has a separate budget.
- Heather Gonyaw explained the assumptions of the draft budget and answered questions.
- Gary Allard made a motion to hold a Working Session to further discuss the budget on November 27 at 6PM at Davies Memorial Library. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Permit Process for STR (Informational)

- Gary Allard reported he only found 6 Airbnb units in the town. He advised it would take a lot of work to create an ordinance that would not generate much revenue considering there is not adequate enforcement. Mike Barrett noted there is not enough uniformity to make a decision, so they will revisit the issue in the future.

Fire Department Update (Informational)

- Fire Chief, Colin Fucci reported that they continue to be busy. New members will be voted in on Dec. 8, making 29 active members. They continue to seek EMS providers. They have updated their bylaws and standard operating guidelines, which hadn't been

updated in several years. He described repairs that had been made in the past few months and repairs planned for the near future. The tanker is getting repairs done and will be out of service for around 10 days through Thanksgiving. The upgrades to the fire hydrant located near Rabbitt Hill were approved. The fire station's internet was upgraded.

- Mike Barrett was the representative for Waterford at an informational CALEX meeting. He recalled the topics of discussion and noted no decisions were made.

Winter Parking Letter (Discussion/Action)

- The letter was read aloud. The Selectboard approved and Mike Barrett signed.

Permission for Cemetery Stone Placement (Discussion/Action)

- Mr. Fleming's family is seeking permission to bury a family member on the 18x10 plot the family owns. Mr. Fleming presented his plan to the board. Motion from Gary Allard to grant permission to the Fleming family without changing the current policy. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Citizens' Concerns

- No citizens had concerns.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Review First Draft of 2024 Budget
- Present draft of dog ordinance

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)

- Rob Begin made a motion to enter Executive Session. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. The group invited Jim and Kristina Hayes and entered Executive Session at 7:42PM.
- Stacy L will be scheduled to meet with Selectboard to address options for retirement funds for Jim.
- The group exited Executive Session at 7:47PM.

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B)

- Gary Allard made a motion to enter executive Session. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. The group entered Executive Session at 7:48PM.
- Gary Allard made a motion to approve the contract with the Caledonia County Sheriff using the maximum budget proposed in the town budget for FY 2024. Warner Hodgdon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.
- The group exited Executive Session at 7:52PM

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A)

- Rob Begin made a motion to enter Executive Session. Gary Allard seconded. Motion passed 4-0. The group entered Executive Session at 7:52PM.
- Warner Hodgdon and Mike Barrett will connect with Jamie Murphy.
- The group exited Executive Session at 8:08PM.

Adjourn

- Warner Hodgdon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rob Begin seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

DRAFT