

Waterford Selectboard Special Meeting
Tuesday, August 2, 2022.
In-person Waterford School Gym
ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82587993375>

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Gary Allard, Marcia Martel, Sue Hayes, Mike Barrett, Rob Begin
Deb Benoit (Town Clerk), Heather Gonyaw (Treasurer), Jim Hayes (Road Foreman)
Members of the public – see attached sign-in sheet.

Gary Allard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Modifications to the Agenda:

- Add Zoom conversation, highway department update, citizen's concerns

Announcements (Informational)

- Waterford Historical Society Pop-Up museum will be held on Sunday, August 7th from 10:30 am – 1:30pm at the Union Baptist Church in their multi-purpose room.
- Primary Day is Tuesday, August 9th. The polling place is the Waterford School Gym. Polls will be open from 7:00AM to 7:00 PM.
- 2022 tax bills will be mailed out during the week of August 15th.
- Reminder: taxes are due by Monday, October 17th at 3:30pm

Approve Meeting Minutes (Action)

- Rob Begin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting. Marcia Martel seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Zoom Discussion

- At the last meeting the topic of whether to continuing using ZOOM as an option for Selectboard meetings was brought up. There has been minimal participation over Zoom and those participants report not being able to hear the conversation or it freezing. There was a general consensus that there was no strong need to keep Zoom and that it costs money. Microsoft Teams is an option to the town as they are using the software to host the town e-mail. Meetings could be recorded and posted. Mike Barrett made a motion to discontinue the use of Zoom for selectboard meetings. Sue Hayes seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Presentation – Christa Shute, NEK Broadband (Discussion)

- Christa Shute provided an overview of the NEK Broadband project that included the buildout plan for the backbone and potential spurs in Waterford. The backbone is

funded through grant money. The request is that the Town of Waterford contribute \$110,800 in ARPA funds to the project. This would provide 403 households (44 that have priority status) with high speed internet. The proposal would cover Old County Road, Stonybrook, High Ridge Road, Duck Pond (to include the fire department and Pike), Route 18, and Lower Waterford past the town office to Copenhagen Road. Rob Begin asked about the timeframe of the buildout. The equipment cabinet is installed in Waterford - the expectation would be completion by Spring of 2023. **The board agreed to add this item to their working meeting agenda on August 23rd.**

Highway Department Update

- Jim reported that he has found a different pit for winter sand. The tractor needs new tires but he is working with a company to get a good price. Jim presented the board with several mower quotes for them to review. **This item will be added to the next board meeting agenda.** The one-ton needs substantial repairs. The board asked that Jim get a quote on the cost of the needed repairs.

Citizen's Concerns

- Sue Ann Watson is concerned with the work being done at 2606 Old County Road without a permit being posted. Sue Hayes will e-mail Chris Brimmer and ask for him to follow up.
- Jeff Gingue asked if the selectboard would be open to receiving an ARPA fund proposal from the fire department. The board said yes they are open to all proposals.

Review Job Description and Duties – Board Clerk (Discussion and Possible Action)

- Mike Barrett and Sue Hayes both had a few revisions of the draft job description and those will be e-mailed to Rob Begin. **The second draft will be an item on the next board meeting agenda.** Dave Morrison asked why the Town Clerk wasn't going to serve as the selectboard clerk. Gary Allard stated that by statute the Town Clerk did not need to be the selectboard clerk. The board is looking for one person to serve as clerk to all of the town boards.

Transfer Station Concerns/Policies (Discussion)

- **Tabled – this item will be on the next board meeting agenda.**

Sexton Concerns Regarding Cemetery Ownership (Discussion)

- Warner Hodgden has been working on a five-year plan to provide restoration to the cemeteries in Waterford. His question is does the town own all of the cemeteries in Waterford or are some owned by private residents? After some discussion the board thought the best course of action would be to have conversations with all property owners that have property adjacent to each cemetery in question. If the adjacent property owner agrees to have work done at the cemetery, get permission in writing. The listers may be able to help identify property owners. The board also agreed that

Warner Hodgdon could move forward with work at the Charles Hill Cemetery on the Gingue Farm land as long as there is permission in writing.

Marcia Martel made a motion to enter Executive Session - 1 V.S.A. § 313 Personnel. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. The board entered the session at 8:27 pm.

The board came out of executive session at 9:02 pm. No action was taken.

Marcia Martel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Barrett seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Meeting Minutes recorded by Heather M. Gonyaw

DRAFT