

**Waterford Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, November 8, 2021  
Davies Memorial Library**

**Minutes**

The minutes are a summary of the Selectboard meeting. A recording of the meeting is here:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/W3fsRbMHv2SIhhPYy4NAV95WSY9zehnkCjkZyfKVZVAtomqhgDejdMrc3QpqDN30.LAmPs0jOmDgaoAD1>

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Selectboard Members in Attendance: Fred Saar  
Via ZOOM: Warner Hodgdon, Bill Piper, Mike B., Maria Dantos, Steve Eddy  
Others in Attendance: See attached sign-in sheet

**Modifications to the Agenda**

There were The following modifications to the agenda: Citizens' Concerns – Davies Memorial Library

**Approval of Minutes**

Warner made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting. Bill seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Budget Report**

A Budget Report was not available for the meeting.

**Citizens' Concerns**

Mary Jo O'Neill spoke for the Davies Memorial Library and said that the Library plans to request the full amount of their operating budget for 2022. The pandemic has ended most opportunities for fundraising and the Library Trustees would like to be able to plan programs for the year. Kandis Barrett asked about the status of the repairs to the building; Warner reported that the contractors have been found but it still is exceedingly difficult to schedule small projects.

Vivian Davis and Kathy Davis related their experience with the Town Office related to Vivian's property tax payment being lost in the mail and the requirement to pay a penalty. They expressed their dissatisfaction is the services they received. After discussion information was provided about requesting an abatement through the Board of Civil Authority.

Shari and Greg Aldrich presented an application for a driveway permit for a parcel they are selling. After input from the Road Foreman and a brief discussion the Selectboard approved the application.

Nathan Mitchell and Makayla Elliott presented an application for a driveway permit at their home. There was a discussion about the current situation – there are currently two driveways – and suggestions from the attendees and Selectboard, Makayla withdrew the application and will plant grass over one driveway and turn it into lawn. The Town will refund the \$100.00 application fee that was given with the application.

**Town Boards**

Jeff Gingue, Chief of the Waterford Fire Department, supplied an update on the status of the current pumper truck and the need to replace it. Jeff described issues with the current equipment – age, ability, etc. – and the desired replacement equipment. The Fire Department has spent several months talking with vendors and reviewing assorted options. During the review period they have seen two price increases. The Fire Department plans to order the truck before a scheduled price increase in December and bring the purchase to Town Meeting for approval.

### **Highway Department**

Lisle reported that the added signage that Dave Morrison requested for Lawrence Road have been installed.

Roberta Gillott conducted a survey of residents around Old County Road and Shadow Lake Road. Seventy percent of the residents contacted do not believe that a four-way stop is necessary at the intersection but would like to see a sign showing that there is farming activity on that road. Sixty percent of the residents believe that the road is too fast and encourages people to speed. The speed limit is posted at both intersection for that segment of road. The Selectboard will contact the Sheriff and request his speed sign be placed on the road to alert drivers to their current speed. Mike Barrett suggested a solar sign that has a speed limit sign affixed and a visual display the shows the driver's current speed.

It was noted that the inspection on one of the Highway Department's trucks expired in August and the truck has not been re-inspected.

### **Old Business**

#### **Town Website**

Mike Barrett supplied an overview of the status of the website re-design and the complication encountered implementing the .gov domain. The website is operational now, and there are several clean-up tasks remaining.

#### **ARPA Citizens Committee**

Roberta Gillott presented an overview of the most recent Citizens Committee meeting and their plans for identifying potential projects for spending the funds moving forward. Roberta asked if the Committee's recommendations would be considered by the Selectboard; Fred responded that the Selectboard requested the Committee to develop a list of recommendations for consideration and that the Selectboard has not identified any candidate projects. The Selectboard plans to evaluate the recommended projects based on use of the funds, number of Waterford residents served, and the areas of Waterford to be served . The Selectboard believes the Citizens Committee is making excellent progress.

#### **BCBS Plan Renewal**

At the October Selectboard meeting we deferred signing the health insurance agreement until we understood if the annual cost will be higher or lower. We have not determined this information yet, and this item was deferred until the December meeting. The renewal does not need to be returned to BCBS until mid-January.

Marcia Martel presented the results of her survey about how Towns pay for health, dental, etc. insurance. Waterford currently pays 100% of the cost; and Marcia reported that most Towns have the Employee pay 10% and the Town 90%.

#### Update on the Equipment Fund

The Town Treasurer is on family leave until January, and the Selectboard will contact Joanne Jurentkuff for a historical perspective on the Equipment Fund.

#### **New Business**

##### Payment for the Laptop and Owl

Considering the on-going number on new cases of COVID-19 in the Northeast Kingdom the Selectboard decided that it would be prudent to move to a hybrid in-person/ZOOM Selectboard meeting format. To help this transition the Selectboard asked Mike Barrett to supply information on the equipment we would need to implement this change. Mike supplied the specifications for a laptop and a Meeting Owl Pro. The Meeting Owl Pro has a 360 camera, microphone and speaker and integrates with the ZOOM video conferencing application. The cost of the laptop was \$864.95, and the cost of the Owl was \$1,058.94 for a total of \$1,923.89. The Selectboard approved the expense and noted that the purchase would probably be an eligible expense under the ARPA funding.

Historically, the Town has given employee bonuses in November, and the Selectboard budgeted annual bonus in the fiscal year 2021 budget. There was significant discussion about the amount of the bonuses, if they should be paid at all, and if only certain employees be given bonuses. After considerable discussion Fred said that he did not believe that it would be fair to the employees to cancel the bonuses at this late date, that he was recommending the Town pay the same bonuses as were paid in 2020 (this is the normal practice), and that the Selectboard bring the question of bonuses up at Town Meeting in March 2022. Bill made a motion to pay the budgeted bonuses in the same amount as 2020 and Warner seconded the motion. Donna Berry was not included in the bonuses in 2021, and the Selectboard will discuss a bonus for her at the December Selectboard meeting.

Kathy Davis inquired about the bonus amounts given to each Town Employee, and review of the accounting system after the meeting provided the following information for the 2020 bonuses:

Lisle Houghton	\$1,000.00
Wade Baillargeon	\$1,000.00
Jim Hayes	\$800.00
Jessy Pelow	\$800.00
Steve Eddy	\$800.00
Shawn Goss	\$600.00

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

# Selectboard Meeting

## November 8, 2021

Howard Remick	Duby Thompson
Michael Barrett	Debbie Allord
Mary Jo O'Neill	28 Trubale
BRYANT FLEMING	Jim [unclear]
Kathleen Goskint	Sigari Aldrich
Virian Daris	Shawn Turgeon
Marcia Martel	Robert P. Curhing
Justin Stahler	Roberta Gillott
Duane Heuch	Kim Willey
CLEMENT CRAY	Katherine Friedenbaum Caledonian-Record
KEVIN GILLANDER	Mathew Ash
David E. Morrison	
Kristina Hayes	
James Hayes	
Kandis Barrett	
Helen TIKÉ	
Makayla Elliott	
Shannon Goss	
Jeffrey Gnyul	
Will Rivers	

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