WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MARCH 28, 2023
MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT 06795

A Special Town Meeting was held at Watertown Town Hall, Council Chambers, on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and solicited for the election of a Moderator for the meeting.

MOTION: Mary Ann Rosa I move to nominate Jonathan Ramsay as Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are closed.

All in favor of Jonathan Ramsay being Moderator of the Special Town meeting please say aye.

Jonathan Ramsay was elected Moderator of the meeting.

MOTION: Mary Ann Rosa I move to nominate Susan King as Clerk of the Special Town Meeting.

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Nominations are closed.

All in favor of Susan King being Clerk of the Special Town meeting say aye.

Susan King was elected Clerk of the meeting.
WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

March 28, 2023

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meeting are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Watertown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers, 61 Echo Lake Rd. Watertown to consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $418,586 for the Woolson Street Bridge Project. Funds to be reimbursed at fifty percent through a grant with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

A link to view the special town meeting will be posted on the Town of Watertown website www.watertownct.org by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to vote at the Special Town Meeting must attend in person.

Anyone wishing to provide comments for the meeting may do so by emailing towncouncil@watertownct.org or by mail to Watertown Town Council, 61 Echo Lake Rd., Watertown, CT 06795 and must be received by 2:00 p.m. March 27, 2023.

If you require a translator, or accommodations for a hearing impairment or other accommodation, contact the Town of Watertown at 860-945-5255.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 22nd day of March, 2023

Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager

RETURN OF
WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

I hereby certify that on March 22, 2023 I left a duplicate copy of the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut, to be held on March 28, 2023 with Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk.
I further certify that on March 22, 2023 I caused a copy of said Warning and Notice to be published in the *WATERBURY REPUBLICAN AMERICAN* Newspaper which has a substantial circulation in said Town and placed upon the Town of Watertown website under Legal Notices.

I further certify that on March 22, 2023 I caused to be set upon the signpost nearest the office of the Town Clerk and all other places with signposts designated by the Town, a written copy of said Warning and Notice signed by me as Town Manager.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on March 28, 2023.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 22nd day of March, 2023.

Mark A. Raimo  
Town Manager  

**TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**  
**AS TO WARNING AND RETURN OF WARNING**

I hereby certify that the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of the foregoing RETURN OF WARNING are duly recorded in the records of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut and that Mark A. Raimo was Town Manager of the Town of Watertown on the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 22nd day of March, 2023.

Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk

**MOTION:** Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I make a motion to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $418,586.00 for the Woolson Street Bridge Project.

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works stated the Woolson Street Bridge was first discussed in 2016. We went out to bid a few months ago, during the bid opening it was a local contractor, Dayton Construction that had the low bid for this project. On the funding side we have currently one million, five hundred and thirty-one thousand, six hundred and two dollars. We do have a 50 percent match that is coming in from the state for one million, one hundred and ninety-seven thousand, four hundred and six. In order to award the contract and have one hundred percent of the funding up front for the base bid we need this additional funding. Because currently right now the state funding is about eight weeks out and that was told to me two weeks ago. Six weeks from now we will receive the additional 1.2 million for the fifty percent match. The 50 percent match will
cover all costs design, construction, administration, legal fees for the right of way and also the construction of the bridge. I am not sure if we are going to receive the money six weeks from now or longer our DOT Rep is Andrew Shields, he has about 120 bridges that he is working right now. What I am hearing from consultants across the state is that the funding to the municipalities is taking some time. I don’t want to waste this time, this is the perfect construction season to start now. What we did with the existing funds we had in the account is we hired a local contractor to remove the trees and this will allow the utility company to do the utility relocation. This is going to save us about two months of the construction time if we waited to get everything into place then award it in May, June, or July. If the contractor is able to start now, we will be able to complete it this season in the November and December time period before the asphalt plants close down in the state. If we don’t have the timing right, we are going to have a winter shut down and it is going to cost us more for the delay because they will not be able to get the work done in the winter especially the paving outside of it.

No comments from the public.

Gary Lafferty asked when you close down the street do you plan on putting up parking signs on both sides of the street, being narrow it is going to be a safety problem issue?

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works answered we could definitely do that for no parking signs. I was out there this morning we did have to shut the bridge down for the crane operation to lift the trees up and over the electric power lines, that definitely will be considered.

Chair Jonathan Ramsay asked would it be safe to say the brief summary is we need to allocate roughly $400,000 now and we expect to get roughly 1.1 million from the state at some point in the future.

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works answered correct.

Chair Jonathan Ramsay stated from the sounds of it there is not much doubt about us getting it, it is just timing whether a month or a couple of months away.

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works answered that is correct. The other thing that has me concerned that we watch out for, is the 36-inch aqueduct coming from the reservoirs. It feeds 80 percent of the water for Waterbury and 100 percent for Watertown. It’s not a simple bridge project, there is utility coordination issues, that was the reason for the crane. We did not want to drop the trees on a 100-year-old waterline, we wanted to lift them up and over out of that site.

Robert Desena stated this would add greatly to the town infrastructure, bring us on up in the current time period. Its an old bridge and much as been done for minimum intrusion on the area and especially regarding the water main coming into the Town from Waterbury that provides us
with water, half of the town other than the water district. It was well researched, the firm we were briefed on earlier who is going to be doing the work, is a local firm and is well respected throughout the state for doing such projects.

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works stated the project was within the estimate.

Al Mickel asked how do you fix a 36 inch watermain if it breaks?

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works answered it is going to be very difficult and they currently don’t make that certain pipe with the bell-shaped inserts to connect it. That is why we are very careful; they know the location but they don’t know the depth of that pipe.

BY A SHOW OF HANDS, THE MODERATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Special Town Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Moderator

Approved: ________________________

Susan King, Clerk