



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - 6:00 P.M. (Board of Education Appropriation)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – 6:30 P.M. (ARPA Funds Appropriation)

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING - 6:45 P.M. (Water Sewer Legal Fees Appropriation)

REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

**MINUTES
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE RD.
WATERTOWN, CT 06795**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

PRESENT: Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chair
Ken Demirs
Robert Desena
Gary Lafferty
Robert Retallick
Denise Russ (arrived 6:49)

ABSENT: Anthony DiBona
Rachael Ryan

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

4. Recognition – none.

5. Minutes.

a. Regular Meeting – June 5, 2023

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated June 5, 2023 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated the Senior Tax Relief Sub-committee will be meeting on Wednesday at 5:30.

School Building Committee meeting Wednesday at 7:00.

7. Town Manager's Report.

Mark Raimo reported:

1. The Fire Chief and I started to have discussions on who should authorized to our EMS licensor, the town is in a position to have our own licensor under the town's name, we are working on acquiring those licenses. We are still seeing long wait times for service to town. We are exploring other ideas on how to mitigate that. I will keep you updated on that the Fire Chief and I have had several meetings; we will meet again next week and will keep you updated on how we resolve that issue.
2. I have had 3 invitations to speak at the Housing Authority's. I spent an hour at each housing authority over the last week and half, two weeks. We spoke about senior issues, some their concerns regarding the town and it was great conversation and a lot of insight from our seniors.

8. Subcommittee Reports.

9. New Business.

- a. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$4,099.04 to the Police Department, Law Enforcement Equipment line item. Funds have been received from a claim for damages to a solar radar display unit due to a motor vehicle accident.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$4,099.04 to the Police Department, Law Enforcement Equipment line item.

Robert Desena asked for the Chief, prior to your arrival an officer was here on duty as requested by the council, correct.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered correct.

Robert Desena stated now you are here sir. That officer is assigned to the school usually, correct?

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered yes.

Robert Desena asked during the summer months is anything come up in a positive manner to reassign them to motorcycle duty for the summer to patrol along the Main Street corridor.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered that is correct he will be utilizing the motorcycle for some shifts over the summer.

Robert Desena asked would it be soon.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered it will be.

Robert Desena stated a very wise allocation of manpower in the summer months.

Motion passed unanimously

- b. Consider setting a special town meeting to consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$498,900 for the design of the Steele Brook Greenway Project State Project #153-125. Funds will be reimbursed at 80 percent (\$399,120) through a State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to set a Special Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 5:45 p.m. at the Watertown Town Hall in the Town Council Chambers to consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$498,900 for the design of the Steele Brook Greenway Project State Project #153-125. Funds will be reimbursed at 80 percent (\$399,120) through a State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Robert Retallick asked is this just another project that we are going to have in town and it's going to be years for us to see anything completed on it, something else that's adding to your list of things to do that is growing so fast.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered it was on the original list of projects for the Steele Brook Greenway, the design. We were tracking it and this is a reimbursable project.

Robert Retallick asked if it wasn't to go through do we lose out forever on this grant.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered yes, it's a key grant and the one right behind it is the Naugatuck River Greenway for the hiking trails and accessibility for the town. Behind this will be the construction dollars once we get the design complete. We are going to start our first design meeting once we get the appropriation in place. The contractor has been selected already, a lot of the hard work has already been done on our end.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked do you have an estimated time frame when you think the shovel in the ground work will begin.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered we have to get through the design first and we have to get the first meeting and I know it's in the contract and what's your deliverables and what's their timeline.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider a bid waiver for pavement marking services to include centerline and lane line painting throughout Town to be supplied by Atlantic Pavement Marking.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve a bid waiver for the pavement marking services to include centerline and lane line painting throughout Town to be supplied by Atlantic Pavement Marking.

Robert Retallick asked why is there a waiver?

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered this waiver is for the pavement markings. To help us out in order to not put it out to bid. It's not a local company to town but there is other pavement marking companies that come from very far distances and they don't provide the quality service. They have been doing it for about 17 years.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked is it correct to say the price remains the same from prior years.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered yes, we did require the price two years ago for this price.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked and there was a bid.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered yes at that time.

Gary Lafferty asked it is mostly going to be done for the center lines in the road.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director/Water & Sewer Superintendent answered it's the center line, stop bars, crosswalks but we also do some of that work ourselves too both the highway department and also this contractor.

Gary Lafferty added there is a good majority of the stop lines that are totally faded out. I have a hard time seeing them during the day time

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$950,000 to the Health Fund for medical insurance costs.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Denise Russ: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$950,000 to the Health Fund for medical insurance costs.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated over a year ago we identified that we were running short on our insurance. In May we anticipated that our shortfall was going to be reaching almost \$500,000. I put it out to department heads to ask them to freeze their budgets as best they could and we were able to put a freeze on approximately \$480,000. Since May we've seen some days where our claims were up over the \$150,000 dollars in a day, it's a moving number. We have made an educated guess that our shortfall totally would be in the \$950,000 range. We have already taken a short-term loan from the General Fund the \$500,000 under the authority of the Finance Director. This \$950,000 we will be repaying that \$500,000 and the additional \$450,000 will be going to our health fund with the savings I'm estimating we could save somewhere between \$450,000 and \$600,000 through our budget this current year and at the end of the year we will be able to move that money over to cover this loan. There will be net loss of about 300 to 400 thousand dollars on our health fund.

Robert Retallick asked I see the breakdown of the town side is 285, the BOE 665. How does that number come to...

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered a basic 70 30 split between the BOE and the town side it doesn't necessarily mean that's the actual cost, it's an associated cost.

Robert Retallick added I guess we are asking the town to pony up the million dollars and we don't know where it's coming from.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered we do have a plan in place to look at the health fund. It has been the town's past practice to hold bills at the end of the year, this number does include some of that holdover from last year. We are looking into our budgetary process; we are creating new line items so we could better track the ins and outs of this fund. At this point the \$950,000 is not only the loss that we've had this year but it was a carryover from last year as well.

Robert Retallick added I am confused at why some of this money wasn't asked for by the BOE in the overrun that they had. Why is it split out separately from the BOE's ask?

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered this is the responsibility of the town side, the health fund is the responsibility of our side we are asking for on behalf whatever cost there would have been to the BOE side also whatever part of the town side. At the end of the day, it is the responsibility of the town side to manage the fund.

Robert Retallick added I am still baffled it's a million dollars and we are asking the taxpayers to fund this million dollars and we have a good guesstimate about where it is happening and I would suggest that we hire somebody to look into it and dive down into it or we give the time for somebody locally or somebody here to dive down to give the answer on the million dollars, it's a lot of money over running and not knowing where it's coming from.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay added its my understanding that it's the intention of the town to look further to make sure that the amounts that are budgeted each year do cover the expected costs.

Ken Demirs asked Sue, does this have any effect the \$950,000 from the general fund on our bond rate?

Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director answered I am scheduled to go on rating review on Wednesday I will have to disclose this along with the first Special Town meeting that we had here tonight. It will be in the hands of SMP to make that decision. Unfortunately, fiscal year 22 ended well where we did a 3 million dollars increase in our fund balance. I am hoping that they take that into consideration, the town seems to always have maybe a year that we don't do

so good but we always bounce back and do very well. That is the point that I am going to get across to them on Wednesday.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked Sue would you agree that even after a fairly large sum of appropriations today from the general fund today that our general fund balance is still relatively healthy it might not be as high as might want it but it is still a decent balance.

Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director answered we're within the policy range after 22 was finally audited we were up to almost 9 million in the fund balance.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked after the review on Wednesday, how long does it normally take for them to come out with.

Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director answered usually about 10 days.

Aye: 6 Ramsay, Rosa, Demirs, Desena, Lafferty, Russ

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Retallick

Motion passes

- e. Consider a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2022-23 fiscal year require the transfer of funds:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the Watertown Town Council, that the following actions are taken relative to the transfer of funds.

GENERAL FUND - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AMOUNT: \$6,475 NO: 1
FROM: 010.50560.028.1472.9010 – Maintenance Agreements - PD
TO: 010.50560.028.1472.9010 – Computer Info Structure - PD
REASON: To purchase Mobile Data Terminal's for Patrol Commanders vehicle and School Resource Officer at Swift Middle School.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 19th day of June 2023.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$16,211 for tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Section 12-129 *Refunds of Excess Payment*:

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-1298;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the attached listing of tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 19th day of June, 2023

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

See attached

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve a resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$16,211 for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- g. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Section 12-129, Refund of Excess Payments; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommended that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129; and

WHEREAS, in order to refund taxpayers who have been approved for their refunds, monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$16,211 to line item 010-50341-043-0102 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 19th day of June, 2023.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10.Executive Session time in Executive session 7:16 p.m.

- a. Land Acquisition

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to enter into executive session with the Town Council members present, Jerry Lukowski and Town Manager Mark Raimo to discuss land acquisition.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Time back in regular session 7:21 p.m.

10. Public Participation.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue liked the public participation at the end of meeting to discuss what was on the agenda. Mr. Mickel talked about the public participation guidelines currently and stated what FOI stated in regards to Public Participation.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place stated that public participation at the end of the meeting makes more sense. She had concerns about the \$950,000 appropriation out of the general fund, stating it did not make sense to her and hoped at the next meeting to get more information. Ms. Camara asked if Public Participation is changing if there could be a write up for the public. Ms. Camara asked if there could be a complaint procedure with the Town Council. She also asked for a time clock for the public when speaking at public participation.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue wanted to bring to the council's attention the Watertown Democratic Committee fund raiser is Wednesday night and stated if you need a ticket please see him.

11. Adjournment.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fees	Refund
2020-01-0003251	CORELOGIC	PO BOX 9205	COPPELL, TX 75019-9211	384 LITCHFIELD RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	8,561.74	0	0	8,561.74
2021-01-0003278	CORELOGIC	PO BOX 9205	COPPELL, TX 75019-9211	LITCHFIELD RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	4,814.73	0	0	4,814.73
2021-03-0056055	EOAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06202	2020/JN8AYZNC0LX517584	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATE	730.93	0	0	730.93
2021-04-0081031	EOAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06202	2020/JG1ZD55T7L061176	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATE	97.44	0	0	97.44
2021-04-0081047	EOAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06202	2020/JGNEVHKVWJ188961	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATE	81.96	0	0	81.96
2021-04-0083569	EOAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06202	2020/JA4A23A391Z041208	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATE	48.34	0	0	48.34
2021-04-0083571	EOAN HOLDINGS LLC	8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE	WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06202	2020/JG1ZD55T5L033389	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORATE	209.62	0	0	209.62
2019-03-0061109	KNIGHT RODERICK T	172 LEDGEWOOD RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2008/JNKBV99M1339110	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed in more than	600.51	0	0	600.51
2020-03-0060675	KNIGHT RODERICK T	172 LEDGEWOOD RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2008/JNKBV61F18M268834	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed in more than	150.02	0	0	150.02
2021-03-0060550	NEUMAN ROBERT J	172 LEDGEWOOD RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2008/JNKBV61F18M268834	Sec. 12-126 Tangible Personal Property Assessed in more than	146.88	0	0	146.88
2016-03-0065179	NEUMAN ROBERT J	52 HAZEL ST	OAKVILLE, CT 06779-221	1996/114F16856T1320842	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Vete	174.31	0	0	174.31
2017-03-0065056	NEUMAN ROBERT J	149 EDGE RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2006/3G5D8031465596918	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Vete	66.31	0	0	66.31
2018-03-0065133	NEUMAN ROBERT J	935 BUCKINGHAM ST APT	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2006/3G5D8031465596918	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Vete	146.45	0	0	146.45
2019-03-0064863	NEUMAN ROBERT J	935 BUCKINGHAM ST APT	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2002/1GCEK19V42E129109	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Vete	122.14	0	0	122.14
2020-03-0064315	NEUMAN ROBERT J	935 BUCKINGHAM ST APT	WATERTOWN, CT 06794	2002/1GCEK19V42E129109	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Taxes Erroneously Collected from Vete	127.12	0	0	127.12
TOTAL						16,206.72	3.85	0.00	16,210.57