

**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
AUGUST 21, 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 Monday, August 21, 2023. Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and solicited for the election of a Moderator for the meeting.

Jonathan Ramsay asked for nominations for moderator of the meeting.

MOTION: Mary Ann Rosa I move to nominate Jonathan Ramsay for Moderator.

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

Seeing none.

All in favor of Jonathan Ramsay as Moderator of the meeting please say aye.

Motion passed unanimously

Jonathan Ramsay asked for nominations for clerk of the meeting.

MOTION: Mary Ann Rosa I move to nominate Susan King as Clerk.

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

Seeing none.

All in favor of Susan King as Clerk of the meeting please say aye.

Mary Ann Rosa read the legal notice.



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

AUGUST 21, 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 authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$310,136.10 from the General Fund for the Board of Education School Security Communications Project. A STEAP grant has been awarded for the project in the amount of \$310,136.27 of which \$248,109.10 will be reimbursed through the grant and \$62,027.07 as the Town of Watertown's match.

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. Those eligible 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. on August 21, 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 14th day of August, 2023.

Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager

MOTION: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$310,136.10 from the General Fund for the Board of Education School Security Communications Project. A STEAP grant has been awarded for the project in the amount of \$310,136.27 of which \$248,109.10 will be reimbursed through the grant and \$62,027.07 as the Town of Watertown's match.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated this is a STEAP grant that we applied for in 2021. We are just getting the paperwork up and running from the state allowing us to install a system in the schools.

This will include our parochial schools as well. It's an auditory coordinated effort in case we were to have an intruder, we have a direct connection to the Police Department. It will allow for visually impaired and auditory impaired students to get the alert. Additionally, as this system could be expanded to include the Police Department to interact with the cameras upon response. It was approximately the \$260,000 match that would get us up and running with that system.

No comments from the public.

Gary Lafferty stated I know part of the grant is to support the two parochial schools. Do we get anything back in return.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered from the parochial school themselves, when we went through this process applying for the STEAP grant that was the intention for us to ensure that we took care of our parochial schools without any cost to them, it is strictly a safety improvement.

Mary Ann Rosa asked is there any potential for the town to also hook into the grant down the road to get into the system for security with cameras and whatever? If we wanted to put one in the Town Hall and one at the Fire Department or one at Water & Sewer?

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered you mean town buildings interconnect all the systems, yes it would be additional equipment so the Police Department could dial in and get into our camera systems.

Robert Retallick asked is this the same system that Waterbury has just installed?

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered it is different, this is more of an alarm and alert system. It is a coordinated alert system and it is kind of compared to the fire alert system where if there were a fire in the building, you pull the fire alarm and activates everything. This will be an intruder alert or a emergency alert, a team member can pull the alert it would generally activate the Police Department, it would be an automatic phone call to the Police Department which stops all that down time for people trying to making a decision on when to call and why to call.

Robert Desena stated in school when an intruder occurs will that be showing up on the police communication but also in the responding cruisers.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered it has the potential to be in the responding cruisers CAD system. At this point all the pieces will not be in place for that but once we get the basics in that is something we can work towards. As you are aware it is very important for our police officers to understand what they are going into.

Robert Retallick asked is this system Mutual Link?

Luigi Velardi, Director of Facilities BOE answered the LENS Program, Lockdown, Emergency, Notification, System.

BY VOICE VOTE THE MODERATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Denise Russ to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Moderator

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk