

**Minutes for Waterboro Board of Selectmen Meeting
July 18, 2023, at Waterboro Town Hall
5:00 p.m. Workshop – 5:30 Pm Executive Session
6:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

5:00 p.m. Workshop Select Board with Code Enforcement regarding tax acquired properties:

All Selectmen were present for the workshop. Other attendees included Matt Bors, Ceo Michael Gilpatrick, resident Cathryn Martin Oliver, and Laura Lowe. Chairman Abbott started the workshop with the tax acquired properties. There was a consensus that there were not enough properties to hold an auction. The Board discussed moving forward with sealed bids for five properties. This will be voted on in the next meeting. Regarding the Town owned properties, the Board needs to do more research on how many LAC swap pool lots the Town has left and find out if they can be sold. This swap pool dates back to the late 1960's -1970's with 99 original lots.

5:30 p.m. Executive Session 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (E) – Legal Issue:

The Board did go into Executive Session regarding a legal matter at 5:35 p.m.

Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to enter into executive session at 5:35 p.m. David Chauvette seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Abbott started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 p.m.

Board Attendance: Dennis Abbott, Dwayne Woodsome, David Chauvette, Gary Fecteau, and Jon Bell.

Other Attendees: Matt Bors, Jason Champion, Joshua Andrews, David Lowe, Marina Gagne until 6:35 p.m., Bob Leeman until 6:35 p.m., Glenn Seehagen, and Laura Lowe.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS – none.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS: - none.

4. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: - none.

5. APPOINTMENT:

a. Joshua Andrews, Transfer Station Manager: Transfer Station Hours & Policies

Josh came before the Board to discuss policies and hours. Regarding Policies: Josh stated he is having trouble identifying seasonal residents who own property in Waterboro who do not have their car (s) registered in Waterboro. After some discussion and insight from Marina Gagne, Town Clerk, regarding the front end side of dump stickers purchased at Town Hall, Chairman Abbott requested Josh to work with Matt and/or Jason regarding the changes he wants in the policy and have ready for the August 1st meeting.

Regarding hours, Josh stated that he does not have the staff to work Sunday's from the Transfer Station or DPW crew. It was suggested by Chairman Abbott to open at 9am on Fridays since Josh and another full time employee are there at that time anyway. The hour changes are addressed with voting under new business item #9b.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - none.

7. CORRESPONDENCE – available upon request:

- a. Treasurer's Reports
- b. Motor Vehicle Report
- c. Contract Deputies Reports
- d. Letter back from PB re: Medical Marijuana Grow Facilities in the Vlg. Zone on lot sizes 40K sf. or larger
- e. Petition – Secession of Territory

Chairman Abbott reported the FY2023 Excise tax was \$1,779,680

8. REPORTS & STAFF INITIATIVES:

a. Selectmen's reports:

Gary Fecteau met with the OHD Committee recently. The core group is doing a fantastic job and working very hard. Please Thank them if you see them out in the community for their hard work. He requested Jason or Matt contact April Tucker, OHD's chairperson, when the dumpster will be ready to be delivered that is being lent. He also requested the use of a small utility trailer for the group to borrow for the event and Matt said it can be done.

Dwayne Woodsome reported that the Historical Society is putting on a presentation Saturday, August 5th of artisans and craftsmen demonstrating their old school skills. If anybody has some type of weaving or rug making that they would like to present contact Judy Carll or contact him.

b. Town Administrator Matt Bors report:

General Information:

- We have posted our requested bids for the repair/replacement of the DPW storage roof. Bids are due Tuesday August 1st at 5pm. We have received a few bids already to date.
- We have received correspondence from a few employees regarding wages and our recent COLA. At this point we are gathering information and will survey surrounding communities. I am concerned with the rates, preliminary review of communities near us have significantly increased the hourly pay for public safety staff. *Correspondence from Ben Wildes sent via email was given to the Board and will be added to the minutes.
- We have a safety meeting with the OHD committee on August 1st.
- I have communicated with Rec Director Smith that the staff should be cleaning up the beach. Jason will pick up a couple plastic rakes to have available. I have also passed along our concern for the parking issues to Chief Deputy Forbes.
- Is the Board still interested in participating in the Spirit of America program and would you all support submitting Bob Gobeil for the Spirit of America Award?

There was no comment from the Board regarding this.

- OHD is August 4th & 5th. On August 5th Route 5 will be impacted for the parade which starts at 10 a.m. The OHD Parade and participation by the Board would be appreciated.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discuss/vote to allow Medical Marijuana Grow Facilities in the Vlg. Zone- lot sizes 40K sf. or larger

The Planning Board was deadlocked at a vote of 3-3 so the motion was denied so it has come back to the Select Board.

Vote: David Chauvette made a motion to accept the Planning Board's recommendation of not allowing Marijuana Grow Facilities in the Village Zone for lot sizes 40k sf. or larger. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

b. Discuss/vote on Transfer Station hours & Policies

Vote: Gary Fecteau was so moved, as said, to add three (3) hours on Friday morning (opening at 9am) for the Transfer Station open hours starting Friday, Aug. 4th. Jon Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.
Policies will be addressed at the next meeting.

c. Discuss/vote on Selectmen Liaison's to committees

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome was so moved to accept the Liaison's read by Chairman Abbott, Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

The List read is as follows:

Cemetery Committee – Gary Fecteau
Community Garden – Dave Chauvette
Conservation Commission – Dwayne Woodsome
Ecomaine Board of Directors – Dennis Abbott, Alternate Joshua Andrews
Economic Development – Dennis Abbott
Library Trustees – Jon Bell
Olde Home Days – Gary Fecteau
Parks Committee – David Chauvette
Planning Board – Dennis Abbott, Alternate Dwayne Woodsome
Public Safety Committee – Dave Chauvette
Road Review Committee – Jon Bell
Transfer Station and Recycling – Dennis Abbott
Zoning Board of Appeals – Dwayne Woodsome, Alternate Jon Bell

d. Discuss/vote to re-appoint Michelle Connors to the Library Board of Trustees

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to re-appoint Michelle Connors to the Library Board of Trustees. David Chauvette seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

e. Discuss/vote to re-appoint Christina Giordano to the Budget & Public Safety Committee

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome was so moved. David Chauvette seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

f. Discuss/vote to accept Luna Pitaniello's resignation from the Cemetery Committee, & EDC

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome was so moved. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

g. Reschedule August 15th Select Board Meeting due to Run-off Election

The Board rescheduled their August 15th Board Meeting to August 22nd with an option of having a meeting if something comes about.

h. Vote to authorize Town Administrator to sign Contract Deputy Contract

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Contract Deputy Contract. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0-1 with Dave Chauvette abstaining.

i. Discuss/vote on Board Appointed Members to Charter Commission

Chairman Abbott requested that if anyone is interested in these appointed positions to please come into the Town Hall to fill out the paperwork. Chairman Abbott's recommendation is that one of these positions to be a Select Board member. Dwayne Woodsome stated that he was interested. There was no vote on this and it was requested to put on the Aug. 22nd agenda.

j. Discuss Water District Workshop for August 1st at 5 PM

The Water District requested a workshop with the Board on August 1st. The Workshop was set for 5 p.m. on August 1st.

k. Discuss/vote Regarding Correspondence for Secession of Territory

The Board received a petition from John Barth regarding Secession of Territory. The Town Clerk has verified that Mr. Barth is not a resident of Waterboro or a registered voter.

§2171-B. Initiation of procedure

The secession process may be initiated by submitting to the municipal officers a petition signed by more than 50% of the registered voters within the secession territory that requests a municipal public hearing for the purpose of discussing whether the specified territory should secede from the municipality. The petition must set forth the physical boundaries of the secession territory, the resident population, the nonresident population and a list of not more than 5

people who will serve as representatives of the secession territory. For purposes of this subchapter, "secession territory" means the area described in the petition for secession. [PL 1999, c. 381, §2 (NEW).]
The registrar of voters of the municipality shall verify the signatures on the petition within 30 days of the receipt of the petition.

Vote: David Chauvette made a motion to deny his proposal per Maine Law title 30a chapter 113 § 2171 B as he does not meet the criteria. Dwayne Woodsome seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

I. Discuss/vote to allow temporary waiving of purchase policy bid requirements due to limited availability of supplies/equipment/vehicles.

Matt stated that he is requesting the temporarily waive of the formal bidding requirements specifically for supplies, equipment and vehicles since availability is still extremely difficult. Lease purchase finance is 5.44% with Gorham Leasing Group. He has checked with the other local financial institutions however they do not offer municipal lease purchase programs.

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to waive the bidding process for FY2024. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

m. Vote/Authorization for Municipal Lease Purchase Agreement

The Lease Purchase Agreement is for the one ton truck that is on the FY 2024 budget and it is available now and the price is under what we anticipated. Lease purchase finance is 5.44% with Gorham Leasing Group. He has checked with the other local financial institutions however they do not offer municipal lease purchase programs.

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to allow Matt & Dennis to sign the Municipal lease Purchase Agreement. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Dave Chauvette asked Matt whatever came of the second hand truck we were looking at near JD's. We have purchased the truck and have found the original blade to go with it.

10. OLD BUSINESS: - none.

11. OTHER:

a. Discuss/vote to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome was so moved. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

12. PENDING DECISIONS:

a. Tax Acquired & Town Owned Properties

The Tax Acquired properties will be brought back with a vote at the next meeting. Regarding the Town owned properties more research needs to be done regarding the LAC swap pool lots. The Town needs to know how

many lots are left and find out if they can be sold. This swap pool dates back to the late 1960's- 1970's with 99 original lots.

13. WEEK'S ACTION LIST:

Notify the Water District of the Workshop time for Aug 1st
Research on LAC swap lots

14. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS:

Next Meeting Workshop with Water District
Next Meeting Policy Changes Transfer Station
Next Meeting Tax Acquired Properties
Aug. 22nd – Appointed Charter Commission members

15. ITEMS NEEDING SIGNATURE:

a. BOS Authorization Orders (3)

The Board signed Authorization Orders for:

TA and Chairman to sign the Municipal Lease Purchase with Gorham Leasing Group
TA to sign the FY2024 Contract Deputy Contract
Temporarily waive the bid requirements found in Purchase Policy for FY 2024

16. ADJOURN:

Vote: Dwayne Woodsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Gary Fecteau seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Waterboro Board of Selectmen

Greetings, my name is Ben Wildes and I have happily been an 8 year resident of the Town of Waterboro. I am also a part time firefighter/paramedic with the Waterboro Fire Department. I am writing this letter in support of the employees of the Waterboro Fire Department in their attainment of adequate wages. Please do not view this letter as being self serving in its purpose. The majority of my income comes from employment in a different nearby town. I am a member of the fire department to maintain involvement in the community where my family and I reside.

The job of a firefighter/EMS provider is complex, technical and stressful in nature. We must be well versed in multiple trades and skills. Fire department employees are truck drivers, we must understand hydraulics, the physics and geometry of positioning and operating an aerial device. We are trained in mechanical advantage systems, ropes, knots, bellow grade/confined space rescue techniques, high angle rescue, hazardous materials, water and ice water rescue. Firefighters are responsible for understanding vehicle construction and extrication techniques, building construction, advanced knowledge of fire behavior and search and rescue skills. EMS providers must understand cardiology, neurology, endocrine medicine, respiratory medicine, trauma and occasionally obstetrics. When the public has a problem the fire department is expected to solve it, we are your problem solvers. This extensive responsibility should be accompanied by adequate compensation.

Fire department pay scales can be complicated and difficult to understand. In Maine there are three levels of EMS licensure, EMT, Advanced EMT and Paramedic. The responsibilities of a paramedic are significantly more then the responsibilities of an EMT. Fire department rank must also be considered in pay scales. Lieutenants and captains have more responsibility then a firefighter. With additional skill or responsibility, employees should receive additional compensation. Finally, longevity or years of service should be considered in wage tables. An employee who has worked for the town for many years is deserving of significantly more pay then a newly hired employee of equal rank. All Waterboro Fire employees are deserving of increased wages, however paramedics and officers and the most significantly underpaid compared to nearby fire departments. I have always believed the saying "You can earn all you money for the year in 10 minutes doing this job." What this means is that if you are actively saving a life or performing an act that is extremely dangerous or psychologically stressful there is no level of financial compensation too great for that employee. Waterboro paramedics and officers are deserving of significant and immediate pay increases.

Waterboro Fire has some great employees. They are talented, dedicated and hardworking. As a town resident it is my wish that Waterboro Fire hires firefighter paramedics and pays them adequately so that they become lifelong employees and members of the community. At current pay rates, it will be almost impossible to attract paramedics when they could be making significantly more in nearby communities. Waterboro fire is also at risk of loosing its current employees to other fire departments. It would be very unfortunate to invest time and money

training an employee just for them to leave in search of higher pay. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to further discuss pay and benefits for fire department employees.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Wildes
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