



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

Caroline Bays
Councilor At Large

Anthony J. Donato,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MEETING WILL ONLY HAVE REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS MINUTES

The Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown held a public meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, §20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, this meeting had only remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/#/watertown/video/5f490e6f9e1d640008a803ae?page=HOME&type=live>
- B. The Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344 #
- D. Public was permitted to comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the Town Council at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, §20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, through remote opportunities for participation with public access. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Anthony J. Donato, John G. Gannon, Lisa J. Feltner, Angeline B. Kounelis, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., Kenneth M. Woodland, and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, Steve Magoon, Director of Community

Development/Assistant Town Manager, Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor and Assistant Manager for Finance, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Marilynne Roche – 141 Marshall Street – Speaking on behalf of the Watertown Historical Society – She spoke of [preserving the Shick House](#) on Grove St. because it has unique irreplaceable 1850's architecture. Once a country estate, the Shick Family made it one of the largest working farms in the state. The history of this building will be lost if the Town does not help maintain its legacy.

There being no other speakers, the public forum was closed.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

[Minutes of the October 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting](#)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes as written; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

NBC News with Lester Holt had a piece on testing of students in school. Superintendent of Schools Galdston was interviewed for this piece. At the School Committee hearing, Superintendent Galdston explained the testing protocol; Watertown Schools are one of the few places in the country that are doing a broad based testing of students regularly.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Request for a Grant of Location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install 1-2" Conduit on Templeton Parkway Southeasterly from Pole 228/2, thence Turning Northeasterly, Approximately 154 Feet South of Mount Auburn Street a Distance of Approximately 90 ± Feet of Conduit. The Reason for this Work is to Replace Existing Electric Service for a National Grid [Control Box at 11 Templeton Parkway](#), Watertown

Joanne Callender, representing Eversource Energy, stated the purpose of the request for the grant of location.

Council President Sideris opened the public forum; there being no speakers, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved that the Town Council permit the request for a grant of location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to install 1-2" conduit on Templeton Parkway

Southeasterly from pole 228/2, thence turning northeasterly, approximately 154 feet south of Mount Auburn Street a distance of approximately 90 ± feet of conduit; the reason for this work is to replace existing electric service for a National Grid control box at 11 Templeton Parkway, Watertown; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that some work has been completed and therefore no open pavement will occur. This request is a matter of recognizing the work that has been done.

It was also mentioned that

- ♦ A pole on Sweets Court, owned by Verizon, has wires from Eversource that need to be transferred to a new pole. The current pole is leaning and is a potential danger to nearby homes. DPW reached out to Eversource five months ago but nothing has been done.
- ♦ A light pole at 275 North Beacon Street has not worked in seven years as the pole no longer has power. Eversource was informed of the situation but no action has been taken.
- ♦ A pole at 47 Morse Street has a leaning pole where the wires need to be moved

Ms. Callender was asked to notify the Company that Eversource requests will not be placed on the agenda until these matters are resolved. Ms. Callender stated that she will bring back the information to Eversource.

The motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Request for a Grant of Location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install 1-2” Conduit on Belmont Street Easterly from Pole 11/109 Near the Intersection of Duff Street, a Distance of Approximately 17 ± Feet of Conduit. The Reason for this Work is to Provide an Underground Electric Service for a National Grid SCADA [Control Box at 980 Belmont Street](#), Watertown

Ms. Callender provided background on the request.

Council President Sideris opened the public forum; there being no speakers, he closed the public hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to permit the grant of location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to install 1-2” conduit on Belmont Street Easterly from pole 11/109 near the intersection of Duff Street, a distance of approximately 17 ± feet of conduit. The reason for this work is to provide an underground electric service for a National Grid SCADA control box at 980 Belmont Street, Watertown; Councilor

Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

7. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

[Update](#) on the Possibility of a Strategic [Partnership Between Buckingham Browne & Nichols School and the Town of Watertown](#) - Dr. Jennifer Price, Head of Buckingham Browne & Nichols School and David Barnett, President and CEO, Mount Auburn Cemetery

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the proposed coordinated use of fields owned by BB&N and the Town of Watertown and listed the benefits of approving the mutual use agreement.

Dr. Jennifer Price, Head of BB&N, stated that BB&N and Mount Auburn Cemetery signed a Purchase and Sale agreement for 6.1 acres of land on Grove Street and that she was present to discuss a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of the fields.

David Barnett, President and CEO of Mount Auburn Cemetery, provided some background on the 175 acres of the Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Dr. Price explained the agreement would allow both parties to use each other's fields under certain conditions:

- ♦ Watertown would be able to use BB&N fields during the evenings, Saturdays, when not being used by BB&N, and Sundays
- ♦ Watertown would have scheduling rights in the summer
- ♦ Watertown would have access to the fieldhouse when completed
- ♦ BB&N would use Filippello fields after school and have full day use in late August and over March break
- ♦ BB&N recognizes that Filippello Park may not be available while the schools are being built
- ♦ Both parties will maintain their own fields.

The concept is to have a 20-acre athletic complex. The community gardens will be eliminated but will be available for another year. The fields will be synthetic material because of the potential high use of the grounds. The Shick House will not be retained; the land will be used to establish another playing field. BB&N would be happy to gift the house to the Town.

Dr. Price stated that BB&N will seek a preliminary tax-exempt bond approval through Mass Development; receive an environmental report on groundwater and soil testing (December 18); close on the tax-exempt bond by January 4; appear before the Watertown Historic Commission on January 14; close on the property on January 29; and begin construction on the fields on November 1, 2021 for completion by the spring of 2022.

Mr. Driscoll thanked Mount Auburn Cemetery for their willingness to work with all parties stating that this arrangement would help the Town improve its available recreational resources.

During the discussion, Councilors stated

- ♦ They commend all parties involved and this is an opportunity for Watertown
- ♦ They were delighted and enthused to see this happen to provide an increase in open space and the avoidance of congestion of a housing development in the area
- ♦ The fields will be integrated as one long set of fields. There will be no gates between the fields and the entire 20 acres will be maintained as one open field.

8. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

- D. Consideration and Action on a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (“MOU”) By and Between the Town of Watertown and Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to move up Item 8D in the discussion; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Driscoll stated that Item 8D of the agenda should be enhanced to read “Regarding the Proposed Shared Use of Watertown’s Filippello Fields and BB&N’s Future Fields on Grove Street, Watertown” the Proposed Shared Use of Watertown’s Filippello Fields and BB&N’s Future Fields on Grove Street, Watertown”

The MOU basically provides for shared facilities in the Grove and Arlington Streets area. Filippello Park, an urban park, is located on 14 acres of open space. BB&N is seeking to acquire 6 acres of land from Mount Auburn Cemetery to construct two playing fields, a field house and about 80 parking spaces. Together this would create 20 acres of open space in the Town of Watertown.

Upon purchase of the property, BB&N have agreed to enter into a cooperative agreement, in a joint licensing arrangement that would share the fields. The arrangement would expand the open green space for active recreational use, a significant increase for the Town, and provides improved playing fields for BB&N. The agreement would permit both parties to use the fields on a mutually agreed to schedule.

Mr. Driscoll asked for the Town Council’s favorable consideration of the MOU.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding as presented; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, the following were mentioned:

- ♦ BB&N and Mount Auburn were congratulated for their actions regarding the sale
- ♦ The agreement provides a multi-generational opportunity to the community
- ♦ A request was made to reconsider the use of artificial turf as many parents has serious concerns regarding its use
- ♦ Lighting will be provided at the BB&N fields; there will be a reliance on the work the Town has already completed regarding lighting

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- A. Resolution Approving the Acceptance and Expenditure of Gifts of Funds Totaling \$1,920.21 Generously [Donated to Honor the Memory of the Late Mr. David Hoffman](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on this gift, 31 checks, totaling \$1,920.21, were sent to the Recreation Department in memory of David Hoffman. The family wishes the funds to be used for families with need. He requested the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance and expenditure of gifts of funds totaling \$1,920.21 generously donated to honor the memory of the late Mr. David Hoffman; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer to the Fiscal Year 2021 [Fire Department Indemnification Account](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the need for the transfer. Some firefighters have had some injuries requiring surgery. He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer to the Fiscal Year 2021 Fire Department Indemnification Account; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$66,068 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Debt Retirement – Authorized/Unissued Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Capital Projects – Public Buildings Vehicles Account in Order to Move Forward with the [Purchase of Two Tractor-Like Snow Blowers for the Sidewalks Around the Schools](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the transfer. Lori Kable, Director of Public Buildings, stated there was a need for this equipment and are similar to what DPW uses. They are commercial snow blowers with cabs that can remove snow quickly. Use of these snow blowers should save time for the custodian and prevent injuries. The equipment will be housed at the Hosmer School and the High School because they have garages there.

Mr. Driscoll stated money was available from the Debt Retirement Authorized/Unissued Account due to a more favorable interest rate on a General Obligation Bond issued in June.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$66,068 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Debt Retirement – Authorized/Unissued Account to the Fiscal Year 2021 Transfer to Capital Projects – Public Buildings Vehicles Account in order to move forward with the purchase of two tractor-like snow blowers for the sidewalks around the schools; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, these items were mentioned:

- ♦ The equipment should be shared with other facilities
- ♦ The purchase of a method of transporting to the facilities should be considered
- ♦ The life time span of the equipment is 10-12 years
- ♦ The snow blowers have a speed of 12 miles per hour
- ♦ A major issue with sharing the equipment is establishing a schedule
- ♦ The equipment could be shared with DPW but they would need to staff it as the Department of Buildings does not have sufficient staff to operate it at other facilities
- ♦ Other equipment can be purchased for use by the snow blowers – street sweeper and an ice melt spreader

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Consideration and Action on a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (“MOU”) By and Between the Town of Watertown and Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

Please see the minutes for this item located before Item 8A.

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding Recommendations to the Town Council on the [FY 2022 Budget Policy Guidelines](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Adopt the FY2022 Budget Policy Guidelines as drafted.

2. To Make a Referral to the Human Services Committee to Work With Staff to Explore Expanding the Capacity of the Health Department, and Determine What the Unmet Need is, and Then Determine if the Unmet Need Can Be Met Within the Existing Departmental Budget or if Additional Resources Are Needed.
3. To Make a Referral to the Personnel and Town Organization Committee to Work with Staff to Explore Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within Watertown Government, and Determine What the Unmet Need Is, and Then Determine if the Unmet Need Can Be Met Within the Existing Departmental Budget or if Additional Resources Are Needed.

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to have the Town Council adopt the FY2022 Budget Policy Guidelines as drafted; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. After discussion on the matter, the motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to make a referral to the Human Services Committee to work with staff to explore expanding the capacity of the Health Department, and determine what the unmet need is, and then determine if the unmet need can be met within the existing departmental budget or if additional resources are needed; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, it was stated

- ♦ That due to the large amount of requests from the attending public, it seemed logical that these concerns be referred to the Human Services Committee
- ♦ Many people raised the concern for needing more social workers and counselors
- ♦ That the community is welcomed to be involved in the future hearings
- ♦ That a friendly amendment be made so that there was some specificity to the areas of study
- ♦ That the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Committee's recommendation was general and all of the items referenced at the hearing and mentioned in the guidelines are open for discussion by Human Services

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to make a referral to the Personnel and Town Organization Committee to Work with staff to explore issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion within Watertown government, and determine what the unmet need is, and then determine if the unmet need can be met within

the existing departmental budget or if additional resources are needed; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding [Recycling](#): Organic and Inorganic Recycling, “Simple Recycling”, and a Recycling Survey – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Feltner stated that she favored doing textile recycling.

Councilor Palomba stated he would be asking for a referral the Education and School System Matters Committee to review the racial based harassment that a student experienced. Attorney Reich stated that it was necessary not to reference a person involved so as to not violate anyone’s privacy and civil rights.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

12. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

Councilor Palomba made a request on October 13, 2020. He is repeating his request as he has not yet received the information:

Councilor Palomba requested [information relating to the charter review](#) and asked for copies of the 1991, 2001, and 2011 town election ballots and for the related documentation sent to citizens of the community regarding the charter review.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Piccirilli announced that on Monday, November 30, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., there would be a zoom meeting regarding the feasibility study of the new High School. The Committee would discuss the preliminary design plans, which are available on the website, and the community could participate.

Councilor Kounelis thanked Gideon Schrieber for his assistance in helping her navigate Zoom.

She also thanked those who offered her support regarding a verbal issue that occurred during the last executive session.

Councilor Feltner planned to make a similar announcement regarding the High School meeting. She raised a concern regarding public outreach and asked if there are other avenues of reaching and involving more residents.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Elodia Thomas – Marion Road – Stated her concern that she can never see residents who speak at the meetings via Zoom. She raised a concern regarding the BB&N agreement and asked if there would be a PILOT agreement. She stated that this is an open space property but not a green space property as the BB&N fields will use artificial turf; that the fields cannot be used as a relaxing spot due to the artificial turf; and that the fields are being given to BB&N at the expense of local needs. She was very concerned that the public had no opportunity to provide any input on the matter.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting and to enter into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, in the matter of Donohue v. Town of Watertown and Watertown Police Association, C.A. No. 1981CV01472, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3), as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Town; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Litigation, in the Matter of Donohue v. Town of Watertown and Watertown Police Association, C.A. No. 1981CV01472, Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3), as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Litigating Position of the Town

ADDENDUM

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of _9_ for, _0_ against, _0_ present on January 12, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Statement Regarding the Preservation of the Shick House – Marilynne Roche – November 24, 2020 – Item 3
2. Minutes of the October 27, 2020 Town Council Meeting – Item 4
3. Request for a Grant of Location by NSTAR ELECTRIC dba EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install Conduit to Replace a Control Box at 11 Templeton Parkway – Kevin Duffy, Project Engineer – October 19, 2020 – Item 6A
4. Request for a Grant of Location by NSAR ELECTRIC dba EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install to Provide Underground Service to a Control Box at 980 Belmont Street – Kevin Duffy, Project Engineer – October 19, 2020 – Item 6B
5. Agenda Item – Informational Presentation Update Regarding BB&N – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 19, 2020 – Item 7
6. BB&N, The Town of Watertown, and Mount Auburn Cemetery: *Moving Forward Together* – November 24, 2020 – Item 7
7. Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Funds and Expenditure Regarding Funds Donated to Honor the Memory of the Late Mr. David Hoffman – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 19, 2020 – Item 8A
8. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Indemnification Fund of the Fire Department – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – November 19, 2020 – Item 8B
9. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Purchase of Two Tractor-Like Snow Blowers for Use on the School Sidewalks – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – November 19, 2020 – Item 8C
10. Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) by and between the Town of Watertown and Buckingham Browne & Nichols School Regarding the Proposed Shared Use of Watertown’s Filippello Park and BB&N’s Future Fields on Grove Street, Watertown – Item 8D
11. Committee of the Budget and Fiscal Oversight Report Regarding its Recommendations to the Town Council on the FTY 2022 Budget Policy Guidelines – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair – November 2, 9, and 16, 2020 – Item 9A

- ♦ Watertown' s FY2022 Budget Policy Guidelines Worksheet For Committee Report November 24, 2020
- ♦ Watertown's FY 2022 Budget Policy Guidelines for Approval by the Town Council
- ♦ Watertown's FY2020 Budget Policy Guidelines Priority Ranking
- ♦ Reply to Sunrise Watertown/Extinction Rebellion/Uplift Watertown Emails – November 16, 2020

12. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding Recycling – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair – October 29, 2020 – Item 9B