



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, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 6:30 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, February 23, 2021 at 6:30 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 able to join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was able 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 able 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 6:30 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/Assistant Manager for Finance, Mark Reich, Town Attorney, and Marilyn W. Pronovost, Town Council Clerk

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 P.M.

To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with the DPW Union, Town Hall Associates Union, Library Union, Fire Union, Police Patrol Union, Police Supervisors Union, as an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Town's Bargaining Position.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into executive session; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Stated that the Town must make it clear to Beacon Hill that mail-in voting and same day registration should be rejected by the Legislature because these options are open to fraud.

Lisa Cavarretta – Raised concerns about the need to have Victory Field snow plowed so that students could participate in sports. Council President Sideris stated bids were being taken and that the field should be plowed by Friday. He also mentioned that this was a School Committee issue and that she could raise her concerns with them at their meeting on March 1.

Jocelyn Tager – 103 Robbins Road – Asked that the Town Council vote in favor of the referral to Public Works regarding the creation of Recycling Committee. The Town needs a new approach to waste management.

John Portz – Thanked the Town Council and the Town Manager for their ongoing support of the schools especially all of the capital improvements that are being made.

Judy Fallows – Spoke in favor of the Advisory Recycling Committee. She mentioned that a more official structure would assist in the planning of a better recycling program.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Update on 311 Referral

Council President stated that he spoke with Mr. McClure, Director of IT, regarding the 311 line and that there are some things that need to be confirmed. He hoped to have a referral for the next Town Council meeting.

He mentioned that the DPW put on a Styrofoam and shredding event on Saturday and that it was well attended and well organized.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding
[Wayfinding Design Grant](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

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

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the Approval of the Town Manager, to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any Other Enabling Authority to Pay Costs of [Constructing, Reconstructing, Paving, Repairing or Otherwise Improving Streets and Sidewalks](#), Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable Improving Underground Ducts and Conduits and Paying All Other Costs Incidental and Related to Such Street and Sidewalk Work, Including if Necessary, Convenient or Desirable, Underground Duct or Conduit Improvements, and the Payment of All Other Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Premium Received by the Town Upon the Sale of Any Bonds or Notes Approved by this Vote, Less Any Such Premium Applied to the Payment of the Costs of Issuance of Such Bonds or Notes, May be Applied to the Payment of Costs Approved by this Vote in Accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the matter. Mr. St. Louis, Superintendent of the DPW, stated there are seven streets slated for repair: Grandview Avenue, Gertrude Street, Goldie Street, Elmwood Avenue, Alden Road, Sheldon Road, and Hazel Street. The Department received 9 competitive bids and the lowest bidder was selected. Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town would pay for the project over five fiscal years beginning in FY 22 and ending in FY26 at a rate of \$500,000 of principal annually. He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$2,500,000 under Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws or any other enabling authority to pay costs of constructing, reconstructing, paving, repairing or otherwise improving streets and sidewalks, including if necessary, convenient or desirable improving underground ducts and conduits and paying all other costs incidental and related to such street and sidewalk work, including if necessary, convenient or desirable, underground duct or conduit improvements, and the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto. Any premium received by the Town

upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion.

In the discussion that followed, the following matters were addressed:

- This request is for \$2.5 million and at another time there will be a request for a \$1.5 million to be used for longer streets. In addition, the Mount Auburn Street Project will improve the Town's streets
- Getting nine bidders is good for the Town and allows for better pricing; it also speaks to the economy of the Town
- Early bidding helps to have more interest in the bidding process
- The selected bidder is the lowest responsible bidder. The Town is aware of the quality of the work of the bidder and the engineering consultant follows up on its qualifications. Also, it is easy to see the work of the bidder in various locations
- Most cities and towns do not add funding for road improvement; they rely on Chapter 90 Funds, monies received from the state for road maintenance. This year Watertown received \$750,000 from the state. The Town also takes advantage of other road grants.
- The road selection process is a collaborative effort with DPW, the Complete Streets project, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee, and the Tree Warden.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer, with the Approval of the Town Manager, to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$548,000 under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority for the Purpose of Paying Costs of [Installing an Air Conditioning System in the Middle School Cafeteria](#), and All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor. Any Premium Received Upon the Sale of Any Bonds or Notes Approved by this Order, Less Any Such Premium Applied to the Payment of the Costs of Issuance of Such Bonds or Notes, May be Applied to the Payment of Costs Approved by this Order in Accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, Thereby Reducing the Amount Authorized to be Borrowed to Pay Such Costs by a Like Amount

Mr. Driscoll provided initial background. Ms. Kabel, Director of Public Buildings, stated that this is the beginning of a four-phase project to air condition the Middle School. The first phase will provide air conditioning in the cafeteria and the kitchens and these areas were selected because the areas are used daily. Using air conditioning units was considered but the school's new windows do not allow for their usage. The work is anticipated

to begin in June and be done by the beginning of the school year. Mr. Driscoll stated the project would be financed over 10 years beginning FY 22 and ending FY 31.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing; there being no speakers, the Public Hearing was closed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Town Manager, to borrow and/or expend monies in the amount of \$548,000 under M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1) or pursuant to any other enabling authority for the Purpose of Paying Costs of installing an air conditioning system in the Middle School Cafeteria, and all costs incidental and related thereto and to issue bonds or notes of the town therefor. Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this order, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this order in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

The discussion that followed considered these matters:

- The length of repayment years is usually based on the useful life of the item purchased. Also, some items can be paid down early which adds to the high bond rating of the community
- State law regulates the conditions of borrowing
- The type of HVAC is a variant refrigerant flow and will be similar to central air with multiple compressors and units. The equipment will be on the cafeteria roof and not be visible.
- The air conditioning will be completed one floor at a time: Top floor, first floor, and finally the basement. The corridors will not be air conditioned

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

As this will be Ms. Kabel's last meeting, members of the Town Council and the Town Manager thanked Ms. Kabel for her service to the Town and wished her well on her future endeavors.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer in Order to Fund Salary Adjustments for Four [Non-Union Confidential Employees](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that this would be a wage increase for people in the personnel and the Town Manager's Offices for FY 20 – FY 22. The increases would be 2.25% for FY20, 2% for FY 21, and 2% for FY 21.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer in order to fund salary adjustments for four non-union confidential employees; Councilor

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

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer in Order to Fund an [Agreement with the Watertown Police Supervisors Association, MCOP, Local 373](#) Covering the Period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town had reached an agreement with the Police Supervisors Association for a term of three years from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022. The wage increases are 2.25% for FY20, 2% for FY21, and 2% for FY 22. There was also an increase in the education benefit for non-Quinn eligible officers that will affect only one officer. The transfer is for \$195,475 from the Town Council Reserve to various accounts.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize a transfer of \$195,475 to fund an agreement with the Watertown Police Supervisors Association, MCOP, Local 373 covering the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Committee on Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the [Public Arts Master Plan](#) – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Adopt the *Public Arts Master Plan*
2. That the Town Council Refer the Creation of a *Public Arts and Culture Committee* to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning

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

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the *Public Arts Master Plan*; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. In discussion, it was mentioned

- that a person should be hired on a part-time basis to work on the implementation of the plan
- that zoning should be altered to require developers to complete a public art project
- that such Art events showcase local artists and benefit local businesses.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Woodland moved to refer the creation of a *Public Arts and Culture Committee* to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Referral to the Committee on Public Works for the Establishment of a Recycling Committee Given New Information Acquired in the Committee's Public Meeting on October 29, 2020

Councilor Palomba requested this referral because he believed that it did not conflict with the meeting on October 29, 2020 and an ordinance would not be required to create the committee.

In the discussion, a question was raised as to whether this was a new or an ongoing referral. Others felt that the original referral was broad enough to allow for the creation of an Advisory Recycling Committee; it was suggested that this should be pursued before another referral is added. It was mentioned that a compost program works best with an opt in method. With it does not provide is a financial gain, but it does provide for greater sustainable benefits.

Councilor Palomba agreed to revisit the referral in order to give DPW Superintendent St. Louis the opportunity to review the matter.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

[Community Path](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated this matter should be referred to Committee for policy consideration and guidance. Councilor Piccirilli moved to refer the review of the Community Path to Committees on Public Works and Economic Development and Planning; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town has had 2,051 cases of COVID-19 of which 1906 have recovered; 27 Town employees have had the illness; and 33 have died as a result of the virus. DPH will not have more clinics. The Town has vaccinated 1187 people with 300 being over 75. Clinics will not be held in the future unless vaccines become available. Mr. Ramdin, Director of the Board of Health, wanted to thank all those who are assisting with the vaccinations including Anne Marie Gagnon, Council on Aging; Police Chief Lawn; Fire Chief Quinn, Patrick George, Veterans Affairs Director; and Peter Centola, Recreation Director.

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

Councilor Feltner requested information regarding the [Community Path](#), such as the preliminary designs and the Mass Trails grant application.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba reminded people that the Human Services meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2021 was cancelled and, in its place,

would be the Human Services and Economic Development and Planning meeting on the Watertown Housing Plan.

He also mentioned an initiative in Hamilton requiring organic recycling. While this will require a significant effort, there will be cost benefit savings as this trash will not need to be picked up.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that [School Building Committee announced](#) at its February 21, 2021 meeting that

- The Cunniff School will be completed 3 months ahead of schedule (October 2021 v. January 2022);
- The Hosmer School will be completed 7 months ahead of schedule (February 2022 v. September 2022)
- The demolition of the Hosmer School and the renovation of the Hosmer fields will be completed a year ahead of time (August 2022 v. August 2023)
- The schools are net zero certified and came in underbudget

After more than 70 meetings since March 2018, the Town is achieving its goals of providing a high quality 21st Century education for its children and creating sustainable building designs using good financial practices. He also mentioned that on March 3, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., there would be a meeting regarding the High School Project.

Councilor Gannon stated that on February 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. the Subcommittee on Communication of the Charter Review Committee would be meeting to discuss educational materials regarding the Charter Review process.

15. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers at the public forum.

16. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Woodland seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

[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 8 for, 0 against, 0 present on March 23, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021 AT 6:30 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Report of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Regarding the Wayfinding Grant Design – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair – January 21, 2021 –Item 7
2. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Local Road Construction Projects for FY2021 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 8A
3. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Local Road Construction Projects for FY2021 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 18, 2021 – Item 8A
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Addition of Air Conditioning in the Middle School Cafeteria – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 4, 2021 – Item 8B
5. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding the Addition of Air Conditioning in the Middle School Cafeteria – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 18, 2021 – Item 8B
6. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Watertown Town Hall Associates SEIU, Local 888 Agreement with the Town of Watertown– Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – February 18, 2021 – Item 9A
7. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Agreement with Watertown Police Supervisors Association, MCOP, Local 373 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 18, 2021 – Item 9B
8. Report of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning Regarding the Public Arts Master Plan – Kenneth M. Woodland, Chair – February 4, 2021 – Item 10
9. Community Path – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – February 18, 2021 – Item 12
10. Request for Information Regarding the Community Path – Councilor Lisa J. Feltner – February 23, 2021 – Item 13
11. Statement Regarding the Status of School Construction – Councilor Vincent J. Piccirilli – February 23, 2021 – Item 14