



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

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 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, April 27, 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 has only remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/#/watertown/video/5f490e6f9e1d640008a803ae?page=HOME&type=live>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public may 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 may 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, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Councilor Angeline B. Kounelis arrived at 7:29 p.m. 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 for the Town Council to go into Executive Session 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 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

John Foley – 139 Boylston St. – Spoke against the closure of Little Greenough Boulevard and is frustrated that the residents did not receive notice from DCR. He is especially concerned about no longer having access to the parking lot which made it easy for the handicapped to access the area. He requested the Town Council to request DCR to open the access to the street.

There being no other speakers, the Public Forum was closed.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Minutes of the [March 23, 2021 Town Council Meeting](#)

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

B. Minutes of the [March 30, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting](#)

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

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Discussion and Action on the District D Vacancy

Attorney Reich stated that the Town Charter §2-9 provides the mechanism for filling a vacancy. If there is a vacancy in the second twelve months of the term, an appointment may be made by a vote of not less than 6 Councilors. The Town Council may choose to hold a special election after a vote of not less than 6 Councilors; the election must be at least 64 days from the date that the election

is called. Because the language is discretionary, the Council may choose to not fill the vacancy.

Council President Sideris stated that the Charter is unclear as to whether the vacancy must be filled by a resident of District D, but it is implied. He felt that getting six votes is a high bar and may be difficult to obtain. To start the appointment, the Council must establish a process that would require the creation of an ad hoc committee to define the process. This would take a few weeks to complete, then the interview process would begin, this would not be completed until late June/early July. While it may seem like there is no representation for District D, the district is being served by four At-Large Councilors and the Council President.

The discussion was opened to the members. Some members felt that a District Councilor should be appointed and that the process would not take an extended time period. It was clarified that if a person were appointed, chose to run for the seat, and were defeated, that person's term would end as soon as the elected Councilor is sworn in; the term for the Councilor would only be from the time of appointment to the election.

Councilor Piccirilli moved for the Council to move forward with a process to fill the vacant seat for District D by appointment; Councilor Bays seconded the motion.

The Councilors discussed the matter:

- It might be better to leave the seat vacant until the first week of November rather than to proceed with a process
- The appointment should be from District D
- The appointment might give a candidate an unfair advantage in the election; however, others saw it as an opportunity to bring someone new in who would learn the position and be able to continue it if they liked it
- There is sufficient representation with five Councilors – the four At-Large and the Council President
- It is difficult to learn the process of the Council if one has never served before due to the large learning curve
- The Council should not step aside from its duty to fill the position

Councilor Piccirilli moved clarify the motion to read: To begin the process to be defined by an ad hoc subcommittee appointed by the Council President to fill the District D seat by appointment and to make recommendations to the Town Council; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. Councilor Gannon suggested a friendly amendment that the appointee be someone who will not run for the seat in November. Council President Sideris stated that this would be a condition that the subcommittee could suggest as part of the process.

The motion passed on a roll call vote of 4–3– 1. Those voting in the affirmative were Councilors Bays, Feltner, Gannon, and Palomba; those voting in the negative were Councilors Donato and Piccirilli and Council President Sideris. Councilor Kounelis voted present as she had not been available for the entire discussion.

8. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

Proclamation Celebrating [Arbor Day 2021](#)

Council President Sideris read the Arbor Day Proclamation. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the proclamation; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

9. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. Driscoll stated that the Town had reached an agreement with the Watertown Police Association for a contract beginning July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2022. Base wages would increase 2.25% for the first year of the contract; 2% for the second year; and 2% for the third year. He urged the support of the agreement and the transfer \$337,200 to fund the agreement.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the transfer of \$337,200 from the Town Council Reserve to fund the agreement with the Watertown Police Association covering the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. First Reading on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$1,050,000 Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the Costs of [Sewer System Improvements at Various Locations](#) Throughout the Town, and for the Payment of All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Borrowing Pursuant to this Order May Be Obtained through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Infiltration and Inflow Local Assistance Program and in Connection Therewith to Enter into a Loan Agreement and/or Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority and Otherwise to Contract with the Authority with Respect to Such Loan and for Any Grants or Aid Available for the Project or for the Financing Thereof; that the Town Manager is Authorized to Accept and Expend Any Grants or Aid Available

for the Project or for the Financing Thereof, Provided That the Amount of the Authorized Borrowing for the Project Shall be Reduced by the Amount of Any Such Grants or Aid Received; and That 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 background on this request and that this matter would be heard and voted upon at the next Town Council meeting. The loan order would be for a sewer assistance project costing \$1,050,000; funds would consist of \$787,500 from a grant and \$262,500 from an interest loan order.

- C. First Reading on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount of \$500,000 Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 8(5) of the General Laws, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the Costs of [Water System Improvements at Various Locations](#) Throughout the Town, and for the Payment of All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Borrowing Pursuant to this Order May Be Obtained Through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Local Water Service Assistance Program and in Connection Therewith to Enter into a Loan Agreement and/or Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority and Otherwise to Contract with the Authority with Respect to Such Loan and for Any Grants or Aid Available for the Project or for the Financing Thereof; that the Town Manager is Authorized to Accept and Expend Any Grants or Aid Available for the Project or for the Financing Thereof, Provided that the Amount of the Authorized Borrowing for the Project Shall Be Reduced by the Amount of Any Such Grants or Aid Received; and that 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 background on this request and that this matter would be heard and voted upon at the next Town Council meeting. The loan order would be for \$500,000; funding would derive from an interest free loan from MWRA to replace outdated cast iron mains.

- D. First Reading on a Proposed Order Authorizing the Town Treasurer with the Approval of the Town Manager to Borrow and/or Expend Monies in the Amount \$600,000 Under and Pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(1) of the General Laws, or Pursuant to Any Other Enabling Authority, and to Issue

Bonds or Notes of the Town Therefor for the Costs of [Replacing Lead Pipes that Connect Service Lines to Water Mains](#), Including All Costs Incidental and Related Thereto. Any Borrowing Pursuant to this Order May Be Obtained Through the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Lead Service Line Replacement Program and in Connection Therewith to Enter into a Loan Agreement and/or Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority and Otherwise to Contract with the Authority with Respect to Such Loan and for Any Grants or Aid Available for the Project or for the Financing Thereof; that the Town Manager is Authorized to Accept and Expend Any Grants or Aid Available for the Project or For the Financing Thereof, Provided that the Amount of the Authorized Borrowing for the Project Shall Be Reduced by the Amount of Any Such Grants or Aid Received; and that 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 background on this request and that this matter would be heard and voted upon at the next Town Council meeting. The loan order would be for a \$600,000 (consisting of funding for FY20 and FY21 funding of \$300,000 for each year) at 0% interest payable over ten years from MWRA for lead pipe replacement.

E. First Reading on an [Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor's Salary](#)

Council President Sideris stated that this matter would be considered at the next meeting.

F. First Reading on an [Ordinance Amending the Town Council Clerk's Salary](#)

Council President Sideris stated that this matter would be considered at the next meeting.

G. First Reading on a Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Mr. Driscoll will talk about this in the budget presentation. He asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration to bring up in the budget discussion.

10. NEW BUSINESS

There were no new business requests from the Town Council.

11. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Board of Assessors

Mr. Driscoll requested the Town Council to confirm the reappointment of Kathleen Colleary for a term to expire on April 15, 2021. Under the Town Council Rules, this matter would be referred to the Committee on Personnel and Town Organization for review.

B. Submission of the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Mr. Driscoll presented a budget for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). The overview previously presented projected a revenue surplus of \$262,000 related to an aggressive CIP program, a fully funded retirement program, a long-range funding system for OPEB, and the Building for the future School facilities. There will a fully funded retirement system on July 1, 2021 as well as movement on the schools proposal. There were eight areas of concern:

- **COVID – 19**

As of April 23, 2021, there were 2,352 of probable COVID cases in Watertown; 2,250 have recovered; 37 town employees have been infected; and 35 fatalities have occurred. All departments have been practicing social distancing and recommended hygiene protocols. Mr. Driscoll thanked the citizens for their cooperation with the protocols and in limiting the spread of the virus.

- **CARES ACT**

These are funds from Massachusetts government to offset costs of providing COVID related costs. The Town received \$3,169,982 in the fall of 2020. These funds have been used for free resident testing, testing of employees, vaccination clinics, related technical upgrades, personal protection equipment (PPE), and building alterations.

- **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) estimates that more than \$2 billion in direct aid will be provided to Massachusetts communities under this program. The funds will be provided in two blocks in 2021 and 2022 and will be available to use until 2024. The allocations will be based on the most recent census data. The Town is waiting for guidance from the Treasury Department regarding its use; these funds are not included in the budget being presented.

- **MARIJUANA MITIGATION STABILIZATION FUND**

The funds collected as a result of the Host Agreements are not included in the budget; rather it is being suggested that these funds be placed in a stabilization fund to hold the fees until the Town is ready to appropriate the monies for a specific purpose.

- **BOND MARKET**

The Town retains its AAA rating from Standard and Poor; Moody's upgraded the Town's rating from Aa2 to Aa1, the second highest rating. The Town in January went to bond \$59,360,000; 20-year general obligation bonds to refinance the construction financing for the Hosmer and Cunniff Schools at a net interest rate of 1.343%. The Town received a net premium

of \$7,215,000 that was applied to the bond issue reducing the total obligation to \$52,145,000. In April, the Town issued another set of bonds for \$43,783,800 for the schools, street and sidewalk improvements, Middle School renovations, a new ambulance, Public Safety System Infrastructure, and the Building Elevator improvements for an average interest rate of 1.466%. The Town also received a net premium of \$4,693,800 to be applied to the bond issue reducing the obligation to \$39,090,000.

▪ **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT**

The budgeting for this program is in a special revolving fund and is not included in budget. On May 20, 2021, there will be a community meeting to conclude the Committee's planning process prior to adopting its 5-year plan. The CPC will accept funding applications that will be due in December and then make recommendations to the Town Council in the Spring.

▪ **ICUBED**

Alexandria Real Estate is in discussion with the Town regarding the mitigation of the plan and is gathering information to submit to the Commonwealth as to whether any future economic activity could qualify for ICUBED funding. If yes, then Alexandria would submit a new EDP to the Town for approval and submission to the Commonwealth.

▪ **STATE AID**

Due to uncertain conditions, the Town projected state funds of \$10,565,000 for State Aid, the amount received in FY21; however, the projected aid for FY22 is now \$13,481,781 or \$1,526,169 above the FY 21 amount.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2021 BUDGET

The proposed amendment, which will be voted on at the next Town Council meeting would total \$9,440,000 and be used in the following manner:

- * \$6,500,000 – The initial appropriation for the establishment of an Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund
- * \$2,500,000 – The initial appropriation for the establishment of a New High School Stabilization Fund
- * \$440,000 – An appropriation from the Collective Bargaining Stabilization Fund to replenish the Town Council Reserve Account
- * \$100,000 – An appropriation to hire a consultant to review and update the Comprehensive Plan
- * \$29,500 – An appropriation to provide a Master Plan/Feasibility Study for Phillips School/Senior Center site to identify future CIP funding

NEW POSITIONS – FY 22

New positions that are being include in the FY22 budget:

- * Deputy Town Manager
- * Finance and Accounting Reporting Coordinator in the Auditor's Office to work with outside agencies
- * Information Technology Munis Database Administrator
- * Planner

- * ½ Clerk for the Department of Community Development and Planning
- * ½ Clerk for the Personnel Department
- * Public Buildings Custodian
- * Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator
- * Public Works Construction Permit Inspector
- * Community Outreach Librarian
- * Sewer Supervisor

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FY 2022 BUDGET

- ✓ Fully funded Retirement System as of July 1, 2021 with an appropriation of \$7,509,084
- ✓ Funding Plan to Fund the OPEB Liability of \$115,370,918; it will be funded at \$6,698,124 for FY 22
- ✓ Funding of the Three Elementary Schools – the financing of \$170,000,000 project with an appropriation of \$9,808,364 for FY 22. It is anticipated that \$50,023,109 will be borrowed in FY 22
- ✓ The Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund will have a \$6,500,000 appropriation for FY 2021 and an annual appropriation of \$1,500,000 thereafter for the years FY 2022 – 2025 for a total of \$12,500,000
- ✓ The New High School Stabilization Fund will begin with an appropriation of \$2,500,000 for FY 2021 and an annual appropriation of \$3,000,000 thereafter for the years FY 2022 – 2025 for a total of \$14,500,000
- ✓ New High School Project – A Preferred Schematic Report (PSR) will be presented to the MSBA on July 7, 2021; this submission will complete the Feasibility Study Phase. The Schematic Design will then begin. Once completed in December, the Town will seek MSBA approval. It is anticipated that the funding for the new High School will be done within the confines of Proposition 2 ½, meaning there will be no request for debt exclusion financing.

FY 2022 FINANCES

- * The total revenues and expenditures are \$164,430,000, an increase of \$976,720 over the revised FY 21 Budget
- * Local real and personal property taxes will be \$131,476,106 representing 79.96% of the FY 22 Revenues
- * New Growth is estimated to be \$6,000,000
- * Local receipts
 - ☞ Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) funds will decrease by \$919,248 due to the sale of Tufts Health Plan property; however, the property will now be subject to regular taxation
 - ☞ Investment Income will decrease by \$250,000, a decrease of 50%
 - ☞ Fines and Forfeits will decrease by \$100,000
 - ☞ Meals excise will increase by \$137,500 in anticipation of a resumption of the restaurant business

- ☞ Motor Vehicle Excise will increase by \$185,000 but this is still \$435,000 less than was anticipated in FY 21
- * Other Financing Sources
 - ☞ A decrease of \$10,250,000 in the utilization of Free Cash to cover costs of COVID and funding of a land acquisition stabilization fund and a High School stabilization fund
 - ☞ Real and Personal Property Taxes will increase \$9,084,783
 - ☞ State Aid will increase \$1,526,169
 - ☞ Local Receipts will decrease \$919,248
 - ☞ Other Financing Resources will decrease \$8,714,984
- * Significant Expenditures
 - ☞ Debt Service for the Elementary Schools will increase by \$7,974,988
 - ☞ OPEB funding will increase by \$4,319,107
 - ☞ Pension Funding will decrease by \$7,079,095
 - ☞ Capital Projects will decrease by \$5,477,368
 - ☞ Education will increase by \$1,817,806
 - ☞ Public Works will increase by \$454,313
 - ☞ Public Safety will increase by \$282,524

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

- * Capital programs for FY 2022-2026 totals \$428,332,200, a decrease of \$95,818,300 from the FY 2021 – 2025 CIP request

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE INITIATIVE

- * By leasing the St. Jude School in Waltham as a swing space, the building of the Cunniff and the Hosmer Schools will be completed two years earlier than anticipated.
- * Construction of the Cunniff School will be completed in October 2021 and Hosmer School will be completed in February 2022
- * Construction of the Lowell School will begin in early 2022 and be completed by the summer of 2023
- * The borrowing schedule for the schools is

Fiscal Year 2020 - \$	16,521,891
Fiscal Year 2021 - \$	103,455,500
Fiscal Year 2022 - \$	<u>50,023,109</u>
	\$170,000,000

WATER AND SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGETS

- * The budget for FY22 will be \$19,689,313, an increase of \$619,063
- * An Assistant Superintendent of Utilities full-time position will be added
- * The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) assessment is \$11,043,978, an increase of \$459,969
- * Water and Sewer CIP for FY2022 – 2026 is \$22,670,000

- * Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements for the same period will be \$36,100,000

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

Division of Local Services

- * A Deputy Town Manager will be added to be responsible for communication and enhancing community engagement

General Government

- * The appropriation is \$7,638,935, an increase of \$791,990 to fund 52 full-time and 7 part-time employees in 14 departments
- * Six positions are being added to increase the number of employees to 58 full-time and 5 part-time employees

Elections

There will be a

- * Preliminary Town Election – September 14, 2021
- * General Town Election – November 2, 2021

Community Development and Planning

The major goals of the Department are

- * Completing an update of the Comprehensive Plan
- * Funding the Pleasant Street Shuttle with a \$96,000 appropriation to begin service later in 2021
- * Adding a Planner to assist with development projects, to staff the Public Arts and Culture Committee, and to assist with the implementation of adopted policies
- * Changing a part-time Clerk to a full-time one in the Building Inspector's Office to better serve the community
- * Funding to update the Open Space and Recreation Plan

Information Technology

- * The budget will be \$1,333,263, an increase of \$133,975
- * A Munis/Database Administrator will be added

Department of Public Buildings

- * The budget will be \$1,056,171, an increase of \$35,136
- * A Junior Day Custodian will be added

State and County Charges

- * The appropriation is \$2,978,693, an increase of \$162,061
- * The MBTA assessment is \$2,421,481 or 81% of the appropriation

Retirement Benefits & OPEB

- * The funding level of the FY22 pension plan is \$7,509,084, a decrease of \$7,079,095 from the previous year
- * OPEB funding is \$6,698,124, an increase of \$4,319,107 from the previous year

Insurance and Employee Benefits

- * The appropriation is \$15,448,054, an increase of \$1,082,868

Public Safety - Police

- * The appropriation is \$10,607,923, an increase of \$102,690
- * This amount will continue the personnel level at 70 uniformed Police Officers: 52 Patrol Officers, 9 Dispatchers, 4 Civilian employees, 2 Mental Health Clinicians and Crossing Guards
- * The School Resource Officer will continue for the 2021-2022 school year
- * The Police Force received re-accreditation in 2018 from Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission; a reassessment will be conducted in 2021 and is a partner in Communities for Restorative Justice Program
- * The Police Department is awaiting the regulations related to the enactment of the of the Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth and will work to be in compliance with these regulations

Public Safety - Fire

- * The appropriation will be \$11,596,756, an increase of \$178,680
- * Personnel include 87 Firefighters, 2 civilian positions operating from three fire stations and providing Basic Life Support fire/rescue ambulance service and Advanced Life Support services to the community

Department of Public Works

- * The budget is \$6,387,861, an increase of \$454,313 and does not include the costs for waste disposal and snow and ice removal
- * Personnel will be increased to include a Recycling/Solid Waste Coordinator and Public Works Construction Permit Inspector
- * There will be 36 employees and 1 part-time employee.
- * The Snow and Ice Removal appropriation will be \$1,500,000
- * The current sanitation and recycling contract with Republic Services will expire on June 30, 2022; the appropriation for this service is \$3,692,300, an increase of \$294,035

Health and Human Services – Health, Veterans’ Services, and Council on Aging

- * The budget for these services will continue to provide services with the same number of personnel of 16 (13 full-time and 3 part-time employees)
- * Added funds have been included for Public Health Nurse services
- * The Senior Shuttle Bus will be replaced at a cost of \$150,000

Recreation and Skating Arena

- * The budget for the Recreation Department is \$400,922 and the budget for the Arena is \$492,718 with a staff of 6 between the two programs and additional seasonal personnel

Library

- * The Library will receive funding for a Community Outreach Librarian to raise awareness of services to unserved or underserved people and for additional electronic materials
- * The appropriation is \$3,433,498, an increase of \$173,207 and complies with the MA Board of Library Commissioners municipal appropriation requirement which allows the Town to be eligible for Grants and to be a member of the Minuteman Library Network

Education

- * The School appropriation will be \$53,755,121, an increase of \$1,817,806
- * The Schools will be creating a multi-year budget to provide sustainable funding for the schools and the education of the students

EXPENDITURE FORECAST

- * The expenditures represent a projected 2.5% annual increase for FY 23-25 for the Departments and a 3.5% projected annual increase for the Schools for the same time period

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

Councilor Gannon stated that local communities will be receiving funding under the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. MMA has estimated that the total combined allocations will be about \$13,500,000 and may be used in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations. He asked for [an accounting of the amounts the Town receives and how they will be used.](#)

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Gannon thanked all those who volunteered to drop the Charter Review flier to Watertown homes. About 85% of the town was canvassed and the remaining few routes will be completed soon. He thanked the Communications Subcommittee for preparing the flier.

Councilor Piccirilli stated that the Town's ability to spend \$170,000,000 for three schools without an override budget was great, but then to add the payment of the High School without an override is amazing. In addition, the Town has a fully paid pension plan, a trust fund to pay the OPEB liability, funds for open space, and the addition of a half-dozen positions. He thanked all who were involved in creating the budget, including the Department heads and the Schools, and his Council colleagues for helping to bring about this successful financial management program.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Mary Russo – She stated the Town Manager's report was a great one and wanted to know how to get copies and information. She wanted to have access to School Building Committee's presentation on the High School especially as it related to dimensions. Council President Sideris stated that the information would be on the website the next day.

Dr. Deanne Galdston, Superintendent of Schools –On behalf of the Schools, she wanted to express her deep gratitude to the Town Manager, the Town Council, and the community for their support of the schools and promised that to make the most of the buildings in appreciation of the support received.

John Portz, Chair, School Committee – He stated this was an extraordinary commitment by the Administration, Town Council and others. The School funding is an incredible investment. Now people can see what is coming as the schools are being built. He thanked everyone for their similar commitment to the building of the High School and that this feat is unprecedented in the Commonwealth. The current High School has served the community for over 100 years, but now there is a need for a new building. He thanked everyone for their financial support and the Town Manager especially for his financial leadership.

15. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 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 May 25, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Minutes of the March 23, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 6A
2. Minutes of the March 30, 2021 Town Council Meeting – Item 6B
3. Proclamation Celebrating Arbor Day 2021 – Item 8
4. Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request Regarding the Watertown Police Association – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to the Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 9A
5. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Sewer System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 9B
6. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Water System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 9C
7. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Lead Line Replacement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council, April 22, 2021 – Item 9D
8. Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor’s Salary - Item 9E
9. Ordinance Amending the Town Council Clerk’s Salary – Item 9F
10. Request for Confirmation – Reappointment to Board of Assessors – Kathleen Colleary for a Term to Expire on May 15, 2024 – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 11A
11. Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Town of Watertown – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 27, 2021 – Item 11B
12. Request for Information Regarding the Accounting of the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Funding – Councilor John G. Gannon – April 27, 2021 – Item 12