



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, MAY 11, 2021, AT 6:15 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, May 11, 2021, at 6:15 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): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- 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 6:15 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., 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 – 6:15 p.m.
To Discuss Strategy with Respect to Litigation – Workers’ Compensation Claim

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Workers’ Compensation Claim; 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

James Mello – Strongly advised the Town Council that the position of a District D should not be filled. He felt it was an undue burden on the person named because there would only be 5 or 6 Town Council meetings left until the election and that the inexperienced person would need to attend Committee hearings as well. As a resident of District D, he felt that the representation by the At-Large Councilors and the Council President were sufficient for the remaining time period.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Council President Sideris notified the public of the Budget Hearing. As the community is constrained by still having zoom meetings, he stated during the discussions there would be no presentations but that representatives of the Departments would be available to answer questions. There would be a Special Town Council Meeting on June 8, 2021 to pass the budget.

The budget would be available online and that if anyone wanted a physical copy they should contact Mr. Tracy for one.

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

Proclamation Regarding [Older Americans Month 2021](#)

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition for a Grant of Location from NTSAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Install Installation in Irving Street, Northerly from Pole 78114A, a Distance of Approximately 18+/- Feet. The Reason for the Proposed Work is to Provide [Permanent Electrical Service to 101 North Beacon Street Development](#). Upon Completion of the Department of Public Work’s

Review, Said Work Is Subject to the Recommendations and Conditions Listed in the Attached Document and Are Being Submitted for Consideration by the Town Council Should the Grant of Location be Approved for This Application

Council President Sideris stated that the Council was concerned at the previous meeting that there would an additional pole installed on the street. The developer was willing to dig a trench in the street but was told by Eversource that he could not do so. He asked the utility representatives to address this matter.

The representatives stated that they met with the developer, the Town Engineer, and the designer to discuss the various options. The existing infrastructure is a lower voltage system than is needed to provide service. To create a higher voltage system would require considerable infrastructure to get the service to the location. The easiest way to service the development is to provide overhead service on Irving Street. Each surrounding pole being used as either a riser, a switch pole, or a transformer pole. The added pole is the best option because the others are being totally utilized.

In the Council discussion that followed, these items were discussed:

- The explanation is inadequate; it is the easiest route, but not the best solution. There will be more development in the area and the utilities should be building capacity not adding poles.
- Concerns regarding additional poles were brought up during planning. This concept is short sighted seeing that there is a desire to bury the infrastructure and the developer is willing to dig the necessary trenches.
- This added pole would be within 20 feet of one pole and 108 feet of the other. While it is understood that the poles are maxed out, another solution has to be offered because the current option is inappropriate.
- There is a pole at the corner of North Beacon and Irving Street that has a 15 K line that goes down a riser to a manhole and it should be able to be used. It seems that it would be relatively easy to run a line from the manhole to a pad mounted transformer on site. A location would be needed for the switch and could take up a considerable amount of property in a project where the land is tight.
- The utility layout is tight in that corridor: a 12" drain line, a 10" water line, an 8" sewer pipe, and a 6" gas line. In addition, there is a 20" MWRA line in the area that has unique requirements regarding construction within 10 feet of the line.
- To use the option from 5-6 houses away would create a higher impact on the neighbors and additional outages. It was clarified later that the outages would relate mainly to street and road conditions. Utility outages would be momentary and not for extended periods of time.

- While the immediate impact on traffic is not desired, it seems the long-term interest of the Town requires a solution for the area.
- Pole 16 could be used with a few changes to the transformer; however, there is an RCN line there that would prevent the ability to add curbing for any future development. The only corridor for access to the development would be along the curb line and that could complicate putting in curbing in the future in that area.

Council President Sideris stated that the project is ready for power, but the solution offered seems to be the easiest way out, something the Council is not prepared to do; therefore, he stopped the discussion and opened up the public hearing.

Frank French – Developer of 101 North Beacon Condominiums – He stated that he has been trying to obtain a permanent power solution for 18 months and has worked with all interested parties to find a solution. He is seeking a solution to keep the project viable. He did mention that pursuing the construction in the road would be cumbersome and that the effects of using the RCN pole should be considered.

Elodia Thomas – She felt that this issue consistently comes up late in the project for the Council to consider. The information provided is insufficient and the Town needs to consider implementing a long-range plan for the utilities.

There being no other speakers the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Palomba moved to have the interested parties prepare plus/minus sheets on the available options for use to complete a vote at the next meeting; Councilor Bays seconded the motion.

Council President Sideris stated that he was not comfortable putting this on the next agenda going through another session with the same options; it does not seem to solve the problem of the extra pole.

Attorney Reich stated that the Town Council does not have the role of picking a utility option; its responsibility is to hear the utility's proposal and either approve or disapprove it. He suggested that the Council continue the matter and have the Department of Public Works continue to work with the developer and the utility to address the questions raised and to report back at a future meeting with a resolution or with answers. It was clarified that if the petitions were voted down, there would not be any time penalty placed on the requests and that the Council is allowed to place conditions on the request.

It was stated that the petitioners did not provide a more comprehensive preparation regarding the options at this meeting than the last; a more thorough analysis was needed for the Council in order to make an informed decision.

Based on the discussion, Councilor Palomba withdrew his motion and Councilor Bays withdrew her second. Councilor Piccirilli moved to table both utility petitions until the next meeting to allow the petitioners to provide more options. Council President Sideris asked that the motion be amended to read at a future time in to prevent a discussion with no substance at the next meeting. Councilor Piccirilli moved to table the petitions to a future meeting to allow time for the petitioners to explore all options and return with more detailed petitions; Councilor Bays seconded the motion. It was stated that both petitions would be tabled as they are intertwined. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition for a Grant of Location from Verizon for the Installation of One (1) JO Pole, P.14A, on the Westerly Side of Irving Street at a Point Approximately 20-feet Southerly from Existing Pole, P.14 and Said Point Also Approximately 108-feet Northerly from Existing Pole, P.15. The Reason for the Proposed Work is [to Provide Utility Services to 101 North Beacon Street](#). Upon Completion of the Department of Public Works Review, Said Work Is Subject to the Recommendations and Conditions Listed in the Attached Document and Are Being Submitted for Consideration by the Town Council Should the Grant of Location be Approved for This Application

This matter was not discussed because it was intertwined with the request in Item 8A.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing and Vote 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 the Loan Order. Mr. St. Louis, Superintendent of Public Works, stated there is a need to remove groundwater and drainage water entering the sewer system for which the Town is metered and pays; this is mandated by MWRA and MDC. The funds will be used for lining pipes, disconnecting drains from sewers, and investigating 75 miles of sewer primarily on the east side of town. There will be an analysis of the sewer and a determination of the condition of pipes. Mr. Driscoll stated that this work has an impact on the Town's water and sewer rates. The grant payments for the \$1,050,000 loan will start in FY22 and end in FY26; 75% of the funds will be from an MWRA grant and 25% from an interest free loan.

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 \$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; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

Mr. St. Louis assured the Council that abutters would be notified of the work in advance of the construction. The Department then inspects each manhole along a designated route.

An area is selected if it has a history of breakage or if material is found in the pipe allowing the sediment to settle; this can be detrimental to their operation. Engineering studies are considered as well as EPA when selecting areas of review. Camera inspections of the drains are completed before loan request is made.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- B. Public Hearing and Vote 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 the request. Mr. St. Louis stated that the Town continues to look at the water mains and to improve the water model and GIS. The objective is to reduce rust in the pipes, especially along the pipe walls and to extend their life span. Work will be concentrated on Bromfield Street with the replacement of 12" pipes. Mr. Driscoll stated the funding would come from an interest-free loan with payments beginning in FY 2022 and ending in 2031.

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 \$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; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- C. Public Hearing and Vote 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; Mr. St. Louis then stated that this project would provide two years of financing to remove lead goosenecks for 90 services or about 10% of lead in use in Town. There is a program at the state to get the lead out of the pipes that provides financing on a first come first serve basis. The funds will be utilized as a way of getting ahead of the curve on the remaining lead in the water pipes and will be along the Main, Belmont, and Waverly Streets area. Mr. Driscoll stated this would be an interest free loan with payment beginning in FY 2022 and ending in FY 2031.

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 \$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; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

D. Public Hearing and Vote on an [Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor's Salary](#)

Council President Sideris stated the increase provides for FY 2020 a 2.25% salary increase, a 1.5% cost of living adjustment, and a 1.5% performance bonus and for FY 2021, there is a 2% cost of living adjustment and a 1.5% performance bonus. He thanked Mr. Tracy for his significant efforts especially with COVID preparations and assisting the Collector's Office which currently has no Treasurer.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Mary Russo - She asked for a breakdown of the salary.

Council President Sideris stated that the base salary was \$115,544; the COLA was \$2,600 for \$118,144 and a performance bonus of \$1,772 for a total of \$119, 916. For FY 2021, the COLA was \$2,398 for a salary of \$122,314 plus the performance bonus of \$1,835 for a total salary of \$124,149.

There being no other speakers, Council President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the ordinance amending the Town Clerk's salary; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

E. Public Hearing and Vote on an [Ordinance Amending the Town Council Clerk's Salary](#)

Council President Sideris stated the Town Clerk's rate would increase to an hourly rate of \$24.91. He thanked the Clerk for her service especially during the pandemic.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Mary Russo - Thanked both the Council Clerk and the Town Auditor for their hard work and efforts and felt the raises were very well deserved.

There being no other speakers, Council President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the ordinance amending the Town Clerk's salary; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

F. Public Hearing and Vote on a [Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget](#)

Mr. Driscoll stated that on the revenue side \$9,440,000 would be used to

- Establish two stabilization funds by using \$9,000,000 of free cash and
- Transfer \$440,000 from the Collective Stabilization Fund to replenish the Town Council Reserve

On the expenditure side, the funds would be used to

- Transfer \$440,000 funds from the Collective Bargaining Stabilization Fund after obtaining agreements with all 6 bargaining units to replenish the Town Council Reserve
- Hire a consult to review and update the Comprehensive Plan for \$100,000
- Complete a Master Plan/Feasibility Study for the Phillips School/Senior Center site and to identify future CIP funding for a cost of \$29,000. AI3 Architects will look to maximize the use of the site.
- Establish an Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund for \$6,500,000; the funds to be used for large capital expenditures to acquire land
- Establish a High School Stabilization Fund with an appropriation of \$2,500,000

Mr. Driscoll stated the Department of Revenue has certified that the Town currently retains \$18,300,000 in Free Cash. The Town Council has created a policy that the Free Cash revenues should be maintained at 8-15% of the Town Budget. With these proposed expenditures, the fund balance will be reduced to 5.28%; however, this shortfall will be offset with the purchase of the Tufts Health Building. With the sale of the building, the Town will lose \$700,000 in PILOT funding, but it will be able to tax the building as a business. As a result, the Free Cash revenues will be replenished with \$5,100,000 due from the taxing of the building before the end of the Fiscal Year. The Free Cash will increase to a balance of \$13,700,000 maintaining the Free Cash Balance at 8.4% of the Town Budget to be within policy guidelines.

Mr. Driscoll asked for the Town Council's favorable consideration of the budget amendment and the establishment of the two stabilization funds.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

Mary Russo – Asked if the allocation to the Phillips School was to refurbish it and if the sale of the Watertown Mall were to occur would there be a similar tax bump as there is with the sale of the Tufts Health Building.

Mr. Driscoll responded by stating the Phillips School request is for a study on how to maximize the use of the site, and not to refurbish it. If the Watertown Mall site were sold there would not be such a substantial increase in revenue because the Mall is currently being taxed as a business while the Tufts Health Building was a tax-exempt property that was paying a reduced PILOT payment.

James Mello – Stated that this was great news: The Town will be able to put aside money for new projects and maintain a sound funding basis. He congratulated the Town Manager and The Town for this.

Elodia Thomas – 67 Marion Road – Stated she was elated and excited about this request and thanked the Town Manager and the Town Council for doing this

Leo Martin – Thanked the Town Council and Town Manager for this, especially the approval for the acquisition of open space. He appreciated everyone's efforts for making this happen.

Council President Sideris closed the Public Hearing.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the budget amendment totaling \$9,440,000; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

In the discussion, it was clarified that the request for the Phillips School building was not to renovate but to consider its possible use through a feasibility study. Mr. Driscoll stated there are not enough funds at this time to make any changes in the building.

When asked what the purpose of the High School Stabilization Fund was and if it was necessary, Mr. Driscoll stated the plan was to have \$14,500,000 saved in the next 5-6 years and that it should be considered as a method of saving funds for the project needs. He stated that while he was uncertain as to whether the fund was necessary, he was certain that this is a prudent step to take.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt a resolution to establish the Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund and to appropriate \$6,500,000 to the fund; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

Councilor Piccirilli read the resolution. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt a resolution to establish a New High School Stabilization Fund and to appropriate \$2,500,000 to the fund; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. Councilor Piccirilli read the resolution. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

10. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

Consideration and Action on a Proposed Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Cambridge Related to [Replacement of Sidewalks on Belmont Street that are Located in Watertown.](#)

Mr. Driscoll provided background on the municipal agreement. This repair would be on Belmont Street in the area between Mount Auburn Street and 88 Belmont Street. The sidewalk is owned by Cambridge to the north and Watertown to the South. The staff has collaborated with Cambridge and worked to meet town standards for the construction. By doing the mutual agreement, this allows for the opportunity to minimize disruption to the neighbors. Also, the cooperative agreement allows for more competitive pricing.: Cambridge's cost will be \$3,000,000 while Watertown's costs will be \$383,000. This project will replace substandard water pipes and fire hydrants.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the intermunicipal agreement with the City of Cambridge related to the replacement of sidewalks on Belmont Street that are located in Watertown; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

In the wording to the agreement, a concern was raised that there be no gap in the improvements between 88 and 94 Belmont Street. If the Town will be inspecting the work, the issue of spawling, or pitting, in the sidewalk needs to be considered. There is a need for quality control for the materials; otherwise, it compromises the work and the longevity of the product. Contractors need to be held accountable.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Due to the lateness of the evening and the nine Committee Reports, Council President Sideris asked the Chairs to make their reports with a brief executive summary rather than reading the extended reports. He urged the public to read the detailed reports to obtain their comprehensive discussions.

A. Ad Hoc Committee on District D Councilor Vacancy Report Regarding the [Process for Selection to Fill the District D Vacancy](#) – Anthony J. Donato, Chair

Councilor Donato read the Committee Report regarding the process for the selection to fill the District D vacancy. He stated the report was sent to Attorney Reich who reviewed the matter and made some revisions that are posted to the report. In addition, no action was voted upon with a formal roll call as required by COVID 19 Open Meeting Law standards.

Attorney Reich stated that a roll call vote is needed to effectuate action; but because no action was formally taken and placed on the agenda, no action may be taken due to a lack of notice. As this is a substantive matter, Council

President Sideris felt the best method for dealing with this issue was to have the committee reconvene to make a specific Action Item.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the committee report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

Councilor Gannon asked that the report be amended to reflect that he was an attendee at the meeting.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend his motion to accept the report as amended to reflect that Councilor Gannon was an attendee; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

B. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding the [Department of Public Health Needs](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

Councilor Palomba read the Committee report regarding the Department of Public Health needs. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the committee report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Report Regarding a [Town Council Newsletter, Kitchen Table Conversations, and Changes to the Town Council Website Page](#) – Anthony Palomba, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Create a Quarterly Newsletter Which Will Include Information on Town Councilors, a Calendar, a Message from the President, Updates About Council Business, Information About Town and Town Council Functions and a Related Link, in Coordination with The Town Council Clerk and the IT Department with the Goal of Publishing the First Edition in January of 2022.
2. That the Town Council Approve a Request to the IT Department, Via the Town Council President, to Work with the Town Council Clerk to Update the Town Council's page on the Town's Website in the following way: Include Town Councilors' Photos with Short Biographies, Council Committees and Assignments with Links to Committee Agendas, Minutes, and Active Referrals by Year, Council Orders, Resolutions, and Proclamations, Links to Ordinances and Regulations, and List of Council Actions.

Councilor Palomba read the Committee report regarding a Town Council newsletter, Kitchen Table Conversations, and changes to the Town Council website page. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Feltner seconded the report. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Palomba moved that the Town Council create a quarterly newsletter which will include information on Town Councilors, a calendar, a message from the President, updates about Council Business, information about Town and Town Council functions and a related link, in coordination with The Town Council Clerk and the IT Department with the goal of publishing the first edition in January of 2022; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Palomba moved approve a request to the IT Department, via the Town Council President, to work with the Town Council Clerk to update the Town Council's page on the Town's website in the following way: Include Town Councilors' photos with short biographies, Council Committees and assignments with links to Committee agendas, minutes, and active referrals by year, Council Orders, Resolutions, and Proclamations, links to Ordinances and Regulations, and list of Council actions; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- D. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding [Current Operations and Services Provided by the Watertown Police Department](#) as of March 12, 2021 – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair

Councilor Feltner read the Committee report. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee Report regarding current operations and services provided by the Watertown Police Department as of March 12, 2021; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- E. Committee on Public Safety Report Regarding [Current Operations and Services Provided by the Watertown Police Department](#) as of April 22, 2021– Lisa J. Feltner, Chair

Councilor Kounelis moved to table the minutes because they were sent for addition to the agenda on Thursday at 4:45 p.m. before committee members had the opportunity to review them; Councilor Piccirilli moved to second the motion. It was stated that corrections could be made at the Town Council meeting and that there was a concern about having Open Meeting law violations. The motion failed on 3 - 5 roll call vote. All Councilors voted in the negative except for Councilors Donato, Kounelis, and Piccirilli who voted in the affirmative.

Councilor Feltner read the Committee report regarding current operations and services provided by the Watertown Police Department as of April 22, 2021. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the Committee report; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a 7-1 roll call

vote. All Councilors voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

F. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding [Recycling](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Town Council Requests the Administration to Investigate Implementing a No-Cost “Simple Recycling” Program, or a Program by a Similar Vendor, and Report Back to the Town Council on its Feasibility and Potential Timeline
2. That the Town Council Requests the Administration Conduct a Recycling Survey of Capacity Per Toter to Help Determine a need for Weekly Recycling Pickup, and Report Back to the Public Works Committee for Analysis of the Data

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

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to request the Administration to investigate implementing a no-cost “Simple Recycling” Program, or a program by a similar vendor, and report back to the Town Council on its feasibility and potential timeline; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to request the Administration to conduct a recycling survey of capacity per toter to help determine a need for weekly recycling pickup, and report back to the Public Works Committee for analysis of the data; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

G. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding the [Appointment of Jonathan Hecht to the Board of Election Commissioners](#) for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2025 – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

That the Town Council Confirm Jonathan Hecht for Appointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for a Term to Expire on April 1, 2025

Councilor Kounelis read the Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report regarding the appointment of Jonathan Hecht to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2025. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Kounelis moved to appoint Jonathan Hecht to the Board of Election Commissioners for a term to expire on April 1, 2025; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- H. Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Human Services Report Regarding a [Housing Trust](#) – Lisa J. Feltner, Vice-Chair, Economic Development and Planning, Anthony Palomba, Chair, Human Services

Councilor Palomba read the Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Human Services Report regarding a Housing Trust. Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

- I. Committees on Public Works and Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the [Community Path and the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency](#) – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works, Anthony Palomba, Chair Human Services

ACTION ITEMS:

1. That the Committees recommend that the Town Council endorse moving ahead with the preferred Arsenal Street option (Option 3) for the Community Path, and also ask the Department of Community Development and Planning to look at future options to create an off-road solution.
2. That the Committees recommend that the Full Town Council adopt the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency as amended by the Committees.

Councilor Piccirilli read the Committees on Public Works and Economic Development and Planning Report regarding the Community Path and the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to suspend the Council Rules to allow for the continuation of business beyond 10:30 p.m.; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report with an amendment of the vote relating to the vote on the Community Path option; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion.

It was stated that the safest most direct path is off road rather than the Arsenal Street bump out.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to endorse moving ahead with the preferred Arsenal Street option (Option 3) for the Community Path, and to ask the Department of Community Development and Planning to look at future options to create an off-road solution; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted on a roll call vote of 7-1. All members voted in the affirmative except for Councilor Kounelis who voted in the negative.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the Resolution Endorsing the Declaration of a Climate Emergency as amended by the Committees; Councilor Palomba seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Feltner raised a concern regarding a resolution of issues between Oakley Country Club and their neighbors. She may request a referral to the Committee on Public Works so that there could be some discussion on the matter.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Driscoll noted that John Flynn, former Town Clerk, had died and remembered the many efforts made by Mr. Flynn for the Town of Watertown during his 26 year tenure as Town Clerk.

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

Councilor Kounelis had three items pending and requested information about: the [closure by DCR of Little Greenough Boulevard](#); the [CVS entrance](#); and the clearing of trees in the [Williams Pond](#) area.

Councilor Gannon had a follow-up request regarding the accounting of expenditures for the American Cares Act and American Rescue Plan funds.

Councilor Feltner asked for an update on the status of the [Town Manager's contract and the succession plan](#).

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

Mary Russo – She requested clarification on the appointment of Jonathan Hecht and if he had applied for Mr. Flynn's position. Mr. Driscoll replied that this is a position not related to the Town Clerk; that it is an appointment to the Board

of Election Commissioners established under the Home Rule Charter; that the Democratic Town Committee nominated three candidates; and that Mr. Driscoll is recommending Mr. Hecht to serve in that role after interviewing all nominees.

She thanked Mr. Driscoll for his fine tribute to Mr. Flynn.

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Council President Sideris requested a moment of silence in memory of Mr. John Flynn, former Town Clerk.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn; Councilor Feltner seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 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 June 8, 2021.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/MWP

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021 AT 6:15 P.M.
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Older Americans Month 2021 Proclamation – Item ng – Item 6A
2. Grant of Location Request from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY to Provide Permanent Electrical Service to the 101 North Beacon Street Development – WO # 2373752 – Department of Public Works – March 10, 2021 – Item 8A
3. Grant of Location Request from Verizon to Provide Utility Services to the 101 North Beacon Street Development – ID # 1A4SN8W – Department of Public Works – March 10, 2021 – Item 8B
4. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Sewer System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 9A
5. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Sewer System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 6, 2021 – Item 9A
6. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Water System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – April 22, 2021 – Item 9B
7. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Water System Improvement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 6, 2021 – Item 9B
8. Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Lead Line Replacement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council, April 22, 2021 – Item 9C
9. Additional Information – Proposed Loan Order Regarding MWRA Lead Line Replacement Bonds – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 6, 2021 – Item 9C
10. Ordinance Amending the Town Auditor’s Salary – Item 9D
11. Ordinance Amending the Town Council Clerk’s Salary – Item 9E
12. Proposed Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council, May 6, 2021 – Item 9F
13. Agenda Item – Proposed Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Cambridge Related to Replacement of Sidewalks on Belmont Street Located in Watertown – Michael Driscoll, Town Manager, to Town Council – May 6, 2021 – Item 10

14. Ad Hoc Committee on District D Council Vacancy Report Regarding the Process for Selection to Fill the District D Vacancy – Anthony J. Donato, Chair – May 17, 2021 – Item 11A
15. Committee on Human Services Report Regarding the Expansion of the Department of Public Health’s Capacity and to Determine the Unmet Need If Any – Anthony Palomba, Chair – February 8, 2021 – Item 11B
16. Committee on Media and Public Outreach Meeting Regarding the Town Council Newsletter, the Kitchen Table Conversation Recommendations, and the Town Council Website – Anthony Palomba, Chair – Item 11C
17. Committee on Public safety Report Regarding Current Operations and Services Provided by Watertown Police Department – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair – March 12, 2021 – Item 11D
Attachments:
 - Watertown Police Department Presentation to the Committee on Public Safety
 - Watertown Police Release Statement About George Floyd’s Death – May 30, 2020
 - Comparisons of Municipal Police Spending from Town Manager
 - Review of WPD Polices and Racial Disparities in Arrests – Watertown Citizens for Black Lives Police Policy Reform Group
 - WPD Community Advisory Board Proposal – Kingian Response Team
 - LISTEN. LEARN. GROW + ACT – A Framework for Police Reform Initiatives in Watertown
 - Uplift Watertown
 - Emails Received at the Committee on Public Safety Meeting – March 22, 2021
18. Committee on Public safety Report Regarding Current Operations and Services Provided by Watertown Police Department – Lisa J. Feltner, Chair – April 22, 2021 – Item 11E
Attachments:
 - Review of WPD Polices and Racial Disparities in Arrests – Watertown Citizens for Black Lives Police Policy Reform Group
 - LISTEN. LEARN. GROW + ACT – A Framework for Police Reform Initiatives in Watertown
 - Uplift Watertown
 - WPD Community Advisory Board Proposal – Kingian Response Team
 - Proposal for Watertown Police Officers to be Trained in the Kingian Principles of Nonviolent Conflict Reconciliation
 - Emails Received at the Committee on Public Safety Meeting – April 12, 2021
19. Committee on Public Works Report Regarding Recycling – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair - April 8, 2021 – Item 11F
20. Committee on State, Federal, and Regional Government Report Regarding the Appointment of Jonathan Hecht to the Board of Election Commissioners – April 12, 2021 – Angeline B. Kounelis, Chair – Item 11G

21. Committees on Economic Development and Planning and Human Services Report Regarding the Creation of a Housing Trust – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Vice-Chair, Economic Development and Planning; Anthony Palomba, Chair, Human Services – April 12, 2021 – Item 11H
22. Committees on Public Works and Economic Development and Planning Report Regarding the Community Path and the Declaration of a Climate Emergency – Vincent J. Piccirilli, Chair, Public Works and Vice-Chair of Economic Development and Planning – March 25, 2021 – Item 11I
23. Request for Information Regarding the Closure by DCR of Little Greenough Boulevard, the Entrance to CVS on Mount Auburn Street; and the clearing of trees in the Williams Pond Area - Councilor Kounelis – May 11, 2021 – Item 14
24. Request for Information Regarding the Status of the Town Manager’s Contract and the Succession Plan – Councilor Feltner – May 11, 2021 – Item 14