



# 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

## **SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M. MEETING WILL ONLY HAVE REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS MINUTES**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 2.6 of the Rules of the Town Council, and pursuant to the Call of the Council President, the members of the Town Council of the City known as the Town of Watertown were hereby notified of a Special Meeting of the Town Council that was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, this meeting had only remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

### **ACCESS INFORMATION:**

- A. The meeting was televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting online at: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. Public was permitted to join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344 #
- D. Public was permitted to comment through email: [vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov)

### 1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a special meeting of the Town Council at 6:00 p.m. in accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, §20, relating to the 2020 COVID-19 emergency and to avoid group congregation, through remote opportunities for participation with public access. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Anthony J. Donato, Lisa J. Feltner, John G. Gannon, 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. THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Public Hearing and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget and Related Matters

Council President Sideris [provided information regarding the process for enacting the Budget](#). The Committee of the Whole held hearings regarding Fiscal Year 2022 Budget hearings; the meeting was being held in compliance with Article 5 of the Home Rule Charter; the budget was published as required; and it was being referred back to the Town Council for consideration. There would be a public hearing; after which, the Town Council would then take up the Budget in a legislative mode. The course of action that the Town Council would operate under was explained.

Mr. Driscoll stated there two amendments being made to the proposed budget. The first amendment was a transfer of \$44,395 to the Police Holiday Pay from the Town Council Reserve to compensate members of the Police Unions for the Juneteenth Holiday. The second amendment is a transfer of \$8,605 from the Town Council Capital Reserve to the Town Auditor Full Time Salaries Account.

He cited the accomplishments that are being completed with this budget:

- ✓ The addition of several new positions
- ✓ Fully funded retirement system as of July 1, 2021
- ✓ Funding plan for the OPEB liability
- ✓ Acquisition of Land/Open Space Stabilization Fund
- ✓ New High School Stabilization Fund
- ✓ New High School Project

The total of the budget for Fiscal Year 2022 was \$164,430,000.

Council President Sideris opened the Public Hearing.

John Portz – Chair, School Committee – Thanked the Town Council in advance for their support for schools with both the operating budget and the capital projects. He mentioned the School Committee voted unanimously at their meeting on Monday on the high school project. The modular sight would be named Watertown High School at PFC Richard Moxley Field.

Leeanne Hammonds – Chair, Library Trustees – Thanked everyone for their generous support for the library. She mentioned that the Watertown Library was one of the few libraries in Massachusetts that opened last summer and has remained open. She thanked the staff for their commitment.

There being no other speakers, Mr. Tracy began the reading of the budgets.

- ✓ The General Budget totaled \$164,430,000
  - Personnel Costs - \$53,802,146
  - Supplies and Services - \$18,031,888
  - Capital Costs/Other - \$38,840,845
  - Schools - \$53,755, 121
- ✓ The General Fund Budget Other Financing Sources - \$4,848,726
- ✓ The General Fund Budget Other Financing Sources (Free Cash) - \$3,500,000
- ✓ Water and Sewer Enterprise Budgets - \$19,689,313
  - Water - \$8,653,205
  - Sewer - \$11,036,108

There being no passes on any of the budgets, Council President Sideris stated the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget had passed.

Councilor Donato moved to reconsider the motion in hopes that it failed; Councilor Piccirilli seconded the motion. The motion was rejected unanimously on a roll call vote.

Council President Sideris thanked all who worked on the budget, the employees who continued to serve the public despite the pandemic, and the taxpayers for their support so that new initiatives could be implemented.

### 3. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS

#### A. Resolution Approving the Fiscal Year 2022 [Retiree Health Insurance](#) Appropriation and Authorization of Expenditures from the OPEB Trust Fund.

Mr. Tracy stated this was a request to pay the health insurance premiums for the Town's retirees and needed to be adopted by a two-thirds majority. The requested premium was \$4,195,000.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Retiree Health Insurance appropriation and authorize the expenditures from the OPEB Trust Fund; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

#### B. Resolution Establishing [Fiscal Year 2022 Expenditure Limits for Revolving Funds](#).

Mr. Tracy stated the Municipal Modernization Act requires any revolving fund to have a spending limit that is reauthorized on an annual basis. The

Town maintains eight such funds whose spending limits would remain the same as they were for FY 21.

<b>Authorized Revolving Funds</b>	<b>Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit</b>
Commander's Mansion	\$275,000
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force	\$1,725,000
Senior Center	\$35,000
Library Copier	\$25,000
Faire on the Square	\$30,000
Famers' Market	\$46,000
Animal Control	\$15,000
Affordable Housing Development	\$265,000

Councilor Piccirilli moved to establish the Fiscal Year 2022 expenditure limits for revolving funds; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

C. Motion to Appropriate the [Community Preservation Act \(CPA\) Funds](#) for Fiscal Year 2022.

Mr. Tracy stated the funds to be appropriated are based on estimated revenue. Under the Act, 10% must be used Affordable Housing; 10% for Historical Preservation; 10% for Open Space/Recreation; and 5% may be designated for administrative purposes. Based on the projected revenues of \$3,051,210, \$305,121 would be appropriated to each of the required items of Affordable Housing, Historic Preservation, and Open Space/Recreation and \$152,561 would be allocated for administrative expenses.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to appropriate and transfer funds from the Fiscal year 2022 Community Preservation Funds totaling (\$3,051,210), the following funds: 5% (\$152,561) for the administrative expense of the Community Preservation Committee, 10% to the historical preservation reserve (\$305,121), 10% to the affordable housing reserve (\$305,121), 10% to the open space/recreation reserve (\$305,121), 65% to the undesignated fund balance (\$1,983,287); Councilor Gannon seconded the motion.

When asked what the accumulated balances were since the adoption of the CPA, Mr. Tracy stated it was about \$13,000,000 but that he did not have the actual breakdown with him. He further stated any expenditure by the Committee would have to be approved by the Town Council. When asked how the amount was estimated; Mr. Tracy explained it was based on the real estate value obtained from the Board of Assessors and the state match was based on 80% of what the Town received in 2021.

The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

#### 4. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Gannon seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously on a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned 6:39 p.m.

#### ADDENDUM

I hereby certify that at a special 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 22, 2021.

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Mark S. Sideris, Council President  
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**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021, AT 6:00 P.M.  
MEETING HAD ONLY REMOTE OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR PARTICIPATION WITH PUBLIC ACCESS  
LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

1. Action on the FY 2022 Budget – Statement by the President – Council President Mark S. Sideris – Jun 8, 2021 – Item 2
2. Proposed Resolution – Authorization of the Fiscal Year 2022 Retiree Health Insurance and Related Expenditures from the OPEB Trust Fund – Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistance Town Manager for Finance – June 3, 3021 – Item 3A
3. Proposed Resolution – Fiscal Year 2022 53E ½ Revolving Funds Expenditure Limits – Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistance Town Manager for Finance – June 3, 3021 – Item 3B
4. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Preservation Fund Budget - Thomas Tracy, Town Auditor/Assistance Town Manager for Finance – June 4, 3021 – Item 3C