

MINUTES

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY ROOM MONDAY, MAY 4, 2009, 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Elaine Adams, Chairman
Gary Bernier
David Demirs
Richard DiFederico
Carl Mancini
Paul Rinaldi

ABSENT: Richard Fusco
Raymond Primini, Vice Chairman

OTHERS PRESENT: Charles Frigon, Town Manager
Frank Nardelli, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

1. Convene Special Town Meeting

Ms. Adams, Chairman, Called the Special Town Meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION: (Mr. Demirs, sec. Mr. Bernier) to nominate Elaine Adams for Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.

Discussion: **Ms. Adams:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION: (Mr. Demirs, sec. Mr. Bernier) to nominate Lynn LaForme for Secretary of the Special Town Meeting.

Discussion: **Ms. Adams:** Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms. Adams, Moderator, read aloud the Call of the Meeting as follows:

WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 4, 2009

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meetings are hereby WARNED AND NOTIFIED of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Watertown High School Technology Room, 324 French Street, Watertown, Connecticut to consider an appropriation of \$50,000.00 from the General Fund for legal fees.

Dated in Watertown, Connecticut this 29th day of April, 2009.

Charles Frigon, Town Manager

RETURN OF
WARNING AND NOTICE
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 4, 2009

I hereby certify that on April 29, 2009, I left a duplicate copy of the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut, to be held on May 4, 2009 with Virginia Russo, Assistant Town Clerk.

I further certify that on April 29, 2009 I caused a copy of said Warning and Notice to be published in the REPUBLICAN AMERICAN Newspaper, which has a substantial circulation in said Town.

I further certify that on April 29, 2009, I caused to be set upon the signpost nearest the office of the Town Clerk and all other places with signposts designated by the Town, a written copy of said Warning and Notice signed by me as Town Manager.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on May 4, 2009.

Charles Frigon, Town Manager

TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATION
AS TO WARNING AND RETURN OF WARNING

I hereby certify that the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of the foregoing RETURN OF WARNING are duly recorded in the records of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut and that Charles Frigon. was the Town Manager of the Town of Watertown on the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 29th day of April, 2009.

Virginia Russo, Assistant Town Clerk

Ms. Adams: I

MOTION: (Mr. Bernier, sec. Ms. Judy Wick) I make a motion that the Town appropriate \$50,000.00 from the General Fund for legal fees.

Discussion: **Denise Russ, 135 Porter Street, Watertown, CT 06795**

Ms. Russ: I just have a question, not concerning the call for tonight, but I want to know the protocol. We had a public meeting for legal expenses for Dave Minnich the first time around and we didn't have a registrar of voters there to take our names to see who was a resident or who was not. The second meeting we had the registrar of voters here. Today we have a meeting for more legal expenses but none of us are being carded. How do we know that all of these people are from Watertown? Do we simply just choose when we want to have the registrar of voters here? Shouldn't it be every town meeting?

Ms. Adams: I had found out that the registrars were going to be here that day. My understand was the reason they were here is that we anticipated there was going to be an extremely large gathering of the electorate. We don't really have that right now. I don't know what the process was, Dave and Elaine came to you, or exactly what the process was, but I fully support when we have a huge town meeting like that, yes.

Ms. Russ: Do you think you could find out because I don't know everyone in Town, and I don't know if these people are residents of Watertown, I'm sure they are, but who is to say somebody isn't, we don't know, and I think if we're going to do it for one meeting, it should be done for all town meetings.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodbine Avenue, Watertown, CT 06795

Mr. Mickel: Denise has a point. With most special town meetings it's very easy to tell the winners and losers. If this one happens to be close, we might have to do it again also.

Mark Worenko, Platt Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Mr. Worenko: I hope I'm correct in assuming that an important part of this meeting is to decide, ask the people to vote to appropriate some money to defend our town against someone who is suing our town. It's not just a complaint, is that correct?

Ms. Adams: There are several, every year we budget for legal fees and some of that includes just your consults that you need, we had a lot of contacts this year, school construction, we had a lot of need for an attorney and the budget (inaudible) for that so the purpose here predominantly is for defense of people, yea, who are suing the town (inaudible).

Mr. Worenko: Do we have a whole bunch of them or is it just one or two?

Ms. Adams: Chuck, do you know?

Mr. Nardelli: I have a list of what's been spent to date, but I think he's questioning

Mr. Worenko: Are many people suing our town?

Mr. Nardelli: The bulk of this appropriation is for a lawsuit that's going on right now.

Mr. Worenko: What is that lawsuit?

Ms. Adams: Virginia Stewart versus the Town of Watertown.

Mr. Worenko: Is she a resident or an employee of our Town?

Ms. Adams: No, she's a (inaudible).

Mr. Worenko: And it's not a complaint?

Ms. Adams: No. It's in trial right now. It started last Tuesday.

Mr. Worenko: I just wanted to ask those questions so I knew a little bit more before I made up my mind on that. In a lawsuit I assume, my mind goes to a (inaudible) it's about money. How much money is somebody looking for?

Ms. Adams: I can't honestly say that there is money they're looking for, I'm not sure of the particulars of the case, I don't have in front of me what the actual lawsuit was, but that is available I believe either through the Manager's Office, and it would also have to have been filed at the Town Clerk's Office, correct?

Mr. Worenko: Is it appropriate or okay to ask, is there anybody here that knows, is it about money?

Mr. Frigon: This is in litigation, so I would prefer not to talk about it. We have approximately 12 to 14 tax appeals right now which we need to defend, we have a number of appeals in court right now regarding Route 262, one for a motor vehicle accident, one for a tree falling down

Mr. Worenko: So there are many.

Mr. Frigon: There are many, literally maybe 2 dozen right now that we're actively defending ourselves against.

Mr. Worenko: Is the bulk of it this town official?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. Worenko: I think that's answered my question, but I want to ask another question and it may not be appropriate, so don't hesitate to cut me off at the knees. It may not be part of this meeting, but in the learning process as I get older here, the last time we had a meeting there was a vote to appropriate money to pay for expenses that the Chairman of our Zoning Board had racked up, I guess I'll say, and that was for a complaint. Is that correct? Or was that in a lawsuit also?

Ms. Adams: It was a complaint.

Mr. Worenko: And this one is a lawsuit?

Mr. Frigon: Yes.

Mr. Worenko: Thank you.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Watertown Town Council
Special Town Meeting
May 4, 2009
Page 6

Ms. Adams, Moderator, Adjourned the Special Town Meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine H. Adams, Moderator

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk