



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010
REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.**

**WATERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
LECTURE ROOM
324 FRENCH STREET
WATEROWN, CT 06795
MOTION**

PRESENT: Elaine Adams
Katherine Duplissie
Richard Fusco
Linda Masayda
Raymond Primini, Chairman
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chairman
Thomas Winn

ABSENT: Richard DiFederico
Paul Rinaldi

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Primini, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. King, Secretary executed the roll call.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Participation - none

5. Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – November 15, 2010

a. (Richard Fusco sec. Thomas Winn) I move to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting – November 15, 2010 as written.

Discussion: None

Aye: (6) Adams, Fusco, Masayda, Primini, Rosa, Winn

Nay: 0

Abstain: (1) Duplissie

6. Chairman's Report

Letter – Dated 12-3-2010 addressed to Richard Mazzamaro, Chairperson, Board of Ed in care of Karen Baldwin, Superintendent and also Marylu Lerz in regards to notice of arbitration.

7. Town Manager's Report

1. Heminway Park School – looking at plans with potential layouts and will begin costing them out and will have ready for subcommittee within the next couple of weeks.

2. Town Hall – test identified leaks and will do patching in the spring.

8. Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee – meeting today with questions and answers, next meeting will have a schedule.

Public Works - none

Shared Services – meeting next week.

9. New Business

a. Consider setting a Special Town Meeting date, time and place to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$35,786.81 funds to be appropriated to the Polk Elementary School Renovation Project. Funding provided through a rebate from C.L. & P. from the installation of energy efficient lighting as part of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Program.

(Thomas Winn sec. Elaine Adams) I move to set a special town meeting to be held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Watertown High School in the Lecture Room to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$35,786.81, funds to be appropriated to the Polk Elementary School Renovation Project.

Mr. Nardelli: in your packets you will see that we received rebates checks from CL&P for Judson & Polk for the renovation projects for the schools. The Board of Ed asked that they be credited to the corresponding school construction project fund. It is not really a credit per say, for instance with Judson the appropriation that was approved the referendum was fifteen thousand eight hundred and fifty nine dollars and that is the amount they can spend. When spending some of that money they get some grants from CL&P that goes in as a revenue source. You can do two things use that grant to reduce how much we have to bond or you can add that grant back to the appropriation so you would be increasing the appropriation it would let them spend more money on the school. You cannot take the check and subtract it from expenses that has to go in as a revenue and basically re appropriate back to the project, if you so desire to do that. If not the money would stay in the project and we would just borrow that much less.

Ms. Rosa: in these cases it is adding to what they get to spend.

Mr. Nardelli: that is correct. If we have a special town meeting and you approve the \$35,000 appropriation that is going to get added on to the fifteen million eight fifty nine and they can spend that much more. If you do not do that the money would just go in as revenue it would reduce how much we ultimately have on the bond for the project.

Ms. Adams: Judson has got to be totally complete, Polk is open and running, so I would think at this point in time if they needed anything, if they wanted spend more money versus using it to lower the borrowing cost it would have to come back to Council anyway for a town meeting.

Mr. Nardelli: that is what we are really doing here, on Judson there is \$20,000 on that appropriation, so all those funds have pretty much been spent. To spend above that they have to come to the Council and ask for an additional appropriation. They are simply saying they received these rebate checks from CL&P from this grant to add it back to the project.

Ms. Adams: but if they wanted to spend that money, even though we are adding it back, what were taking now is to say okay you know what we are going to borrow less than we need to, because we have the extra \$35,000.

Mr. Nardelli: if you do nothing that is right you will borrow less.

Ms. Adams: if they want more money to spend they have to come back to us again and ask for an appropriation.

Mr. Nardelli: and that is basically what this is.

Ms. Adams: they would have to come back to us and justify for us to put it to a town meeting to give the money to spend for those projects.

Mr. Nardelli: what the letter says it should be credited to the corresponding school construction project fund. Again you cannot really credit it, you cannot subtract it off the expenses it has to go in as revenue and be re appropriated back to the project.

Mr. Frigon: there is no specific expenditure attached to this request. This is nothing more than take the money add it to the 15 million or take the money and reduce our bonding cost. It is not for any one specific expenditure at this point or that has been identified.

Ms. Adams so hopefully they would not spend it.

Mr. Nardelli: you could table this and ask the Board of Ed if this money is appropriated back what you anticipate spending it on.

Ms. Adams: I like that.

Mr. Nardelli: there is nothing that says that this has to be done right away, we got the checks from CL&P, so whether you want to add it back and spend that much more or not, we could send it back to the board. I know Polk they are still spending money, so Polk is not really finished yet, but Judson is definitely at end of the line, like I said there is about \$20,000 left on that.

Ms. Adams: I think we should be responsible to find out exactly what they want, maybe some correspondence. What is the intention for this money? Can we borrow less, or are you planning on spending it.

Ms. Rosa: I thought that was the purpose of the special meeting was that is on the agenda to find out the answers to all those questions, to hold a special meeting to consider an appropriation.

Ms. Adams: This would be up to the majority of voters here.

Ms. Rosa it has got to go to the town at some point anyway, why do it twice, why postpone it?

Ms. Adams once we put it to a town meeting, it is the majority of the voters present, it does not matter what the Council thinks at that point. Right now we have the control.

Ms. Rosa it is still the public's vote.

Ms. Adams not yet not till we put it to the town meeting.

Mr. Fusco: the money that we our getting from CL&P what was that ear marked for.

Mr. Nardelli: it was a special rebate associated with the installation of energy efficient lighting at the schools, so part of redoing the schools they put energy efficient lighting in. CL&P said because you are doing that we are going to give you these checks back, because it is energy efficient. It is like a grant program through CL&P.

Mr. Frigon: they paid the cost differential between a typical light fixture installation for something energy efficient.

Mr. Fusco what I am worried about if we deny them the money will CL&P or any other say we are not going to give it to you anymore because you are not going to use it.

Mr. Nardelli: the check has already been used for that that is why we got the grant.

Mr. Frigon: we have purchased the equipment that this grant covers, they have given us the check and it is in the bank.

Mr. Winn: CL&P gave us money that we did not anticipate.

Mr. Frigon: we did anticipate it.

Mr. Winn: anticipating it, you did not decide what do with it.

Mr. Frigon: that is correct. This is not unusual if we go either renovation or new construction and we share with CL&P our plans and specifications for the facility. They provide us with their suggestions as to upgrades that would qualify for rebate money.

Mr. Winn: can this money be used for the Board of Education's general budget, where does it have to be used.

Mr. Nardelli: the check comes in you can put it in as revenue and when it comes time to borrow we just borrow that much less. If you want to do a special appropriation and add back more to the original authorization you can do that based on the amount of the check that came in, if the people vote for that at the town meeting.

Mr. Winn we can either spend it or take it of the bond.

Mr. Nardelli: that is correct.

Mr. Primini what I am hearing the work has already been done, it was paid for through the bond.

Mr. Nardelli: that is correct.

Mr. Primini: if the work has already been done, this money should be going to pay off the bonding. If we give them the money you are saying they can use it on something else.

Mr. Nardelli: that is correct; it will not be limited, you just adding the authorization amount.

Ms. Rosa: we have the option of not going to the meeting and just keeping the money.

Mr. Nardelli: that is what this is all about right now. You can say we are not going to have a special town meeting that is where your authorization comes in.

Mr. Primini: the question I had the work has already been done and this is basically a rebate. So if we give them the money on that then they could take it and spend it on anything pertaining to that school.

Mr. Nardelli: anything that falls under the bond ordinance.

Mr. Primini what this money was meant for has already been done under the bond.

Mr. Nardelli correct.

Ms. Rosa: we defeat the motion.

Aye: 0

Nay: 7

MOTION DEFEATED

- b. **Consider setting a Special Town Meeting date, time and place to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$31,667.25 funds to be appropriated to the Judson Elementary School Renovation Project. Funding provided through a rebate from C.L. & P. from the installation of energy efficient lighting as part of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Program.**

(Thomas Winn sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to set a special town meeting to be held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at Watertown High School in the Lecture Room to consider an appropriation in the amount of \$31,667.25 – funds to be appropriated to the Judson Elementary School Renovation Project.

Discussion: none

Aye: 0

Nay: 7

MOTION DEFEATED

- c. Consider authorizing the Town Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Greater Waterbury Transit District for a municipal grant program for seniors and disabled demand responsive transportation.**

(Thomas Winn sec. Elaine Adams) I move to authorize the Town Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Greater Waterbury Transit District for a municipal grant program for seniors and disabled demand responsive transportation.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. Consider an appropriation in the amount of \$5,000 for computer equipment for the Falls Avenue Senior Center. Funds have been deposited into the General Fund from a grant for the support of a computer technology resource room at the Center from A T & T.**

(Thomas Winn sec. Elaine Adams) I move to approve an appropriation from the General Fund for computer equipment for the Falls Avenue Senior Center.

Ms. Duplissie: what is going in there for \$5,000?

Mr. Frigon: the grant will allow the town to update the computer center that is available to all of the seniors at the senior center with new computers and printers.

Mr. Fusco: that is a lot of computers for \$5,000

Mr. Frigon: I believe what we have over there now is four computers, this also pays for the internet and it pays for printers and all the networking.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Consider approval of real estate lease renewals for Town Office's at Depot Square – Suites 108, 113, 207 and 502.

(Thomas Winn sec. Richard Fusco) I move to authorize the Town manager to execute real estate lease renewals for Town Offices at Depot Square for suites 108, 113, 207 and 502.

Mr. Frigon: our lease expires November 30th which is now passed and we have elected not to go with another two year term or three year term but go by month by month at this point with hopes that Heminway School can be accomplished.

Ms. Rosa: what is the figure we are talking about?

Mr. Frigon: monthly \$8,033.26 about \$300.00 higher than what we were paying previously.

Mr. Fusco: this is the reason why we have to get that Hemingway Park School started.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Public participation.

George Valitis – 647 Linkfield Road, Watertown

There were a few things that I did not know about Watertown. I want to present a couple of things to you people that you are unaware of what is happening to the town's people. As you know we always have the problem of passing the school budget. P & Z always say they want to increase the grand list, but there are no developments with 12 years and the first original occupants most of them sold out and the second group came in. I did the study on it showing in 10 years the town lost over a quarter of million dollars just on the education portion, just sending the kids to school and providing the education for the children, not counting the police, the fire, and the public works. If you look at the rest of the projects, each one of them is bringing a lawsuit. I think it should be looked into it how P & Z is promoting Watertown.

Another interesting thing that showed up is that people do not go and vote, for the simple reason there is no use. They are going to do whatever they want to do and they have no interest of going and voting. They think the Council should do something about it to promote the people regardless what it is aye or nay but should go and cast a vote.

I printed out all the Commissions and the party members and I counted the appointments out of 144, 41 are not Republicans they are either Independent or Unaffiliated. This town is being run by one party, good or bad if it is good you are going to be praised but the time will be up in a year or less to account for how you ran the town.

11. Executive Session.

a. Town Council will discuss the acquisition of property in connection with the Greenway Project.

(Thomas Winn sec. Elaine Adams) I move to enter into executive session with the Town Council Members present, Chuck Frigon, Town Manager and Frank Nardelli, Finance Director Town Council to discuss the acquisition of property in connection with the Greenway Project.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Adjournment.

Motion: (Thomas Winn sec. Elaine Adams) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk