



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010
RESCHEDULED FROM SEPTEMBER 20, 2010
REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.**

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

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

ABSENT: Chuck Frigon, Town Manager

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

OTHERS ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Ms. King, Secretary executed the roll call.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Proclamations

1. Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Awareness Month

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing September as Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma Awareness Month

WHEREAS, blood cancers currently afflict more than 912,000 Americans with an estimated 140,000 new cases diagnosed each year, and

WHEREAS, leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma will kill an estimated 53,000 people in the United States this year, and

WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), through voluntary contributions, is dedicated to finding cures for these diseases through research efforts and the support for those that suffer from them, and

WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society maintains offices in Wilton and Meriden, Connecticut to support patients with these diseases and their family members in the Town of Watertown, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown is similarly committed to the eradication of these diseases and supports the treatment of its citizens that suffer from them, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown encourages private efforts to enhance research funding and education programs that address these diseases,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Watertown joins with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in designating the month of September 2010 as Leukemia, Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month to enhance the understanding of blood related cancers and to encourage participation in voluntary activities to support education programs and the funding of research programs to find a cure for them.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut, this 21st day of September, 2010.

2. Constitution Week

PROCLAMATION

Recognizing the week of September 17 – 23, 2010, as

CONSTITUTION WEEK

WHEREAS: September 17, 2010, marks the two hundred twenty-third anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition of this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary; and to the patriotic celebration which will commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Raymond F. Primini, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Chairman of the Town Council of the Town of Watertown do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as

CONSTITUTION WEEK,

AND ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut, this 21st day of September, 2010

5. Public Participation

Richard Wick – Northfield Road

I want to publicly compliment Doreen Breen for managing the Farmer's Market this year. Ms. Breen increased the number of vendors and developed many different programs during the summer to encourage people from town and neighboring towns to participate.

On tonight's agenda, item 9G, we see that a Charter Revision Committee is to be considered. A couple questions come to mind. First, what is the problem? Charter revision has been talked about for more years than most of us have been active in politics. The Democrats didn't want to open the Charter when the Republicans were in the majority and the Republicans didn't want to open the Charter when the Democrats were in the majority. I assume the discussion later this evening will shed some light on why the charter needs revision now. If a committee is appointed, how will members be selected? I shouldn't have to remind anyone in this room that the voters elected three members of the Independent Party to this Council. The voters deserve to have their collective will respected which means that the committee, if one is appointed, must include members of the Independent Party.

Katherine Duplissie – 250 Morrow Street, Oakville

I am here about the list that was in the paper. That was my list it was given to me by a taxpayer so that he or she could tell me how he or she thought the budget should be amended. There were titles on that piece of paper and being new on the Council I had no idea who these people were. I said who is this and wrote the name, I can not believe how it blew out of proportion in this town. This is from a taxpayer, not the Town Council, not the Board of Ed and not the Town Manager. We looked at and dismissed it, it has nothing to do with the people on this list, it has nothing to do with their jobs, they are all hard working people, they are dedicated and has no reflection on them whatsoever. I wanted to make that very clear. It blew out of proportion my fault I will take the blame.

Lisa Carew – 389 Northfield Road, Watertown

I wanted to emphasize the fact the Farmers Market lasted 10 weeks and was very successful and I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the past weeks. The Fall Festival thousands of people attended with fireworks at 8:00 it was very well received and I wanted to commend the committee they are all volunteers.

Al Mickel – 95 Woodvine Avenue, Watertown

On the town's website they had the Torrington Area Health district flu vaccination schedule. There are eleven places listed where you can get flu shots and Watertown is not on that list. We are the third highest contributor to the Torrington Area Health District if we can have something in town for the senior citizens.

6. Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – August 16, 2010

- a. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Thomas Winn) I move to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting – August 16, 2010 with the corrections added.

Discussion: Mr. Fusco: Motions from page 6 and on name typed in as Robert change to Richard.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Abstain: 3

MOTION PASSED

b. Special Town Meeting – August 16, 2010

- b. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move to approve the minutes Special Town Meeting – August 16, 2010.

Discussion: none

Aye: 6
Nay: 0
Abstain: 3

MOTION PASSED

7. Chairman's Report

a. Request from Karen Baldwin regarding Watertown Administrator's negotiations, appointed Mary Ann Rosa to attend meetings.

b. Create Two Subcommittees

1. Shared Services Committee - Chaired by Thomas Winn, Katherine Duplissie, and Elaine Adams.

2. Crestbrook Committee – Chaired by Richard DiFederico, Richard Fusco, Linda Masayda

Anyone can attend these meetings, they will be announced.

8. Subcommittee Reports

Public Works Meeting – Davis Street Culvert – Presentation next meeting on new technology to repair deteriorating pipe.

Mr. Primini what is the status on French Street.

Mr. Cavanaugh we are anticipating starting next week.

9. New Business

a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco)I move to nominate William Donston, 105 Dunrobin Lane, Watertown to be appointed a regular member of Park and Recreation for a term to expires 1/31/2011. This appointment is to fill the unexpired member Tess Mitchell.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- a. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Thomas Winn) I move to nominate Ned Dalton, 83 Bryant Road, Watertown to be appointed an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire 01/31/2012. This appointment is to fill the unexpired term of Erik Markiewicz.

Aye: 8 Adams, DiFederico, Duplissie, Fusco, Masayda, Primini, Rosa, Winn
Nay: 1 Rinaldi
Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSED

- a. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move to nominate Ken Cestar, 308 Riverside Street, Oakville to be appointed a alternate member of the Planning & Zoning for a term to expire 01/2012. This appointment is to fill the unexpired term of Duane George.

Aye: 6 DiFederico, Duplissie, Fusco, Primini, Rosa, Winn
Nay: 3 Adams, Masayda, Rinaldi
Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSED

b. Consider Budgets for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Thomas Winn) I make a motion to approve the following budgets to be sent to referendum.

A. Town General Fund	\$25,352,103
B. School General Fund	\$33,529,590
General Fund Total	\$58,881,693
C. Town Road Aid	\$178,800
D. Water Operations	1,356,786
E. Water Capital	118,678
F. Water Extension	-0-
G. Sewer Operations	2,031,995
H. Sewer Extension	-0-
I. Sewer Capital	160,500
J. Water and Sewer Debt	160,750
K. Crestbrook Golf Operations	726,266
L. Local Capital Improvement	155,013

M. Debt Service Fund

375,000

Ms. Rosa I think anyone that has been paying attention to the numbers and knowing the situation that we have been in will realize that number I just read \$33,529,590 cuts the Board of Ed down to the minimum and we cannot go any lower than that. In addition to that the Board of Ed has money that has been sent to us by the government that we have no control over and it is education money. So I think some people's instinct would be to say they do not want to support this motion because the 33 is too low. You will find in the next motion that I make after this one we will be adding back or giving to them by a motion money that is allocated to them which is one million six. We all have to remember that they are at a zero; they have no increase at all this year. The town has no increase in spending this year; the only increase that has been in this budget is the increase for bonding that people approved quite some time ago for the schools. So it is really important for people to understand that everybody is at zero and below zero as we go forward to the next vote.

Ms. Adams I need clarification on the amounts.

Ms Rosa the reason we are doing that is because we spoke with Frank prior to the meeting and for purposes of book keeping and to make sure that it is done exactly in the appropriate manner we had to do it separately. We had to read the numbers the way they were and added back separately.

Ms. Adams the town, that is the same amount that the voters have approved for the past 3 referendums the \$25,352,103 repeatedly for.

Ms. Rosa it is one hundred thousand dollars less.

Ms. Adams why would we want to cut the town budget that has passed overwhelmingly by numbers.

Ms. Rosa we want to get the number down to something that the people will support and this will bring it down to a quarter of a mill.

Ms. Adams a hundred thousand dollar cut does not bring it down to a quarter of a mill.

Ms. Rosa there are other motions and steps we have to take and we have not gotten to them yet.

Mr. Winn this has been horrible for everybody, this is going to be our fourth referendum. I hope everyone understands the minimum budget requirements that the

state and federal mandates require. There is nothing we can do about that anymore. In order to decrease anymore funding for the budget we have to go into the general fund. The hundred thousand dollars that I support from the town side is something that the town is requiring. They already said to us they want the budget lower, we cannot touch the Board of Education anymore because of the law. I would hope even our all of our employees; the school side and the town side will support this. We are not laying anybody off; people are giving raises because contractually we have to. We have asked some unions to help us, they have refused. The only thing that is going to be happening now if we continue to cut this budget is going to be services, and it is going to be educational material for our children and it has to stop somewhere. I do not think it is unreasonable for the town taxpayers to ask for one hundred thousand dollars less, and I do not think it is unreasonable for our employees to support that. They are doing a lot better than some people in this town and in this country. We need to put this budget forward and to start working on a difficult budget that is coming up next year.

Mr. Fusco to get this budget passed, we have to do something and to do something is to lower the taxes. The mill rate will be at all time low according to what we have in front of us at the beginning. If this fails what a problem we are going to have. We have to do something to get that budget passed. This is our job and this is what we are going to try to do.

Mr. Rinaldi the town side of the budget has passed 3 times by a significant amount of votes. If we cut the town side we may be in danger of losing votes. Because the taxpayers have been pretty clear in what direction they want to go. If we cut \$100,000 from the town what is the impact where are these funds coming from.

Mr. Primini we are going to ask help from each department head.

Mr. Rinaldi we do not know anything specific.

Mr. Primini this has been the most difficult budget in the nine years that I have been on the Town Council. Both sides have been brought down to zero and this is the last year of the school bonding debt. Stimulus money is going to be a problem and I have always been under the assumption that one time source revenue should be a one time expenditure. Eighty percent of the Board of Ed budget is for salary benefits so it is all rolled in their. It is going to get worse in years to come if we do not do something about it now. Unfortunately the Board of Ed came down to zero, there is nothing else more to take. For every dollar we take we are going to loose two. Some healing has to be done over the next year with budgets the, Town Council side and the Board of Ed is their a better way of explaining this to people. I found this the most difficult year for this budget especially with the stimulus money and taking the difference between the 33 million and 35 million. All of us have been batting this about, and it is one of the most difficult decisions. I think every member on this Town Council they want to

hear from people what they feel about this budget and this is the next step and we are open to discussion.

Mr. Rinaldi is there any indication to you as Chairman the possibility of any job losses.

Mr. Primini on the town side no, not at this juncture right now. I do not like the idea of layoffs the public section does not pay into unemployment insurance, so if we lay somebody off we have to pay that salary. The way employment has been going it has been extended to over one hundred weeks so far and who knows how long this will go on. Information has been going around the past weeks is false information, it was a citizen that made the submission and it was not from anybody on the Town Council. On the other hand, anybody has the right submit anything to the Town Council with suggestions and that is a decision that should be left up to the department heads of town management, they do the hiring and firing.

Mr. Rinaldi: I agree with you on that. The referendum for the town side was passed by large vote, I do not know if cutting the town side is going to remedy the situation or create a whole new set of problems.

Mr. Primini the other alternative is to bring us down to zero that would be 1.4 million dollars; we are talking about hundred thousand now could you imagine 1.4 million where would it come from. I want to emphasis that has been one of the most difficult decisions, how far do you go with this. Do we go down to ¼ mill or do we go down to zero. The money right now has been the bond debt for the schools; the unfortunate problem is the bond debt comes under the town side of the budget.

Ms. Adams from what I am hearing now, there is going to be another motion because there is nothing on the agenda that would give the board back the stimulus money the million six in change...

Ms. Rosa that comes out of the revenue fund

Ms. Adams that would then go back to the board and are there any other motions.

Ms. Rosa we would have to make to motion to take the hundred thousand dollars off the town side and take \$350,000 from the general fund to reduce a quarter of a mill.

Ms. Adams a couple of things I heard concerns, the Obama Teacher money a week before the referendum the Board of Ed is getting an additional \$688,000. People want to know what is that going to be spent on and that is an addition to the 1.6 million, they have almost \$700,000 and people want to know where that is going and what is that going to be spent on. I also heard with the new accounting system the Board was spending between 100 and 300 hundred thousand and thought this was not the time to

do it. I think what needs to happen here, I would like the line item budget for the Board of Ed and not the condensed version that we get. What actually are they spending the money on and where is the source of income, there is a lot of confusion out there. People do not understand between what the general fund gives, what the ECS gives them, the education cost sharing, what they are getting from stimulus and what they are getting from the Obama teacher money, there seems to be an awful lot of money coming in and there are 51 fewer students. There is a lot of explanation that needs to go on so people will understand. People I know understand that we are stuck with the bond payment on our side of the budget and they accept it and overwhelmingly voted yes. Is it possible for us to get an actual line item budget for the Board of Ed or have that put on the internet so people can understand where the money goes.

Ms. Rosa I can only speak for myself; it is my understanding that the new money that is coming in will be used next year to offset the large decrease in funding that the Board of Ed will have, they are going to lose this \$1,676 next year.

Ms. Adams that could be used for either year.

Ms. Rosa I was on the Board for over 16 years and I seem to recall you sitting with me at the Board of Ed meetings looking at line item budgets that are there for anybody that wants to look at them and had our own copies of them. So they are certainly available if anybody wants to look at it.

Ms. Adams If they were able to be put it on the website to give people an understanding of what their needs are and where the money is going. We did not have the problems then that we have now.

Mr. DiFederico the problem was we stopped the committee on that. The thing is that we have been through this before and you were the chairman I remembered that very well, the first two years on the Council. The lines items are opened up and we can get them from the Board correct Ms. Baldwin that is no problem there.

Ms. Adams can it be posted on the internet.

Ms. Baldwin once we have an adopted and approved budget we can post it on the internet.

Ms. Adams it is important for people to see where the money goes.

Karen Baldwin – Superintendent of Schools

I want to address the first inquiry as it relates to the Federal Jobs Bill. That is the newly passed legislation that is providing the Board of Education and municipalities with money to expend through September 30th 2012. That money goes away by

September 30, 2012. Watertown is anticipated to receive approximately \$680,000 through the new Federal Jobs Bill. What you need to recall is that through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that is the ERA monies, we receive approximately \$800,000 through the ERA of last February. That money is good for two years through fiscal year June 30, 2011. We talked a lot in our meetings and workshops that we had relative to this budget process about what we call the funding cliff. Where grant money is being used to fund teaching positions and we have a funding cliff that we anticipate for next year for fiscal year 2011-2012 of roughly \$430,000. The Board of Ed would intend to use that Federal Jobs Bill to extend that cliff one more year as we hope that the economy improves and that new government and new leadership at the state level may help to address some of our real serious challenges as it relates to funding of public education in this state.

In terms of enrollment decline, we have done tenure enrollment projections that were conducted in the 08-09 school year. Like communities across the state we do project declining enrollment and started to see that as evidence through the most recent numbers. It is 50 students across the K-12 spectrum. Fifty students at this juncture do not have an immediate sort of relief as it relates to staffing, salaries and wages specifically. But certainly as you are probably aware in order to get to this zero percent 35.2 million we did eliminate a Kindergarten position and a big chunk of that 51 can be found at the kindergarten level. Based upon that it did appear to be probably the least damaging reduction we could take. We are responsive and pay attention to our enrollment; however we continue to have 28 to 29 children in Grades 3 through 5 classrooms. I was in a Science class in Grade 7 at Swift with 30 children, 25 students in High School Biology Labs and so we continue to push limits relative to staffing and enrollment. I would think long term based on that tenure enrollment project there maybe balancing and reduction to be done.

Lastly a question rose relative to financial software implementation and acquisition for the Board of Education. This has been on the board's improvement agenda since I arrived in 2008 – 2009. We have been very clear about that in terms of need and whether people think now is a good time or not. The issue is that is has not been upgraded since 1982. We do have federal ERAT money outside of the general operating budget and we would anticipate as we move forward with a selection and decision making process that any acquisition that the board makes would come through Federal ERAT money, which is an infrastructure, telecommunications federal grant, that is how we would offset and absorb that cost. However I think we have worked very hard over the course of this past year to build transparency and build trust and to understand what our needs are. The needs of the school system are very real, we struggle to have children who are ranked in the top 10 of this High School class. We struggle to get them into the University of Connecticut. That is a fine state institution and we can't have our kids who are performing well locally be competitive enough to have an application into the University of Connecticut and be successful. We under perform on SAT's, we are below the State and National average, we know

where we fall in terms of our CMT and CAP performance, we have a large scale improvement agenda ahead and we all need to get behind it and support the work your body and the Board of Education is doing. The teachers in the school system are working hard to improve their practices so that we can meet the needs of all kids. I hope that answers your questions relative to the jobs bill.

The ESC money the 1.6 million dollars is really not in your control because it is ERA money it flows directly to the Board of Education. We would use that money as we see fit to maintain programming and services for our children.

Mr. Primini education and cost sharing, how many years in a row has that remained the same.

Ms. Baldwin right now the education cost sharing grant from the state is being funded at the 08-09 levels.

Mr. Primini three years in a row.

Ms. Baldwin the Watertown Public School budget is at the same level it was in 08-09, 35.2 million. To that end just as a reminder the Board did achieve significant concessions in its work with its bargaining groups. We have Paraprofessionals that took a zero percent increase for 2010-2011, Custodians took zero percent wage increase for 2010-2011, the WEA provided two furlough days, the WAA two furlough days, central office administrative wage freeze; in total it almost equaled a one percentage decrease, about \$330,000 in concessions. So significant hard work and sacrifice by the boards members to try and assist in this really difficult time in this community.

Mr. Primini I would just like to add to that Ms. Rosa and I and your sub committee met back in November and I think every month we just kept looking and that is why I wanted to emphasize this budget. We have been looking at things here in dollars and ten dollars. Years ago you cut things 25 or 50 thousand dollars we literally down to dollar items. The town side we are in the same boat our short term investments we are getting a half percent, a few years ago we were getting 3%. Our building permits are down, the revenue is just not coming into the town. The only way to really address this is for Economic Development. I do not care what party we are with, we all have to start putting our heads together and have to start welcoming some business in the town and we have a bad reputation in this area. Maybe this could be addressed through charter revision. Maybe there is different things we can do through there I do not know and that will be up to that committee. We have to encourage business to come here instead of scarring them away.

Ms. Duplissie the problem I am having, I understand that the Paraprofessionals and Custodians have given their concessions and that is very nice. The problem is that as

you know we have contracts that were negotiated a couple of years ago from the teachers that this elected Town Council can do obviously nothing about. We can look and see how you are spending your money but if there is something we do not like it really does not matter, the bottom line is it is up to you. At the end of the day when you put all your grants and everything else in the pot what is the bottom line. I am having a hard time figuring out what it is.

Ms. Baldwin we have two federal grants every year. The individuals with disabilities education act IDEA to service children with special needs. We get the consolidated grant or Title 1 and underneath the consolidated grant is numerous other titles 1, 2, 3 and 4. That grant award is every year, again federal dollars coming to us; the local school system varies every year. So we can provide to you as we provided previously what the award is for right now through those two grants. In terms of the ERA dollars that was just a really complex rapid decision that came out of the Federal government last February and as you can recall Council members were present a year ago February saw the complexity of that and the rapid decision making that needed to be made and ties in terms of what you can or could not do with that money, that became very challenging for us as well. Ultimately that ERA disappears and we created a pretty significant funding cliff. Relative to this 1.6 million education cost sharing money that is all part of the large pot that Watertown has received for the past several years approximately 11.7 million dollars in education cost sharing to offset and reduce the burden locally on the tax payer. The Board of Ed never saw that money, the only reason we see that money in 2009-2010 and the only reason why you are contemplating this conversation about getting it back this year, is because the governor supplanted. She took ERA money and funded 14% into the education cost sharing part of the state. For the first time ever last year and now this year that money because it came through the ERA grant has to be used for education purposes. So we worked last year and set up a mechanism where by we would use that money and return it the town to keep the town whole in 11.7 million.

Ms. Duplissie when you present that to the Town or to the Town Council do you show the grants you have applied for and the grants that we have gotten.

Ms. Baldwin grant money is included in every narrative that we produce in that budget booklet that we provide to you and to the community, it is on the website.

Ms. Masayda what I do fear is people are still going to be angry. I fear that we are still not going to pass the budget because they see the teachers not willing to make concessions. I understand that you have to negotiate a certain amount of time in advance but does anything dictate how long that has to be, do we have to project 3 years out with promised increases. We always say well times are bad in the future they will give back, well they are not giving back people are losing jobs. There is a lot of animosity there because I am losing my job and you are not willing to give a little. They are going to hold our feet to the fire and make us decide something

whether it is the \$2.00 on every \$1.00 or they going to make their point of who is promising this when you cannot tell the future. Can we learn lessons going forward and not negotiate for so long in advance.

Ms. Baldwin the duration of the collective bargaining agreement is part of the negotiations settlement. The contract of the WEA currently was negotiated in 2008-2009 and Council was represented there. Council has the fiduciary responsibility and their was representatives in those sessions, Councilmen Primini and Mancini was present for every session in 08-09 process and came up with a three year agreement that right now is a collective bargaining agreement that has a 2% general wage increase for teachers and there is step increments as well. Increment cost now is little bit less because the Board put in a voluntary retirement incentive plan. In so doing lowered the budget by another \$426,000. To say grant money is coming in, all of this is hard to keep up and we have worked hard to be ahead of the game to make good decisions to be fiscally responsible to try and balance the needs of education with very real economic landscape here. This board has done that and the employees have done that. To say that teachers have not provided concessions is not accurate, they have. They have provided two furlough days resulting again in over a quarter of percentage decrease. Whether people think that is enough based on perceived salaries and benefits that are beyond our control. But we have had significant concessions discussions throughout this summer with the WEA. They do not have to come to the table to do that and they have. We have worked hard at it since January and we are now moving forward to the 11-12 budget cycle and it is going to be worse because the education cost sharing money which has been 11.7 million locally to this town, it is not going to be funded, there is not ERA money for a new governor to put in there, she cut it 14%, she used a grant to cover it, so it is 14% less. That is going to have significant impact here. We are in trouble, revenue all across the state is dropping.

Ms. Masayda we also going to be seeing the commitment to the retired teachers added into our budget over the next couple of years. We are going to lose our funding we also committed to giving more out. That is what I am saying lessons learned going forward, what can we do. This is not a pleasant cycle right now. What can we do going forward to lessen that butting heads of the teachers and towns people feeling that promises, and it is not just teachers, I think it is unions in general all these promises because of a crystal ball that did not come true.

Ms. Baldwin negotiations will be coming up again and certainly if the economy does not up tick we may be well served to push hard on zeros which we have done already and go for shorter term contracts so it puts us in negotiations more frequently so we can press a lower percentage general wage or zero and manage it for the current year.

Mr. Winn I came to this Council a year and a half ago and I made my mistakes, I had my discourage with the Board of Education and maybe I said things in the paper I have regretted and sometimes I have not. If the Town Council cannot come together

we certainly are not going to bring this Town together. I do not think it is helpful if we don't do something with one budget one is going to fail, that is setting up for a failure. If the town wants to go to zero, the only way I see it is to take 1.4 million dollars from the general fund and make it zero and I think that is unreasonable and irresponsible. Next year it is going to be worse, we are talking about going through line items for the Board of Education in September. If you want to do it next year fine then do it. We are at a point where we need a budget and if we do not get a budget now, we are going to have another referendum in December, we are four months into the year, we got 8 more months to go, I think the Town Council should come together we should support this budget we should talk about the budget next year in the appropriate way.

Mr. Rinaldi I will support this in the sense that let's send it out to the jury and let them decide in what direction to take.

Ms. Adams the federal ERAT money is that grant you receive every year or is that an occasional targeted grant.

Ms. Baldwin no, that has been in place for at least 10 years, it has been on the books every year at the federal level to go away. So every year that is arrives in any of its form whether we are doing fiber optic work with it or other communications work in technology and charging it to a federal ERAT grant that becomes risky business as well for us.

Ms. Adams so generally in the past, it has been used for anything that has to do with computers, software and communications things along that line. Is there any way the town can hook in on that or is just Board of Education.

Ms. Baldwin I do not know the answer to that, I think E might stand for education. I could look into that.

Ms. Adams you have been doing this for 10 years, this year you want to put it towards accounting software.

Ms. Baldwin a one time purchase for financial and personal software.

Mr. Primini this has been one of the liveliest debates we have had in quite some time. I encourage this and like hearing from people. I have been dealing with a lot of calls and I encourage that. That is what we go by what we are hearing out in the streets and I want to emphasize, none of us like that we have to do this. If it is voted down there is no other alternative but to keep cutting. Whether we like the Board of Ed budget or not we are already down to zero. The town budget we are going below zero right now, this is the dilemma we have deal with. What are we going to do next year we have similar situations.

Ms. Adams we are looking to cut the town \$100,000, the Board stays the same.

Ms. Rosa that is not in this motion. I will make a separate motion to reduce it by \$100,000.

Ms. Adams should this pass, the department heads will come back with recommendations as they have done for 5 or 6 years now.

Mr. Primini we generally found out that works the best

Mr. Fusco they know what their department does, they know what they could use, what they need, what's important and the most important thing is public safety. None of us like doing this, we also have to know that the tax payer, the voter, the person living out there, there is a huge employment, people are hurt, they need some help from us. This is the best we can do. I hope we are all in the same ballpark here.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) I make a motion that we remove from the revenue side of the budget \$1,676,226 as those funds will be kept by the Board of Education.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

- b. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) I make a motion to take \$350,000 from the fund balance and reduce the town's budget by \$100,000 which will reduce the overall budget by a ¼ of a mill.

Discussion:

Ms. Adams last time we were here we had Webster Bank come before us talking about the general fund and we asked him about refinancing is there anything we could possible do again, since interest rates continue to fall. If Mr. Nardelli could give any input, keeping in mind we are going for bonding for communications and things like that.

Mr. Nardelli the auditors will be in next month finalizing the figures. I am hoping to maintain the fund balance 5.4 million dollars, again there is some revenue I am waiting for on Taft which is \$125,0000 hopefully they will come through with that. We are approximately 5.4, if you use \$350,000 you are going around the 5 million figure which is about 8% for the budget. We are suppose to be between 7 and 12, we are getting down there, but we are still within fund balance guidelines. We did

check on the refinancing, we just refinanced last year.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

c. Consider Setting Date for Machine Vote on Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budgets.

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move to approve the Referendum Notice for the machine vote on the 2010-2011 Budgets as follows:

A referendum of electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to vote for the approval of disapproval of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budgets.

Voting will be at the following polling places:

Voting District 68-01- Heminway Park School, 37 Heminway Park Road,
Watertown, CT

Voting District 68-02- Judson School, 124 Hamilton Lane, Watertown, CT

Voting District 68-03- Swift Middle School, 250 Colonial Street, Oakville, CT

Voting District 68-04- Polk School, 437 Buckingham Street, Oakville, CT

Persons qualified to vote in Town Meeting who are not electors shall vote at the Office of the Registrar, 51 Depot Street, Depot Square Mall, Suite 113, Watertown, Connecticut.

Absentee ballots may be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office:

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Consider Setting Ballot for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budgets.

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move that the budget question on the referendum to be held on October 12, 2010 be placed on the voting machines as follows:

1. SHALL THE FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 SCHOOL GENERAL FUND BUDGET BE APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,529,590

2. SHALL THE FISCAL YEAR 2010/2011 TOWN GENERAL BUDGET BE APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,352,103 AND SHALL THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 BUDGETS BE APPROVED IN THE AMOUNTS OF:

A. TOWN ROAD AID	\$178,800
B. WATER OPERATIONS	1,356,786
C. WATER CAPITAL	118,678
D. WATER EXTENSION	-0-
E. SEWER OPERATIONS	2,031,995
F. SEWER EXTENSION	-0-
G. SEWER CAPITAL	160,500
H. WATER AND SEWER DEBT	160,750
I. CRESTBROOK GOLF OPERATIONS	726,266
J. LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	155,013
K. DEBT SERVICE FUND	375,000

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. **Consider setting a Special Town Meeting on the proposed Fiscal year 2010-2011 budget.**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move that the Town Council shall hold a Budget Town Meeting at the Town Hall Annex, 424 Main Street at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 to consider the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budgets.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- f. **Consider authorizing the Town Manager to execute an Amendment to the Lease Agreement between Sprint Spectrum Realty Company L.P and the Town of Watertown**

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Thomas Winn) I move to authorize the Town Manager to execute an Amendment to the Lease Agreement between Sprint Spectrum Realty Company L.P and the Town of Watertown; the modification of the lease is to permit Sprint affiliate, Clear Wireless, LLC to remove certain antennas and replace them with Clearwire antennas.

Discussion:

Mr. Nardelli this is a revision of the agreement that the Town Attorney has gone over which allows them to change the towers that are currently there and not add anymore. The town will pick up extra couple of hundred dollars a month for that.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Consider a Charter Revision Committee

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Town Council wishes to establish a Charter Revision Commission,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 7-188(b), the Town Council hereby commences the establishment of a Charter Revision Commission

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Charter Revision Commission be appointed.

Discussion:

Mr. Rinaldi what was the purpose for initiating this.

Mr. Primini this was a campaign promise we made for last year we said we would look into it. It has not been done since 1978 and some towns like Woodbury do it every five years. It is going to be open and there is going to be a committee. I do not know what is going to be discussed and the final vote will be by the people.

Mr. Rinaldi 3 or 4 years ago when Joe Pawlak was Chairman of the Council, the concept came up. We asked to get together with the leadership of the Republican Party. We had a meeting I was there no names mentioned but here was the premise of the meeting. If in fact the Council wanted to open up the Charter Revision Committee that it would be wide open. We had no suggestions at the time and to take a look at it to see what is going on. We felt very strongly at the time that there should be a few public hearings before this action was even initiated. To see number one if there was interest, number two if there was interest what is it and any other information so this way we could make a responsible decision and to make a long story short it was rejected. I think the key thing at this point I think before we initiate any action we should perhaps have a public hearing to get some public input whether it is negative or positive or otherwise. This way we could formulate an opinion as to whether it is a wise thing to do or not, I think that is very important.

I do have a couple of other questions; this document prepared by Attorney Jessell what did this cost?

Mr. Nardelli I have not received a bill yet.

Mr. Rinaldi when you get that information could you forward it to the Council.

Mr. Primini I know it has been closed a lot for years nobody wants to touch it, I think the reason why nobody wants to touch it is fear of not knowing what is going to come out of it. You brought up in the past definition of minority representation; I think that should be addressed in here. It was brought up in the past with regards to Boards and Commission, should Commissions be split up, should they be elected positions I do not know. I think its time we have not changed since 1978, a lot changes in these years. It is something I wanted to throw open; you have talked about this many times before.

Mr. Rinaldi have you formulated any sort of charge in this Commission.

Mr. Primini this is the first step right now. I asked for a legal opinion because I think it has not been done before.

Mr. Fusco point of information, I think what Mr. Rinaldi is saying is that I believe the Council can put a charge for Charter Revision Commission with different ideas or are you going to have the charter revision just go through the whole charter and say well its time instead of having a public town meeting for approving the budget it will go to referendum automatically, is this what you have in mind Mr. Rinaldi?

Mr. Rinaldi you open up the charter you can charge them with one specific section or two sections or the whole thing. I was curious to know what the intent was here to open up one section or open up the whole charter.

Mr. Fusco we are still at the beginning stages of it, if we can get this approved we can go on to it but if we charge them they will look at the charges we gave them but you are right they can go beyond the charges. If I read this right and if we see things we believe are good or if they start playing games the Council can vote not to go forward, then the town has the right to vote on it at the very end. I think when you were talking about it; the time it failed there was a big argument on whether we should change the form of government, if I am correct.

Mr. Rinaldi that was the first one, it was tried again and that is why a few years back we thought maybe there was some interest to open it.

Mr. Fusco I think what Mr. Primini is doing is starting the ball rolling and work it from there.

Mr. Rinaldi I am not judging whether this process is good or bad or whether I support it or not. Before we start this process we should have some public hearings and see how people feel, what they want and take some suggestions from them then move forward based on that. If you have large majority of people that do not want to do this no problem.

Mr. Primini from what I read in the legal opinion the hearings are part of the process.

Mr. Rinaldi I am questioning whether we should even go that far.

Mr. Primini I hope to hear from anybody that was on the Commission back in 1978. I would like to hear what happened, what history we had back then and. I see some things have to be updated. The Fire Department we did a revision of our by-laws some things change over time. I have been hearing from the people the past year or two asking about it and I would just like to get the ball rolling. The way I have been reading this process maybe there is no changes. They have at least two public hearings and they could have more obviously then it comes back to the Town Council then we have to have a public hearing, and we might say no we do not want to do this.

Mr. Rinaldi it is a very long process I think before we embark on this that we should get some input ourselves that is all I am saying. I have problem just going into this thing without having some direction before we even start.

Ms. Masayda I am not sure if this is the time because what I have read from Mr. Jessell and from other people if this is a long process with a lot of referendums, referendums cost money is this the time. Are people coming up to you and saying I do not like this part of our charter specifically. Is there something we really want to address or are we just opening it up let's do it because we can. Is it broken that we need to address it right now?

Mr. Primini it is not broken, when you say is it time. I think it is time.

Ms. Adams just taking on Mr. Rinaldi and Ms. Masayda points, you mentioned yourself Woodbury just went through a charter revision and took a look at it. I know Waterbury is going through a charter revision, before I am willing to take a step I would like to know what the costs entail. I know we have a referendum at the end but you are going to have legal fees and to find out what Woodbury and Waterbury spent. What kind of dollars are we looking at spending of the tax payers' money to do this? Secondly as far as what Mr. Rinaldi said I would like to hear what the public is

thinking before moving ahead. This is serious business for us to do potentially with referendums, governments and I would like to hear what the people are saying. We can do a public hearing, get some information and make informed decisions.

Mr. Primini the definition of minority representation and what that means, I think that is one thing that has to be addressed and. this is your opportunity now to get that addressed. As far as cost it is done by volunteers, Torrington did it and it was not that bad of a process.

Ms. Adams what have they spent on it, what is the cost between legal fees, legal postings, referendums and everything that needs to be done to just get an idea so we do not go into this blindly.

Mr. Rinaldi as far as public hearings goes, I think the issue is going to come down to a couple of things either we need no changes or people are not content the way we are doing business now and want us to change the way we do things or do they ultimately want to change the charter. There a lot of options here that have to be looked at and I think before I can support sending it to a charter revision I have to get some input from the people as to what direction they think they want to go.

Mr. Winn again I have been here 20 years and I hear from this town all time, no, no, not time, not time, not time. We are sitting here doing the fourth referendum, how is our leadership doing, do we need some changes maybe. I hear a lot of complaints about P&Z, do we need some changes maybe and other committees., the time is now.

Mr. Rinaldi you said you are tired of referendum, after referendum is this one of the objectives you have.

Mr. Winn you are saying something that I have no plans whatsoever. I said were here for the 4th referendum there is obviously no leadership here. If you want to let the town vote on it why don't we have committee here, open it up and let them vote on it, let them vote either up or down. I am not going to be on the committee and I have nothing to do with it. Let's move this town forward, lets do something proactive instead reactive for a change.

Aye: 6 DiFederico, Duplissie, Fusco, Primini, Rosa, Winn
Nay: 3 Adams, Masayda, Rinaldi

MOTION PASSED

h. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Taxpayers have made application for the property tax refunds in accordance with section 12-129 Refund of Excess payment; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector recommends that the refunds be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 12-129;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council approve the following tax refunds.

- 2,492 FINANCIAL SER VEH TRUST AMOUNT OF REFUND: 74.88
TYPE: M
5550 BRITTON PKWY
HILLIARD OH 43026 7456
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED
- 2,493 FINANCIAL SER VEH TRUST 1 AMOUNT OF REFUND: 332.65
TYPE: M
5515 PARKCENTER CIR
DUBLIN OH 43017 3584
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED
- 2,644 FINANCIAL SER VEH TRUST 1 AMOUNT OF REFUND: 110.88
TYPE: M
5550 BRITTON PKWY
HILLIARD OH 43026 7456
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED
- 3,378 CAB EAST LLC 1 AMOUNT OF REFUND: 180.52
FORD CREDIT PP TAX TYPE: M
PO BOX 67000
DETROIT MI 48267 2316
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED
- 3,379 CAB EAST LLC 2 AMOUNT OF REFUND: 135.33
FORD CREDIT PP TAX TYPE: M
PO BOX 67000
DETROIT MI 48267 2316
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED
- 3,380 CAB EAST LLC 3 AMOUNT OF REFUND: 164.63

	FORD CREDIT PP TAX	TYPE: M
	PO BOX 67000	
	DETROIT MI 48267 2316	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED	
3,381	CAB EAST LLC 4	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 68.35
	FORD CREDIT PP TAX	TYPE: M
	PO BOX 67000	
	DETROIT MI 48267 2316	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED	
3,382	CAB EAST LLC 5	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 77.172
	FORD CREDIT PP TAX	TYPE: M
	PO BOX 67000	
	DETROIT MI 48267 2316	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED	
3,409	CAB EAST LLC 1	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 232.93
	FORD CREDIT PP TAX	TYPE: M
	PO BOX 67000	
	DETROIT MI 48267 2316	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED	
3,425	EMERICK SHIRLEY L EST	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 2,195.48
	EMERICK BRUCE E EXEC	TYPE: R
	990 GUERNSEYTOWN RD	
	WATERTOWN CT 06795 5122	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT DELETED	
3,426	EMERICK SHIRLEY L EST	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 1,506.34
	EMERICK BRUCE E EXEC	TYPE: R
	990 GUERNSEYTOWN RD	
	WATERTOWN CT 06795 5122	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT DELETED	
3,427	EMERICK SHIRLEY L EST	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 1,614.41
	EMERICK BRUCE E EXEC	TYPE: R
	990 GUERNSEYTOWN RD	
	WATERTOWN CT 06795 5122	
	REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT DELETED	
3,429	GRANT MARY	AMOUNT OF REFUND: 43.08
		TYPE: M

96 INVERARY DR
WATERTOWN CT 06795 0000
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT DELETED

3,430 GRANT MARY AMOUNT OF REFUND: 40.50
TYPE: M

96 INVERARY DR
WATERTOWN CT 06795 0000
REASON FOR REFUND: PER ASSESSOR; ACCOUNT PRORATED

TOTAL FOR ALL REFUNDS: 6,777.15

Dated at Watertown, CT this 20 day of September, 2010.

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) I move to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Public participation.

Carl Mancini – 74 Regency Hill Drive, Watertown

I have two things one is a statement and one is a question. Ms. Masayda you talk about negotiations for the teachers' contracts. Superintendent Baldwin said I was on that Committee and along with Mr. Primini. When you go to the negotiations one thing you do not have is a crystal ball when we started out those negotiations the majority supported the union, which said well the state is in great shape and at that time they were. The state was still having a big surplus and the contract that we negotiated a few years ago was a great contract. There was a one Council member when it came to vote said if Mr. Mancini likes it then I will agree with it and that was Councilman Fusco. He knows that I watch the money, try to get the least amount I can as far as raises are concerned. The raises that are in effect right now seem high because of the economy and I agree. There is nothing saying we cannot go back and ask the teachers for more but you cannot demand it.

Ms. Masayda: I am just saying you do not project so far out in the future.

Mr. Mancini what is the bottom line for tax increase, that is the number I want to know.

Mr. Nardelli 2.37%

Mr. Mancini and the last one was 3.49 correct.

Mr. DiFederico when you were in negotiations you did save money on insurance too.

Mr. Mancini they also contributed more money for their insurance packages. Do I like them getting a 5% wage and step increase right now, no I do not. But that is today; two years ago it was a great deal compared to the previous contracts.

Liz Wasiutynski – 514 Sylvan Lake Road

I was struck by Ms. Duplissie's question pertaining to the bottom line for the Board of Education. As I listened to Karen Baldwin explain the budget I think I understand Mr. Chairman that the numbers that you are voting on as Town Council tonight have to do with the amount of money that has to be raised to pay bills for those numbers from the tax payers of the Town of Watertown. But in addition to what I heard from Ms. Baldwin is that another 33% given in grant money to the education budget. Did I hear correctly? I heard the amount of 11 million dollars come from various sources and is mentioned in a descriptive format in the budget document. So I think I am hearing Ms. Baldwin that the 33 million that you voted on tonight is the amount that we the Watertown taxpayers will be paying of the education budget.

Mr. Nardelli no, we do get state funding as the Superintendent said and that is factored in, so you do not have to pay for the whole 33 million that is offset by this revenue.

Ms. Wasiutynski the line item budget that was spoken off tonight which hopefully will be appearing on the website of the Board of Education will tell where the grant is being spent, line items that grant monies are being spent for.

Ms. Baldwin the 11.7 million goes strictly to the town, the town uses it to offset costs. The 11.7 you will not see anywhere in any budget document. ERA dollars are evident in our budget narrative are currently on the website.

Ms. Wasiutynski if we were to be looking at the check book 12 months hence we would see 33 million spent and that would include the taxpayers money as well as any grant which came in is that correct.

Ms. Baldwin yes

Ms. Wasiutynski then may I move to the monies which are spent by the town. Does the town also benefit from grant monies which go into the budget which is represented by we are going to be voting on.

Mr. Nardelli there are some grant monies we get for Town Road Aid, those separate budgets that Ms. Rosa read. So basically the town side is funded by interest on

investments, taxpayers pay in their taxes, building permits, conveyance fees there are other fees in the budget that fund the town side.

Ms. Wasiutynski plus grants.

Mr. Nardelli we get a town road aid which is separate from the general fund.

Ms. Wasiutynski I am trying to get a sense of when I hear the Superintendent of Schools talking 11 million dollars however it is factored into the budget where it goes through the town side or not the town side. My hope is that you Mr. Nardelli could tell us how much percentage wise of the town side budget comes in from other sources other than the taxpayers, just vaguely.

Mr. Nardelli I would have to calculate and certainly get you that information.

Ms. Wasiutynski I am interested because \$100,000 that is being taken from the town budget and put into the school budget is about 3 or 4 salaries.

Ms. Rosa it is not being put into the school budget.

Ms. Wasiutynski then where is being put.

Ms. Rosa it is going to be taken out.

Ms. Wasiutynski that represents to me several people, so there is no grant money coming in to offset it, there are no other sources of funding for the town side. I think it is evitable that the Town Council is going to be talking about letting people go. That is my concern I think it is very unfortunate that several named by name as being considered for losing their jobs. I would like to hear whether that is being offset from another source.

Mr. Primini I said that in my statement before, we do not plan to cut anybody at this time.

Elio Longo – 83 Bella Vista Drive, Watertown

I share my concerns over the earlier motion on the city and education budget specific to the MBR. There has been a lot of discussion on the MBR requirements and I believe the Council is at a point of understanding fully that the MBR was passed by the state to the 08-09 rate. The fiscal year ended June 30, 2010 for all local education agencies. Also districts have an option this past fiscal year, that option was to return the equivalent amount in our town's case the 1.6 million to the town (inaudible) or subsequent to the passage of 1.6 ERA funds by our Governor of state legislature. This Council has met reconvened to reduce the appropriation by the equivalent amount of 1.6. It is my understanding that the former was the course of action. A little background information, I am a resident in town, I am also Finance Director for one of the largest school districts

in the state of Connecticut, and we manage a 135 million dollars. So I understand your challenges and dilemmas and I share your pain. We elected the town that I represent a professional to enter into a gentlemen's agreement I believe is the case in our hometown, that at the end of the fiscal year you would return 1.6 million dollars. That 1.6 million dollars appears on the town books as receivables, that receivable is not a return of ERA, it against the law for the town to touch federal stimulus dollars. The Governor and state legislatures elected to reduce on average 14% across all districts and municipalities. The Governor chose to fill the cap in the proposed cuts the ECS education cost share formula with the federal stimulus dollars. The return of the 1.6 is against the town's line of credit, when you appropriated last year approximately 35 million dollars to the Board of Education, the Board of Education will have spent up to that 35 million dollars without going over. I believe the arrangement entered between the Board of Education and the Council or Town Manager was to a fiscal year ended projection 1.6 million. If you returned the 1.6 million, that is 1.6 million returns against the town's line of credit for the Board of Education, it is not a return of the ERA funds. You could have met and reconvened to reduce the appropriation by the 1.6. Now last September there was a special implementation bill that was enacted and passed by our state legislature. The special implementation bill sets the MBR not only for the current fiscal year but for next fiscal year as well to. The law is quite clear municipalities cannot dip below the 08-09 rates. So it boils down to one question what was the 08-09 rates to the Board of Education that was last years appropriation. I am afraid that the motion made and passed, the legislative board earlier voted the 33 million dollars base and then return 1.6, the 1.6 is not the city money to return, it is not your prerogative. You know the minimum penalty going forward is a reduction for every dollar cut there is a 2 dollars penalty. I am hopeful and wish that the Board understands fully the impact of 1.6 is not an add back of federal dollars. You are hands off when it comes to the federal dollars. It could have been addressed as was addressed this past year; you appropriate the same amount once again you have repeated it enters into a gentlemen's agreement to return 1.6. The Board of Education has helped or made whole and there is no question as to whether not the intent but the letter of the law was upheld with regards to the management and how to apply for federal stimulus dollar.

Ms. Rosa we follow with respect where you work. My point being your district follows your guidance and with your knowledge and experience. That is what we did tonight we followed Mr. Nardelli's guidance and experience in how to handle it and we also have a legal opinion.

Mr. Longo does the Board of Education have a legal opinion, I believe they do. My point being is why while I am the fiduciary agent for the district I represent on a day to day basis, I am a tax payer and I want to be sure that this Council took the appropriate action this evening that does not expose taxpayers going forward and if you have a legal opinion from Town Council and the Board of Education has a legal opinion from education legal experts. The state is a fiduciary ultimately responsible for these federal dollars. It is a simple question to the state officials as to whether or not the MBR requirement has been

met by this board. Will there be a special meeting that is planned for next Wednesday evening there is still time. I hope that one member not more members can prove me wrong in the long run. I share with you caution going forward that this board not expose the taxpayers to risk. For the simple fact whether or not the MBR is tied back to the 08-09. There is a state research book they came out with an opinion stating all the CGS requirements all pertaining to MBR and how they are pegged to the 08-09 rate. It is purposely done so that municipalities would not dip below and supplant local revenue with the federal dollars.

Mr. DiFederico it is here the MBR for Watertown and I will tell you what it is for this year it is \$33,529,590. Is that what you are talking about?

Mr. Longo I am talking about 33 as the base which excludes the ERA 1.6.

Mr. DiFederico 2010-2011 is here, this comes from the state.

Mr. Longo that report comes from the state and you have a legal opinion and the Board of Education has legal opinions and ask if the motion made by this board is in strict adherence with the law. I heard earlier two council members saying on entirely matter lets have the jury decide. Well let's have the judge decide this one send it back up to state Department of Education and ask that they comment on it the appropriation.

Mr. DiFederico the legal opinion is right here, for the fiscal year 2011 the Board of Education is again received 1.6 million. The town's duty is to fund the Board of Education is limited, the \$33,529,590 which when added to the SBSF money total 35. The town responsibility is to appropriate the total sum of \$33,529,590 that is our legal opinion. Over here it has a list with Watertown is \$33,529,590 MBR.

Ms. Duplissie are you saying that we should not have made the motion, are you saying we are putting ourselves at risk by making this motion.

Mr. Longo I am under the opinion that this Commission and the taxpayers are at risk here going forward they have been exposed here with future MBR appropriations as it applies to education cost sharing.

Ms. Duplissie explain how they are at risk.

Mr. Longo Connecticut general state statues 10-262 subsection I subsection F legal opinion from the State Department of Education not a Town Council not a Board of Education Attorney. The effect of the current MBR is to prohibit towns from reducing education budgets in fiscal year 10 and fiscal year 11. Below their fiscal year 09 levels what was your appropriation at 09. If it was the 35 million dollars by law the penalty for failing to meet the MBR's reduction in town grant for subsequent fiscal years equal the to twice the amount of the short form.

Nancy Rahuba – 99 Old Farms Road

When you were talking about the charter revision and mentioning that it was a campaign promise I really do not think the people are going care about that campaign promise. I think the problem you are having with the budget is the campaign promise that they do care about is the lower taxes. I think you are going to continue to have a problem because of that promise.

Joseph Perugini- 162 Tarbell Avenue, Oakville

I was listening tonight about federal money, the federal money is our money we pay taxes. If you go to any meeting any time in Connecticut they have the same thing, they discuss about the same thing if we do not meet this quota we are not going to get the federal money. It is very simple give the federal money to help the education of children. The government has no money; the state does not have any money. So they make things so complicated and then each town they try to get the money and say if we do not do this then we are not going to get the title money. That is why there is corruption in the system. I live on Tarbell Avenue and I go by Polk School every day and the money for Polk School wasted. If you look at Polk school there is no grade change whatsoever the same grades that were there before there is now. Twelve million dollars that we spent there wasted money. That is why we have a problem today, there has somebody supervising and to know what is going on, where this money is going because we are throwing money away it not controlled. Then on the budget the teachers, the policemen, the firemen, all the people working for the town they have to understand that the private section they are suffering, they are getting cuts on their pay, they do not have a job. The elderly we have a fixed income and we did not get a penny and yet the town wants more money for taxes. They have to understand the private sector is hurting at this point maybe the economy will pick up later on I do not know. The people working for the town and the state government they have to understand that the private sector and these people produce nothing it is the private sector that produces. This is where the problem is today by raising the taxes all the time we are talking about out of control budgeting. How many families that have to cut on their budget from two three years ago when the economy was good they use to go on vacation and now they cannot even do that. So everybody has to cut back when things are bad you cannot spend the money, there is no money.

11. Adjournment.

Motion: (Paul Rinaldi sec. Thomas Winn) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk