



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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: none

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

Joseph Pawlak – 173 Middlebury Road, Watertown

In 2007 legislature passed a law which added a \$10.00 surcharge to every ticket written by a local municipal Police Officer and at the end of the quarter those monies were collected and a check was cut and sent back to the responsible town. The intent of this money was to be used by the towns for additional enforcement. I had conversations with

the Police Chief and he said that he has not seen any of the money in years. I e-mailed Mr. Nardelli and asked how much we received in the two years from the 3rd quarter of 2008 to the 2nd quarter of 2010 and since then we received \$17,911 from the state for the surcharges. Why is it not being transferred to the Police Department to be used in the manner to which it was intended and what has to be done to transfer it?

Mr. Frigon: all of the speeding efforts are not done on overtime, a lot of that is done on regular shifts with the officers that we have on the road.

Mr. Nardelli: those funds were re appropriated by the Town Council, last year they budgeted \$160,000 for Police overtime and they spent \$215,000. Those funds could be directly reappropriated to that overtime account which was done by the Council in previous years. That money ultimately did get back into the overtime account and spent more than was budgeted.

Richard Wick – Northfield Road

This evening, the Council will be making an important decision. I'm talking about agenda item 9A, appointments to the Charter Revision Commission. The way this process is handled is critical and will determine whether the voters will support the recommendations of the Commission. The composition of the Commission is the key to success. I send a letter to our Chairman on October 7th recommending the Council appoint a group of twelve of our citizens. I suggested 3 be nominated by the Republican Town Committee, 3 be nominated by the Democratic Town Committee, 3 be nominated by the Independent Town Committee, and 3 be nominated by the Town Manager. This assortment of different perspectives will improve the chances the Commission we be able to come up with a set of recommendations the public can and will support. If such a diverse group is appointed, no one can think the deck has been stacked in favor of or against any particular position. I don't know if nominations have been solicited from others, but the Independent Party submitted a list of three individuals we believe are well qualified to do the job right. They are Deborah Weinberger, Rachel Ryan and Joe Spino. I request these individuals be included in the group of appointments you will make later this evening.

Elizabeth Wasiutynski – 514 Sylvan Lake Road, Watertown

On October 12th my husband and I attended the Board of Education meeting. We were the only two members of the general public and the rest were staff members and members of the Board and a reporter from the local paper. Three members of the Republic majority spent most of the meeting upgrading the local paper as represented by the reporter for inaccurate reporting and comments about the ERATE program. A few days later in the Waterbury Republican American, October 15th in which there is a lengthy discussion of the ERATE program we learned that everything that was said both the Republican majority as well as the Superintendent of School was in fact false as it pertains to the ERATE program. The Town side of the budget passed 4 times and the Department of Education budget failed 3 times and passed the 4th time. On the 3rd go around \$100,000 was taken out of the town budget and handed over to the Department of

Education. We learned from the paper that there was a big pile of Federal money that was given to the Town, so the schools made out very well. I would urge tonight in New Business Mr. Chairman to bring up the discussion that you request of the Board of Education the \$100,000 be reinstated back into the Town budget. I would also urge you to inquire how much money has come in from the ERAT to Watertown, because the Superintendent shared with the members of the Board of Education only the numbers of expenditures that were used from that fund from 2006 and it was only for the 4 fiscal years, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. What happened to the previous years with ERATE that was passed back in 1998 and 1999, there is 10 years worth of money that has been coming into the town presumable. You, Mr. Chairman in a very difficult fiscal climate should be urging the Board of Education to divulge how many more funds there are off the books. If there is one and unfortunately I suspect that there maybe more that should be clarified for all the taxpayers in Town.

Mr. Primini: the \$100,000 that was taken out of the Town side was not given to the Board of Education; we cut another \$100,000 out of the Town side which is below zero.

Ms. Wasiutynski the town side budget monies should be reinstated from the looks of things. The Board of Education is either not on top of the situation or has more monies than it needs for the time being.

Ms. Adams: can we ask the Board of Ed to turn over that ERATE money or use it to offset their phone or communications bill and to ask them you have this money it is unbudgeted and you do not spend it at the end of the fiscal year turn it back to the Town. We do not know what else they have that is not budgeted that is dollars. We cut \$100,000 from the Town that passed 4 times not to mention we also took \$350,000 from the general fund to lower taxes, so if they have anything that they can help us out with.

Mr. DiFederico my first two years on the Council I did try to ask that question and yes those things did come up, they never did get answered, exactly what you are talking about other funds, how do you find them all.

Mr. Wasiutynski you got to be wondering who signs the checks and how many checkbooks there are. The Town Council has to take the leadership to do this because we are running two different towns here, one is called the Board of Education and the other is called the Town of Watertown.

Carl Mancini – 74 Regency Hill Drive, Watertown

The last meeting I got up and spoke about ERATE money, I said we should have tried to have that money used for additional teachers. I believe Ms. McGuire got up right after me and said that money has to be used for technology only. The article in the newspaper explained it; it could be used for anything. I have heard for five years about the principle fund, we know about it, does anybody know how much money is in it? We have to know exactly what is coming into the Board of Education all the time, all this outside money. We as taxpayers all paid to have the football field done over and told we are going to have all this money coming in from the gate, do you know how much money has been collected at the gate. Do we know how much money is collected at a basketball game? Where does that money go? Has any money from the gate been put towards future renovation projects for the field that is going to cost us one million dollars in nine more years?

Kevin Killeen – 430 Northfield Road

I am not here as a Board of Education member but it seems that some of the questions that have been directed to the Council are best answered attending a Board of Education meeting to dispel some of the misinformation that has persisted. If people with the intention of assimilating the facts into the rumor then they will be able to make quality decisions about whether or not they support the Board of Education budget, whether or not they support the Town budget, or do not support each. Misinformation is out there and it should stop. I would hope that the Council when it has visitors for Public Participation would encourage them to seek out answers at the elected Board of Education meetings.

Richard Wick – Northfield Road

We have been tap dancing around this issue now for over a year, it was part of the Independent Party platform last year to put some information about the Board of Education budget on the internet and that is only step one. What is more important than putting the budget on the internet is putting the checkbook on the internet, so people can see where the money goes, and where it comes from.

Kevin Killeen – 430 Northfield Road

I think what the prior speaker just stated is a wonderful idea and I would endorse that idea for both sides of the budget, the Town budget as well Board of Education budget. Much can be learned for our community if they would engage themselves in the knowledge what is in both budgets. A great idea!

Roger Mitchell – 99 Norway Street

I do not know how much money is needed to do over the Town Charter but since we are on bare budget where is it coming from?

Mr. Primini: talking to the Town Attorney the fees should be very minimal and the Town Attorney cannot participate, there will be another Attorney.

Mr. Mitchell do you have a figure on what it will cost. As far as the Board of Ed I have a problem with their budget period I do not where it goes, what is coming in, we do not know. How come the phone bill is so high?

5. Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – October 4, 2010

- a. (Richard Fusco sec. Richard DiFederico) I move to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting – October 4, 2010 as written.

Discussion: none

Aye: 8 Adams, DiFederico, Fusco, Masayda, Primini, Rinaldi, Rosa, Winn

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Duplissie

b. Special Meeting – October 14, 2010

- b. (Richard Fusco sec. Richard DiFederico) I move to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting – October 14, 2010 as written.

Discussion: none

Aye: 8 DiFederico, Duplissie, Fusco, Masayda, Primini, Rinaldi, Rosa, Winn

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Adams

6. Chairman's Report

a. Received STEAP Grant - \$25,000 for Rujack Property for Open Space.

b. Flu Vaccines – The Visiting Nurses have been conducting flu vaccines at the Senior Center. Seniors have also received flu vaccines from local businesses in town who are offering the vaccine.

7. Town Manager's Report - none

8. Subcommittee Reports

a. Public Works Subcommittee

French Street - paving delayed for a week

Board of Education Subcommittee – setting a date directly after the Board of Education meeting and Public Works meeting both are done on Monday.

b. Town Hall Subcommittee

Last meeting discussions on the old Town Hall and will have more information at the next meeting.

9. New Business

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard Fusco) **I make a motion that we add item 9a2 a charge to the Charter Revision Commission.**

Ms. Adams: what is the charge?

Ms. Rosa: when we get to the item on the agenda that is when we read the charge, but as far as adding it to the agenda, that is what the agenda item would be titled.

Ms. Adams: I disagree there should be more information.

Aye: 6

Nay: 0

Abstain: 3 Adams, Masayda, Rinaldi

a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions.

1. Charter Revision Commission

(Mary Ann Rosa sec. Duplissie) **I make a motion that we approve the following resolution.**

Resolution

WHEREAS the Watertown Town Council has voted to appoint a Charter Revision Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council shall appoint nine (9) members; and

WHEREAS the membership of the Commission members appointed shall consist of four (4) Republicans; three (3) Democrats, one (1) Independent and one (1) Unaffiliated Individual

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following appointments are made to the Charter Revision Commission.

Republicans:

Gerry Mastropietro, Belle Meadow Drive, Watertown
Donald Stepanek, 75 Highland Avenue, Watertown
Rosalie Loughran, 319 Thomaston Road, Watertown
Craig Palmer, 267 Bryant Road, Watertown

Democrats:

Ken Demirs, 312 Oak Drive, Watertown
Heather Irwin, 103 Cutler Street, Watertown
Ronald Russo, 22 Scott Avenue, Watertown

Independent:

Rachel Ryan, 31 Warren Way, Watertown

Unaffiliated:

Dr. Joseph Erardi, 72 Belle Meadow Drive, Watertown

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission shall submit its draft report on or before April 18, 2011.

Discussion: Ms. Adams: this is the first time in ten years sitting on the Council and four years on the Board of Ed that I never received a copy of resolution be put forward from Town Council. I am looking at these names here and you left off two very important people that we had put up, Debbie Weinberger, who is Chairman of the Library Association and business owner and a retiree Joe Spino also part business owner in Town, retired from Northeast Utilities. I think it is a real travesty here, I look at these names and there is no real representation of the general community here. It is unfair to the rest of the people in Town we are talking something as serious as the Charter Revision.

Ms. Masayda: can I ask why you did not consider an even distribution of representation.

Mr. Fusco: if you take the numbers and these are not exact numbers, we have 3,000 registered Republicans, a little more registered Democrats, and double that amount of Unaffiliated. We have 30 Independent do the Math and you find that the percentages point .00 it is so far down. How could you say even distribution when I don't think you are an Independent, the distribution is pretty fair.

Mr. Rinaldi: just to follow through what Mr. Fusco said, in fact we have an even number of democrats, republicans and as he said about 30 Independents and twice as many Unaffiliated, there should be 5 more Unaffiliated to make it even.

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

MOTION PASSES

9a2. (Mary Ann Rosa sec. Richard DiFederico) **I make a motion that the Town Council charge the following Charter Revision Commission:**

1. That the Charter Revision Commission look at any and all necessary housekeeping language changes.
2. That any and all appropriate changes to conform with present state statues and regulations be reviewed.
3. That the Charter Revision Commission review the present form of government and alternate form and recommend which structure is the most efficient and appropriate for Watertown.

Ms. Rosa: those are the only three recommendations that are being made from the Council. Obviously we will encourage hearings right away.

Discussion: Mr. Rinaldi: I thought from the onset we were just going to put the Commission together and let them do what they have to do. Why are we telling them to look to examine the form of government?

Ms. Rosa: if you read all the regulations of a Charter Revision Commission they are totally separate from us. They can look at any part of the Charter and make any recommendations they choose to make. We as a Council can make some recommendations that we believe are appropriate. Not having reviewed our Charter in 30 years there are definitely things there that need to be reviewed. There are housekeeping things in the Charter, the only other issue that we felt needed to be looked at and evaluated and it may not come out of the Commission to the public, we felt that the form government had not been reviewed in 30 years and that is something that we would like to see the public's opinion on.

Mr. Rinaldi: I just thought it was if they had Charter to look at the total Charter, that the form of government would be one of the things to look at

Ms. Rosa: they do have charges to look at the whole Charter and in addition specifically the form of government.

Mr. Rinaldi: I have a request through the Chair, when this Commission starts to meet you give all the Council members a schedule of the meetings on what time and where.

Mr. Primini: yes, does everybody have a copy of the Charter? If you want to look at whatever you want to see, by all means make any recommendations. The time has come there was some updating, since 1978 we have only been able to do a bid waiver of \$4,000, we currently vote up to \$25,000. Can the referendum process be separated, in other words the Town side passes, and does it pass. Basically the Charter is open

for them. They have a fair representation from everybody and nobody is from the Town Council on this Commission, it is a separate Commission.

Mr. Rinaldi: the last Charter Revision Commission according to the Charter was 1987.

Mr. Primini: I think they only looked at one thing, I am not sure.

Ms. Adams: Mr. Frigon, I am sorry here we are the Council will vote basically whether or not to charge the Commission with your job being Town Manager and personally in working with you feel you are the best Town Manger we have ever had and I am sorry.

Ms. Rosa: I think the editorializing is not necessary, but since Ms. Adams began it and I will continue it. Nobody is sitting here that wants to look at the form of government is saying that Mr. Frigon is not doing a dynamite job and nobody is sitting here saying he might not be one of the candidates we want to put forth if some other form of government is recommended. So don't make assumptions, don't jump to conclusions. Nobody here is criticizing Mr. Frigon's performance, we all think he is working very hard and doing absolutely the best he can do, given the economic climate and what he has to work with. I am certain he is smart enough to realize this isn't any reflection on his performance and we may need him in the future no matter what form of government we have.

Ms. Adams: I take exception to what you said. You are the one that put the motion forward to look at change of government; a change of government as far as looking at it, I think is an insult to our Manager in my opinion.

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

MOTION PASSES

- b. Consider an appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 from the General Fund for the CT Housing Assessment and Incentive Zone Plan. Funds have been reimbursed through a grant from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.**

(Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 from the General fund for the CT Housing Assessment and Incentive Zone Plan.

Discussion: Mr. Frigon: Approximately a year ago the Town of Watertown had an opportunity to apply for a grant to assist the Planning & Zoning Commission with reviewing areas in town that might best suit Incentive Housing. We did apply for that grant, we did receive the grant and we are spending down on that grant. These monies, the \$20,000 have come back to the Town and reimbursed to the Town and that is what this motion will do is to put the money in place.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. **Consider a bid waiver to Kuegler' Associates of Watertown in the amount of \$5,000 for engineering and inspection services for the installation and replacement of mechanical systems at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project to be funded by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.**

(Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to approve a bid waiver to Kuegler' Associates of Watertown in the amount of \$5,000 for engineering and inspection services, for the installation and replacement of mechanical systems at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project to be funded by the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Discussion: Mr. Frigon: this grant was applied for several months ago we did receive an \$89,000 grant that is funded through the State of Connecticut by the ARRA funds. It is for energy efficiency, it is a block grant and what we are wanting to accomplish tonight in both C, D & E is to maximize the work that is actually going to be done with regards to the energy efficiency in the Police Department. It requires three steps. The step tonight would allow us to not to exceed amounts for three contractors. We then submit to the State of Ct for approval, which we have every indication that it will be accepted and then if accepted or when accepted we then come back and have to appropriate the full \$89,000 from the general fund and have it reimbursed through the ARRA funding. Again what this does it maximizes the actual work being done at the Police Department, there has been a lot of years of putting this number together. We have put in the Town side budgets over the last twelve fiscal years, work to be preformed in the Police Department towards this goal and has been cut out of each budget. This grant that we received gives most of the money that we need to perform all of the work to be done over there. We know the prices are good, we know the contractors are good, the Engineer is from Watertown, Kuegler is familiar with the Police Department. Tri-Star mechanically it is owned by a Watertown resident and also employees many Watertown residences and they have been the first company that we had this amount of success with in maintaining our systems. They will be the ones that we would contract with to perform the work here. A major part of this grant will allow a separate heating and air conditioning unit in the dispatch area where they are the only true 24 hour service. So we can maintain environmental levels in that one area while managing the rest of the

building independently. It is a great value for the Town.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

- d. Consider a bid waiver to Tri-Star Services in the amount of \$68,800 for materials, labor and equipment for the replacement and enhancements to the mechanical system at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project to be funded through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.**

(Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to approve a bid waiver to Tri-Star Services in the amount of \$68,800 for materials, labor and equipment for the replacement and enhancements to the mechanical system at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project to be funded through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Discussion: Mr. Frigon: all three are related.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- e. Consider a bid waiver to Orsini Electric in the amount of \$5,000 for electrical services in connection with the mechanical system upgrade at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project To be funded through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.**

(Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to a bid waiver to Orsini Electric in the amount of \$5,000 for electrical services in connection with the mechanical system upgrades at the Watertown Police Department as part of the Energy Conservation Block Grant Project to be funded through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

- f. Consider authorizing the Town Manager to sign a third amendment to a cell tower lease agreement between the Town of Watertown and Verizon Wireless.**

(Richard Fusco sec. Mary Ann Rosa) I move to authorize the Town Manager to sign a third amendment to a cell tower lease agreement between the Town of Watertown and Verizon Wireless.

Discussion: Mr. Frigon: this amendment will provide something to both Verizon and the town. Verizon presently is a tenant on both of our water towers on Buckingham Street and Straits Turnpike. Verizon a year ago had approached the town to add three additional antennas to the Buckingham Street site. The Town at that time was desirous in getting the personal property of Verizon that was vacated up at the water tower, their base communications building. It was built adjoined to our existing pumping station. It is environmentally controlled; it is a concrete block building, it has heating and air conditioning and electric service. It is now vacated with the merger of Verizon and another carrier; they moved their equipment into the other carrier's equipment room. We wanted to obtain that building to move radio equipment that is now housed in what is essentially the pumping station for the water tower. Verizon has agreed, through this amendment to turn over that personal property to the Town of Watertown deeded over quick claim deed and for that they will be allowed to install the three additional antennas.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

g. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

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

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMIOUSLY

10. Public participation.

Sandra Greenwood – 156 Belden Street, Watertown

It was kind of glazed over about the amount that it is going to cost for this revision. I am a little confused about this charge to the Charter Revision. Is there a charge for this, I do not understand what this is. First of all I would like to have some sort of explanation how much this is going to cost. You said that our Town Attorney would not be doing this, if I understood you correctly there is going to be another representation for this.

Ms. Rosa: it is our understanding that the charges to do a Charter Revision Commission can be kept to a minimum, you obviously have cost to the public, in the newspaper and you have custodial costs to hold public hearings because you are required to do some of those.

Ms. Greenwood: and your referendum as well.

Ms. Rosa: correct

Ms. Greenwood: there are also minutes, how much is this going to cost?

Ms. Rosa: we have not sat and itemized it, because you have to look at the individual hire to do each thing in order to have the rate and we have not done that.

Ms. Greenwood: is there going to be a limit saying just roughly \$10,000 if it is more than \$10,000 are you going to continue this? We are the ones that are going to be paying for this?

Ms. Rosa: I understand what you are saying and I do not have a right to speak for the whole Council and I can tell you what my understanding it would be half of that anywhere near \$4,000 or \$5,000.

Ms. Greenwood: but you are also talking about \$8,000 for the referendum, at minimum for that.

Ms. Rosa: to answer that we have not put a dollar amount on it.

Ms. Greenwood: you have to have some sort of amount. You are dealing with my money, your money and everyone's money here. If this is just going to cost \$5,000 that is a lot of money that is the way that I am looking at it. We should have something to say about it, not you, that is how I am looking at it. This is not fair, I feel like my rights are being taken away from me and I think people here feel like this too.. I do not like this and I am sorry if I am offending someone and I would like to have some explanation and I am not getting any.

Bohdan Wasiutynski – 514 Sylvan Lake Road, Oakville

This amazes me what just happened here. When somebody asks what it is going to cost, we are told "*don't worry your head about it we are going to take care of it*" that is not an answer. The board should sit down cost it out and then come to the voters and say this is what it is going to cost should we go ahead with it. This is outrageous what just happened. I also heard the statement "well there is x number of Independent party members and x number of Democrats and there is x number of Republicans look around when was the last time the Town voted they did not vote for a single Democrat to sit on this Council, but they did vote for 3 Independent party members, that is not a proper way to proceed. I am shocked at this Council voting on all these things which are unspeakably unfair to the voters of this Town. You have a list of names who don't think to represent anybody or anything and they are suppose to decide the fate of this town or the kind of government we are going to have. Somebody wants to be Mayor of this town and we are going to be stuck with him. I am not at all pleased and shocked at this board behaving like this.

Roger Mitchell, 99 Norway Street

Is this low cost housing we are talking about for the \$20,000?

Mr. Frigon: it is not affordable housing it is incentive housing. Perhaps 20% of that incentive housing is with the work force housing, it is more densely populated per acre than a zone might be normally zoned for.

Mr. Mitchell: is this what the state has been pushing for two years ago. I was at a the zoning meeting and the way they were showing this I do not want it in town, it is worse than Berkley Heights.

Mr. Frigon: frankly what this is for is to manage exactly that. I offer many thanks to the Planning & Zoning Commission they are working hard to develop the actual regulations that go with this, but what this does it identifies specifically those areas in town that would accommodate that type of housing.

Mr. Mitchell: if that comes into town it is just slums. This tower and the building we are getting is that going to balance money wise.

Mr. Frigon: the addition they would receive 3 antennas is very minimal. There is approximately 10 years left with the two optional leases that Verizon has on the building. If we were to receive another \$100 dollars a month towards the antennas, that is \$1,200 dollars a year, what we are getting is a masonry block building that is environmentally controlled that will house rather than the pump station our new radio equipment appropriately.

Mr. Mitchell: this representation on the parties, why is it being loaded, if this is suppose to be equal representation. It should be even not 6 and 1. If you got 30,000 voters split them up equal for everyone. Whatever the 6 say goes the rest basically have no vote. Every vote I have seen in this Town Council it is those 6 against these 3. It is the same thing if it is a Democratic Control Council and I am not picking here and I am sick of it. Work for the town, not the party I do not know who is pulling the strings and I would love to know, it is somebody in the background they are quite. As far as change in the government if it is working leave it alone. Mr. Frigon is doing a great job, I have seen a lot of Town Manager's in this place I have been here for 66 years. The revision is like the health care bill, pass it then read it and see what is in it. Is this going to affect the referendums, we have no say in our government? Like you said a few years ago "*if you do not like the taxes, then move.*" I am not moving I will spend the rest of my life pushing everybody in here out. I would like to see the people elected to work for the Town and not their party.

Harry Olson – 43 Flag Street, Oakville

I think the Town Council as of right now is doing a pretty good job. That is why when the Charter Revision opens up we would be not looking at anything else. I am not saying that I do not believe anybody but I voted Republican for most of you people up there because the signs says vote Republican lower taxes and we have not seen that happen yet and I am not calling anybody a liar, but I would like to believe you that we are not looking to change anything.

Kevin Killeen – 430 Northfield Road

We could all agree or disagree whether or not the Town Manager is doing a good job. There have been times I have disagreed personally with things that he has done but that is not the charge of doing a Charter Revision. The Charter Revision as I read it is for the purpose of evaluating the manner in which we conduct ourselves as a municipality. I would hope that going forward we would engage the process in that manner. I for one would like to see a budget process that would include a greater transparency. We should at a minimum set a date at which both budgets would be ready for the public's review, that would be perhaps just for conjecture, two weeks prior to the public hearing on the budget. The practice right now if that would be done, if you received this document right now it is 102 pages received that the night of the public hearing on the budget and then ask the impressions relative to the budget, it is not sufficient to have questions when you are just receiving it. That would be one question on the matter of the Charter Revision that I would suggest. Dr. Fusco who is a prior Superintendent and I have evaluated some his work. I think some of the indicators are per pupil spending, number of students in the classroom, the number of years in which the budget has increased or decreased. To me I am not afraid of this gentlemen's work, I have reviewed it and in fact one of his documents states as questioned, number 7 no bid contracts. This evening there were 3 no bid contracts that were presented and passed and I for one could not understand why we had no bids for those contracts. This says with contracts, construction and insurance consultants have been awarded without comparative bids. What process would award such contracts and who receives such contracts? There is good information to be had by all. When we engage as a matter of Municipal & Board of Education leadership we should do it with the understanding that we are doing it for the people in this community. It is incumbent upon us as elected officials to be the best Stewarts that we can to do that part which we have been elected to do. To move forward it is very important that the principles of government be applied equally to the Board of Ed as well as to the Council and when we do that I think that we will serve our tax payers best. Additionally I heard the interest of the Independent party whether I agree with it or not I think perhaps that Council should perhaps consider on an equitable basis the addition of person to the committee. I don't believe that there is a challenge to that otherwise in terms of additions but you guys would be the experts on that.

Alan Mickel – 95 Woodvine Avenue

The previous speaker talked about competitive bids and the speaker previous to that talked about the cost of the Charter Revision Committee. One of the major costs I would imagine would be the legal fees it always is the major cost. The charge is not expressly to say how much a lawyer hourly fees could be, the Charter Revision Committee is what I feel free to pick the most expensive lawyer it can find. Of course you get is what you pay for, with a good lawyer you get good answers but It does not help the people in the Town to want to know how much this is going to Cost you set no limit on how much money. Tonight, I heard the Chairman say \$40,000, \$50,000, \$60,000 and I heard another person say a minimum of \$5,000 so let us hope it is somewhere in between. We have no assurance that it will not go any higher and I think this is something the Town Council ought to have done.

11. Adjournment.

Motion: (Raymond Primini sec. Richard DiFederico) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:47 P.M.

Discussion: none

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond F. Primini, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk