



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – 6:45 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE RD.
WATERTOWN, CT 06795**

1. Call Meeting to Order.
Chairman Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
Chairman Jonathan Ramsay led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Roll Call.
PRESENT: Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chair
Dan Cocchiola
Tom DeMatteis
Ken Demirs
Robert Desena
Carina Noyd
Robert Retallick
Rachael Ryan

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
Maria Guerrero, Finance Director
4. Proclamation –*National Senior Center Month in Watertown*

PROCLAMATION
Honoring National Senior Center Month
September, 2026

Whereas, National Senior Center Month originated as National Senior Center Week in May of 1979, and is observed annually in September to recognize and celebrate the vital role that senior centers play in enhancing the health and well-being of older adults; and

WHEREAS, Senior centers bring essential services, opportunities, and support together in one place. Every day, they create welcoming spaces for connection and community and provide programs that support physical and mental health. Senior Centers connect people to benefits, resources, and critical services while offering opportunities for learning, creativity, and engagement.

WHEREAS, the theme for National Senior Center Month 2026, as designated by the National Council on Aging is "Happier Birthday Happen Here," celebrating the dynamic role that centers play in fostering creativity, connection, purpose, and resilience in later life. Happier birthdays don't start with candles or cake—they start with connection, purpose, support, and community. Every day at senior centers across the nation people walk through the doors and find the relationships, resources, and opportunities that make each year richer than the last. This is where happier birthdays begin.

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown is committed to supporting its growing older adult population through programs and services that empower older adults to live healthy, active, and independent lives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Watertown Town Council proclaims the month of September 2026 as "Senior Center Month" in Watertown, Connecticut and encourage all residents to recognize and celebrate the contributions of older adults and the essential role of senior centers in our community and encourage all residents to visit.

Now, therefore, I Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman of the Watertown Town Council do hereby proclaim September 2026 as **SENIOR CENTER MONTH IN WATERTOWN**. The Town Council calls upon all citizens to recognize the special contributions of the senior center participants and the special efforts of the staff and volunteers who work every day to enhance the well-being of the older citizens of our community.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE TOWN OF WATERTOWN, THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair

5. Public Participation.

The Town Council invites the public to speak during Public Participation. Please complete and submit a *Watertown Town Council Public Participation* form if you wish to speak at the meeting. Copies are available on the Town's website and at the meeting. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.

Al Mickel stated the packet for tonight was huge suggesting a little more leeway for the time for the public to speak. Mr. Mickel spoke in regards to the CLA report and the Accounting Process Manual dated 1994 and spoke about updating it.

Barbara Zulkeski, 17 Mallory Road
See attached

Richard Rozanski spoke in regards to memo for an appointment of a council member and to consider an administrative revision to the Town Charter and the ordinances for clarity.

Denise Russ wanted to give recognition to an employee Jillian Guerrera for doing an exceptional job.

Frankie Popilowski spoke in regards to the attorney applications and to ask questions regarding malpractice claims, grievances complaints and any type of sanction ever levied against them and to hire whomever has the cleanest slate.

6. Minutes.

a. August 17, 2026 – Regular Meeting.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Desena: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated August 17, 2026 as presented.

Aye: 8 Ramsay, Rosa, Cocchiola, DeMatteis, Desena, Retallick, Ryan, Noyd

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Ken Demirs

Motion passed

7. Chairman's Report.

a. Correspondence.

1. Letter from Krista Palomba re Town Attorney Appointment, dated August 17, 2026.

2. Email from Brenda Tate: Formal Objection and Request for Review of August 17 Appointment Under Charter Section 206., dated August 25, 2026

Chairman Ramsay added the council did receive a legal letter from the Town Attorney regarding the appointment.

3. Resignation letter from Enrico Sarandrea as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, dated August 27, 2026.

8. Staff Reports.

a. Town Manager.

Mark Raimo reported:

1. The rate plan following NewGen strategies and solutions, June 17, 2026 the rate study recommendations of WSA conducted a public hearing on August 26, 2026 and subsequently approved the initial Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer Rate adjustments of 25.5 percent and 31 percent for sewer. Together with the plan Fiscal Year 2028 through 2031 there is a schedule projected that those rates will increase over the next five years leading to a 3 percent cost of living on the first initial 3 years are substantial increases to keep up with costs associated with securing the water and sewer usage.
2. WSA legal financing, I continue to work with Harris Beach and Murtha regarding the next steps. My intent is to bring the matter to the Water and Sewer Authority for review on the 16th of September for the next meeting with any recommendations from WSA. I will bring it back to the Town Council on the 21st for you to consider on how to best move forward.
3. In your packet I created a manager's snap shot on the Management Development Series. Over the last six years looking at department head manager's and understanding staff's ability to respond to what we ask them to do. There is some lack in training and some understanding. So, we developed this series on working with HR to develop this, put it out to staff and to give us an ability to talk with our manager's and our department heads setting our expectations then follow through to see how that works throughout the whole organization. Most of our contracts have language in it that asks for us to do evaluations of staff. Doing evaluations of staff is a very a big balance we have to take on. Because if we don't do it right, we could end up with staff unhappy due to the process not done correctly, this is building up to that next step.
4. We had also to cancel our Citizens Academy we did not have enough people that responded for that. I was a little disappointed, staff was happy to get this going. But we did think about how to get this information back out to the public. I would give Lauren credit for coming up with "Did You Know Series" which we have been putting information out. We used it for WSA publication of information. We are going to expend that to town operations to get the information out there on social media. We developed

it through a shared point and department heads maybe shocked by my statement tonight. Basically, we are going to do this shared point where department heads will funnel this information through the Town Manager's office and will then repackage it and put it back in the "Did You Know Series". The best part about the shared point is that we could accumulate stories every six months and then we could build out a newsletter that we could produce and put out to people who do not use social media on a regular basis. We are excited to get that program going. Since we are moving away from water and sewer, hopefully we will attract a Superintendent for Water and Sewer to get back into doing videos the actual work that is going in the Town of Watertown.

The rest will be covered in the agenda items.

Council questions:

Dan Cocchiola asked a question on the Citizens Academy, was there any thought to engaging with the BOE to see if some of our upperclassmen students at the high school might be interested in engaging in that kind of series?

Mark Raimo answered not to the extent of creating an eight-week program but the offer was put out to the BOE last year and the Superintendent at the time thought it was a great idea. That I could develop a lesson plan and go into the upper grades junior and senior and just give a brief synopsis of what power of government works. We were never able to really connect because of all the workload for water and sewer, but I will revisit that with the Superintendent see if can kick that off for this year.

Rachael Ryan asked on the document for ethics and integrity, what training would managers have gotten previous to this. Would there have been any ethical guidelines or training in how to act appropriately?

Mark Raimo answered I am going after my Certified Fraud Examiner's Certification and what prompted that? As I thought about how a municipality and how our private sector works and as I got into learning deeper about ethics, I always wondered why we signed off on our annual ethics form. Which not only staff have to do that but also commission and council members, it's an annual reminder. Coincidentally in October, ethics month is coming up for global recognition and then nationally in March again. So, we are going to put out our ethics ordinance, our signoff sheets to all staff and all council members. It will give us an opportunity to discuss this because to combat crime and fraud, basically just talking about the issues is a big factor in lowering those issues. It's kind of rejuvenated me to do more for the town, through the CFE certification and good conversation gives an opportunity to talk.

Rachael Ryan asked since you mentioned the WSA Superintendent, where does that stand in the job search?

Mark Raimo answered it stand at zero. We have no viable candidates that have applied for the job.

Rachael Ryan asked what have we done in terms for advertising the position?

Mark Raimo answered we have hit all the local boards and I don't what the boards are but we have put those out. It's out on CCM. We have put in I believe the Hartford Courant and the Waterbury Republican. Once we get past this next phase through the month of September, I will be going back to the WSA to talk about a salary range. At the level we are right now, we are just not attracting people. We are going to have to raise that salary to attract somebody. It is a complicated issue and a lot of people don't want to jump into the middle of a complicated issue.

Carina Noyd stated I agree the ethics training was a really nice outline, very comprehensive but also easy to understand. In the spirit of ethics and avoiding the appearance of a conflict of interest, I would like it noted please on the record that the legal opinion we heard this evening was written regarding an appointment from the RTC from a member of the RTC.

b. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

1. The two positions that were vacant are filled and the third position Payroll Coordinator has been reposted. As the search for this candidate is open, we are fortunate enough to have Twin Lakes agree to remain with us and help us to transition when that new position is filled.
2. At this time, we have closed our Fiscal Year 25/26 year and are ready for audit preliminary work. We are expecting to have George on site by the end of September or beginning of October to start the prelim work. Leading into this we also have our next software committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 24th to review and receive year-end feedback from employees and prepare to implement what is needed for 26/27.

Council questions:

Dan Cocchiola asked Maria this sounds wonderful getting the pre-audit started in October. I know the previous years we were behind schedule and for a variety of reasons historical. What is the prediction in terms of what is going to happen in 2027?

Maria Guerrero answered for the audit of 25/26?

Dan Cocchiola answered yes and having them come in.

Maria Guerrero answered we are ready for the prelim work now. My guess is, the earliest you can complete an audit is December 31st. I would say January would be my goal this year. Every year we have kind of scaled back a few months because we have been playing catch up. But we have two great new candidates in the position and we are working really hard and we are ready and this is the first year we have been ready, earlier than usual.

9. Subcommittees. – none.

10. New Business.

a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to appoint Enrico Sarandrea 21 Emile Ave, Oakville, as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the remaining term of Phillipe Roger who has resigned; term to expire January 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to appoint Gary Swingle, 2579 Litchfield Rd., Watertown as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to fill the remaining term of Enrico Sarandrea who has resigned; term to expire, January 2030.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to nominate Christopher Latka, 263 North Street, Watertown as an alternate member of the Board of Tax Assessment Appeals for a term ending January 31, 2028 to fill a vacancy.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- b. Consider authorizing the Town Manager and Finance Director in consultation with the Town's Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel to apply the remaining available BAN proceeds toward repayment of the outstanding \$34,000,000 bond anticipation notes and permanently finance the remaining balance, presently estimated at approximately \$30,600,000, utilizing the level principal hybrid financing structure as recommended by the Water and Sewer Authority.

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION – WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY PERMANENT FINANCING

WHEREAS, the Town of Watertown issued \$34,000,000 in General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes in connection with the voter-approved City of Waterbury water and sewer judgment authorization, which notes mature on October 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the original BAN proceeds remains available and will be applied toward repayment of the outstanding notes, resulting in an estimated permanent financing requirement of approximately \$30.6 million, subject to final reconciliation; and

WHEREAS, at its special meeting of August 19, 2026, the Water and Sewer Authority unanimously recommended that the Town Council utilize the Level Principal Hybrid financing structure for the permanent financing of the remaining obligation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager and Finance Director, in consultation with the Town's Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel, to apply available BAN proceeds toward repayment of the outstanding \$34,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes and to permanently finance the remaining balance, presently estimated at approximately \$30.6 million, utilizing the Level Principal Hybrid financing structure recommended by the Water and Sewer Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final principal amount, interest rates, maturity schedule and other financing terms shall be determined following final reconciliation and based upon prevailing market conditions and the best financial interests of the Town and the Water and Sewer Authority.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Ken Demirs: I move to authorize the Town Manager and Finance Director in consultation with the Town's Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel to apply the remaining available BAN proceeds toward repayment of the outstanding \$34,000,000 bond anticipation notes and permanently finance the remaining balance, presently estimated at approximately \$30,600,000, utilizing the level principal hybrid financing structure as recommended by the Water and Sewer Authority.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to permanently finance the outstanding \$6,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes and to finance the remaining \$4,000,000 of the voter approved road improvement authorization under Bonding Ordinance 08.12.25.312.

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION – ROAD IMPROVEMENT FINANCING

WHEREAS, the voters of the Town of Watertown approved a \$10,000,000 road improvement authorization at referendum on September 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, \$6,000,000 of that authorization was issued as General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, which mature on October 28, 2026, with the remaining \$4,000,000 authorized but unissued; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to permanently finance the outstanding Bond Anticipation Notes and provide funding for continuation of the road improvement program during the 2027 construction season;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, in consultation with the Finance Director, Municipal Advisor and Bond Counsel, to take all necessary actions to permanently finance the outstanding \$6,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes and to finance up to the remaining \$4,000,000 of the voter-approved road improvement authorization; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final amount, timing and structure of the financing shall be determined based upon market conditions, anticipated project expenditures and the best financial interests of the Town, provided that the total financing shall not exceed the \$10,000,000 authorization approved by the voters.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the Town Manager to permanently finance the outstanding \$6,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes and to finance the remaining \$4,000,000 of the voter approved road improvement authorization under Bonding Ordinance 08.12.25.312.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Consider a resolution authorizing a bid waiver for roadway improvements for portions of Deerfield Lane, Hillcrest Avenue, Edgewood Avenue and Williams Avenue for a total estimated project cost not to exceed \$125,000; services to be provided by C and S Masonry and Paving.

TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLUTION – BID WAIVER FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works initially engaged a contractor for limited milling work below the Town's competitive bidding threshold, with the remaining roadway work originally anticipated to be completed by Town forces; and

WHEREAS, during planning and coordination of the work, Public Works determined that expanding the contractor's scope would allow the identified roadway improvements to be completed within days rather than several weeks, reduce or eliminate temporary and duplicative winter work, and allow Town personnel and equipment to be redirected to other priority maintenance activities; and

WHEREAS, the expanded roadway improvements include portions of Deerfield Lane, Hillcrest Avenue, Edgewood Avenue and Williams Avenue, at a total estimated project cost not to exceed \$125,000; and

WHEREAS, based upon the limited remaining construction season, current contractor availability and the operational benefits identified by Public Works, the Town Council finds that requiring competitive bidding for the expanded work would be against the best interests of the Town;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby waives the competitive bidding requirement pursuant to Section 602(c) of the Town Charter and authorizes the Town Manager to proceed with the identified roadway improvements at a total cost not to exceed \$125,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such authorization is subject to confirmation by Public Works and the Purchasing Agent that the proposed pricing is reasonable and that sufficient funds are available within the appropriate budget account.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Ken Demirs: I move to approve the resolution authorizing a bid waiver for roadway improvements for portions of Deerfield Lane, Hillcrest Avenue, Edgewood Avenue and Williams Avenue for a total estimated project cost not to exceed \$125,000; services to be provided by C and S Masonry and Paving.

Carina Noyd asked if there could be explanation of why the bid waiver is being requested?

Mark Raimo added I did attach a memo explaining why the bid waiver was asked for. I will have Bob give you a shorter version.

Bob Granndpree, Highway Superintendent stated originally, we had asked CNS to do some milling for us with the intention that we were going to pave the roads they were going to mill. Matt Daley went out and met the owner of the company, described them the work we were going to do, and showed them the roads we wanted milled that we were going to pave. He offered us a proposal to do the paving as well. He gave us a good price that is in line with every other contractor that we have hired. We know it's a good price and he could also do it at the end of September. I tried to get other contractors to bid on the same work and nobody would even give me a quote because they are all booked for the rest of this season. This contractor is already here working in town. He already has his equipment here. He can do this efficiently. This also frees up my guys to do more of the work that is needed to be done before the season ends.

Motion passed unanimously

- e. Consider setting a Special Town Meeting to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$142,921 from the General Fund for the purchase of a Senior Transportation Mini-bus. The purchase will be offset by a 2024 CTDOT Section 5310 Transportation Grant, with the Town responsible for twenty percent, or \$30,330, and the grant covering eighty percent, or \$112,888. Funds will be deposited into the 2024 CTDOT Section 5310 Grant account.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Desena: I move to set a Special Town Meeting to be held on September 21, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Council Caucus Room, to consider approval of an appropriation in the amount of \$142,921 from the General Fund for the purchase of a Senior Transportation Mini-bus. The purchase will be offset by a 2024 CTDOT Section 5310 Transportation Grant, with the Town responsible for twenty percent, or \$30,330, and the grant covering eighty percent, or \$112,888. Funds will be deposited into the 2024 CTDOT Section 5310 Grant account.

Rachael Ryan asked can we get an update because I know we have purchased a new bus. I am just wondering is this replacing one? Are we going to have more?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay added I believe this is this is the last one we are going to buy for a while.

Michael Ganem, Parks and Recreation Director answered yes, we will be replacing one of the 3 buses we have. We will continue to have 3 in the fleet.

Rachael Ryan asked how old is the one that will be replaced?

Michael Ganem answered I am not exactly sure but the oldest one will be replaced. I can get back to you with the exact year.

Carina Noyd asked the one we are replacing; do we have a plan to repurpose it or sell it?

Michael Ganem answered unlike previous grant cycles Watertown would retain 100% whatever we were to receive for that grant, now it is 50/50 with the state. So, we are looking at prices on the wholesale mark or whatever it is. Going through the purchasing department to auction it to get the highest value for it. Unfortunately, 50% of the proceeds would go back to the state.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$3,218.16 to be placed into the Police Overtime line item 010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received as a reimbursement for participation in Homeland Security activities.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2025/2026 in the amount of \$3,218.16 to be placed into the Police Overtime line item 010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received as a reimbursement for participation in Homeland Security activities.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- g. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$17,500 to be placed into the Police Law Enforcement Equipment line item 010.50572.020.0000.9010. Funds received as a donation from The Taft School.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of \$17,500 to be placed into the Police Law Enforcement Equipment line item 010.50572.020.0000.9010. Funds received as a donation from The Taft School.

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa asked I think this is less money than they normally send us? They normally send \$20,000.

Mark Raimo answered that is not correct, it is exactly what they sent us last year. They do give the Fire Department a little bit more than they does give the Police Department.

Motion passed unanimously

- h. Consider mid-year funding for the Assessment Technician position within the Assessor's Department.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of up to \$42,000 to the Assessment Technician Line Item 010.50110.007.2110.9010 to restore the position for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026-2027, to be evaluated during the development of the Fiscal Year 2027-2028 budget.

Mark Raimo stated last budget season we cut that position out of the budget to get to the number that the council wanted us to be at. As a result of that, it was a position that was cut because it was not filled at the time. As we went into the new budget year, the assessor came to me and explained to me the additional work that is on them for many state mandates. We discussed it. I asked them to do a work study on the department. In your packet is her work study which actually shows that we should have 3.56 or almost three and a quarter staff member for that office. It is an office that produces revenue for the town. They are very good at what they do. They are out into the field, looking at residents, looking at businesses to ensure that taxpayers are paying their fair share. I do support this. We do need to get the third person back in so they can continue to meet the demands of their obligations to the state and the town.

Motion passed unanimously

- i. Consider approval of updated job descriptions for Bookkeeper I and Bookkeeper II.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the updated job descriptions for Bookkeeper I and Bookkeeper II in the White-Collar Union.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- j. Consider the reclassification of Bookkeeper I to Bookkeeper II in the Park and Recreation Department.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the reclassification of Bookkeeper I to Bookkeeper II in the Park and Recreation Department.

Rachael Ryan asked are their separate Bookkeepers? Is there more than one Bookkeeper in Park and Rec or is it one person?

Mark Raimo answered there are several Bookkeeper positions. I believe there is 3 within the town. There is one in the Parks and Rec, there is one I do believe we just changed the title of that. Then we have a Bookkeeper in Water and Sewer.

Motion passed unanimously

- k. Consider authorizing a resolution for the approval of utilizing various bids formally bid by various cooperative agencies, including the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services for the purchase of various equipment, materials and supplies.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Town Council approval is required for waiving the bid process and awarding a contract to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, Town Council authorization is required for any purchase exceeding \$25,000 that has not been independently bid by the Town's Purchasing Agent; and

WHEREAS, various equipment, materials and supplies required to be furnished to the Town of Watertown have been formally bid by various agencies and cooperative bidding resulting in such lists being available to the Town of Watertown; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Watertown Town Council hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent of the Town of Watertown to utilize the following bids for the purchase of various equipment, material, supplies and services resulting in the satisfaction of bidding requirements and no waiver being required:

SourceWell

TIPS-The Interlocal Purchasing System

CREC-Capital Region Education Council

NVCOG-Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

CCM-Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

CRCOG-Capital Region Council of Governments

NHCOG-North West Hills Council of Governments

State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services

Omnia Partners

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall remain in effect for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the utilization of bids formally bid by various cooperative agencies, including the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services for the purchase of equipment, materials and supplies.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated just for the record these are the bids the state did at the state level and we are kind of piggybacking on those bids.

Motion passed unanimously

- I. Consider a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2025-26 fiscal year require the transfer of funds:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the Watertown Town Council, that the following actions are taken relative to the transfer of funds as attached.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Ken Demirs: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- m. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund for tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Refund of Excess Payments; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certified the refunds in accordance with the provisions of Refund Statues; and

WHEREAS, to refund taxpayers monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$20,230.84 to line item 010-50341-043-0102.9010 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- n. Consider a resolution authorizing the payment of tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Sections *Refunds of Excess Payment*:

WHEREAS, per State Statute, the Tax Collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with recommendations thereon, to the Town Council, and shall certify to the amount of refund, if any, to which the applicant is entitled.

WHEREAS, upon receipt of such application and certification, the Town Council shall draw an order upon the Finance Department in favor of such applicant for the amount of refund so certified.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council authorizes a request that the Finance Department shall issue the payments for the certified refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 8th day of September, 2026

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the payment of tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

11. Old Business.

- a. Consider the sale of a parcel of land located on Litchfield Rd., (Map 053-Block 33A-Lot 009) according to the Guidelines for Sale of Real Property (without building) (Tabled 08.17.2026)

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: I move the consideration of the sale of the parcel of land on Litchfield Road, (Map 053-Block 33A-Lot 009) according to the Guidelines for Sale of Real Property.

Ken Demirs stated I know we formed a committee a couple of months ago and part of the scope was to look into all the town owned property and I understand they have not met yet. Why would we consider selling this before they meet? I can't support it.

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated I am on that committee and I talked to the Chairman of the BOE until the first of September. Board members were not available for the committee to meet. I agree with Ken, we need to see how any town land might be used before we decide we are going to sell it, whether the town has any viable use for it. I won't support the motion.

Rachael Ryan asked is there a way for us to find out how this land might be used without this committee meeting?

Chairman Jonthan Ramsay answered we can ask the Town Manager's office.

Rachael Ryan asked has anything been done and looked into since this is old business? Has anything happened since then?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay answered no.

Dan Cocchiola stated if I could clarify what I think I am hearing is that we are not interested in selling the land now but maybe it will be at a later date.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay answered correct.

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa added if we have no use for it.

Robert Retallick stated it might be a good piece of property to put in the tanks for the northern section of Watertown for fire suppression, things like that. I think that we have to look into our own property before we go ahead and just sell it to somebody because then we are going to paying 10 times more when we go to buy property to do the same for a tank.

Rachael Ryan asked should we be tabling this?

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated we tabled it once and we can bring it ack when we are ready.

Rachael Ryan asked what will happen with the property owners depending on how this vote goes?

Chair Jonathan Ramsay answered nothing would happen.

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa added we would tell the perspective buyer that we are not selling at this time, once we determine whether we need it or not, they could certainly come back.

Ken Demirs stated I am not sure of the scope of that committee in detail entails. I think it should have something in there where these town owned pieces of property go out to bid. Because I think if I remember correctly, and I can't give the address. We sold a piece of land a couple of years back and then neighbors were not happy about it and would have been more than interested in putting a bid in on it. I don't know if anybody talked to these neighbors, but they should be talked to.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated my understanding would be similar to selling any other property where people make offers.

Ken Demirs stated I am not on the committee for the record.

Aye: 0

Nay: 8 Ramsay, Rosa, Cocchiola, DeMatteis, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick

Abstain: 1 Ryan

Motion Rejected

12. Adjournment.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded Robert Retallick: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk



WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: TODAY

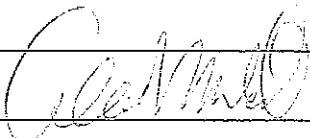
(Please complete this form and submit it to the clerk of the Town Council if you wish to speak at this meeting)

Please Note: Three Minute Time Limit

1. I agree to a three-minute time limit;
2. I agree not to raise my voice;
3. I agree not to use lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous or libelous language or speak or act in a manner that would tend to incite a breach of the peace;
4. I agree not to speak about Town personnel matters. Personnel matters include comments about the job performance of named Town employees, other than elected officials;
5. After three minutes I agree to leave the microphone and yield the floor;
6. I agree that if I cause a disruption and am asked to leave, I will leave the Chambers.

Name: ALAN WICKEL
(please print)

Address: _____

Signature: 

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WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 9/8/20

(Please complete this form and submit it to the clerk of the Town Council if you wish to speak at this meeting)

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Name:

Barbara Zuckers
(please print)

Address:

17 Mallory Rd

Signature:

ae75
Barbara Zuckers

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9/8/26

Good evening.

Tonight, I am beginning a series of public questions for Town Manager Mark Raimo. I intend to continue asking questions throughout September and October, leading up to the expected consideration of his contract renewal ~~in November~~.

Mr. Raimo, you are a ^{long-term} ~~lifelong~~ Watertown resident and have said that you act in the town's best interests. I was once one of your supporters, but I no longer have the same confidence in your leadership. I believe many residents are also looking for reasons to believe you can successfully carry Watertown forward.

These questions are not rhetorical. I respectfully request that you answer them publicly by the next Town Council meeting. Generic talking points, vague assurances, or AI-generated responses will not satisfy this request. Residents need honest, substantive answers that reflect your own knowledge, judgment, and vision.

I also ask the Town Council to support the Town Manager in providing these answers. The Council shares responsibility for the town's direction, financial decisions, and oversight. These questions should not be placed on the Town Manager alone.

Tonight, I have five questions:

1. What is your specific plan to generate new revenue without placing additional burdens on taxpayers or sacrificing the small-town character of Watertown and Oakville?
2. What types of businesses and development do you believe are appropriate for our community, and how will you strengthen our tax base while avoiding excessive traffic, overdevelopment, and greater demands on town services?
3. What measurable financial results, including new revenue, grant funding, economic development, or taxpayer savings, should residents expect if your contract is renewed, and within what timeframe?
4. How will you and the Town Council ensure that Public Works and Parks and Rec have the funding, staffing, and reliable equipment necessary to maintain the roads, parks, facilities, properties, and public spaces under their responsibility?
5. Will you and the Town Council support a town-wide initiative to restore and improve our neighborhood parks as safe, attractive, family-oriented places, and work with residents, community organizations, and potential grant funders to establish realistic priorities, funding plans, and timelines?

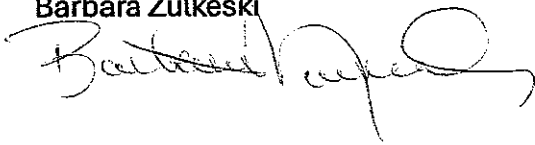
These are the first questions in this series. At the next meeting, I will review whether they have been answered and present questions concerning other areas of leadership and performance.

Leadership requires transparency, accountability, sound judgment, and measurable results. Residents and employees must also be able to raise concerns without fear of retaliation, hostility, selective treatment, or vindictiveness.

Mr. Raimo and members of the Town Council, you all have an opportunity between now and November to listen to criticism without making it personal, answer residents honestly, and demonstrate that you are capable of carrying Watertown forward together.

Thank you.

Barbara Zulkeski

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Zulkeski', written over a horizontal line.



WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 9/8/2026

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Name: RICHARD ROZANSKI
(please print)

Address: 35 REYNOLDS ST
WATERTOWN, CT 06795

Signature: Richard R. Rozanski

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WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 9/10/26

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Name: Denise Russ

(please print)

Address: 135 Porter St

Watertown CT

Signature: Denise Russ

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WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

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Name:

Frankie Papnowski
(please print)

Address:

Dakota, CT

Signature:

Frankie Papnowski

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Town Council Regular Meeting September 8, 2026 Line item 10n

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fees	Refund
2025-03-0070656	ALLY FINANCIAL - CHA	PO BOX 71119	CHARLOTTE, NC 2	2021/1C4HXDN5MW662173	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	195.17	-	-	195.17
2025-02-0040204	CAPUANO & GIGLIO C	1554 LITCHFIELD RD	WATERTOWN, CT	1554 LITCHFIELD RD	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	307.91	-	-	307.91
2025-03-0053307	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201	2023/3C4NIDBN5PT549452	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	90.75	-	-	90.75
2025-03-0055694	DOBKINS SCOTT A	86 SYLVAN LAKE RD	OAKVILLE, CT 067	2014/5NPEB4AC1EH849029	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	13.04	-	-	13.04
2025-03-0058817	GUTHU STEVEN M	319 THOMASTON RD	WATERTOWN, CT	2008/KNDCJ735X85820242	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	42.48	-	-	42.48
2023-01-0003675	HERITAGE WOODS LLC	PO BOX 873	SOUTHBURY, CT 0	BUNKER HILL RD	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	8,420.21	-	-	8,420.21
2024-01-0003687	HERITAGE WOODS LLC	PO BOX 873	SOUTHBURY, CT 0	BUNKER HILL RD	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	8,915.87	-	-	8,915.87
2025-03-0071990	JOHNS LAWNCARE & L	114 PORTER ST	WATERTOWN, CT	2014/1FT7X2B68EEA22795	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	288.98	-	-	288.98
2025-03-0061419	LAPRADE KEVIN M	1900 LITCHFIELD RD	WATERTOWN, CT	2012/1C4NIRFB5CD600008	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	48.51	-	-	48.51
2025-03-0061810	LICNIKAS KATHLEEN	935 BUCKINGHAM ST	WATERTOWN, CT	2012/1N8AS5MV2CW717877	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	9.94	-	-	9.94
2025-03-0062191	LUPACHINO PETER V	1451 GUERNSEY TOWN	WATERTOWN, CT	2019/WP0AF2A90KS165775	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	10.00	-	-	10.00
2025-03-0062384	MADEUX CYRILLA M	290 NORTH ST	WATERTOWN, CT	2014/1G1PC5SBXE7174182	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	23.04	-	-	23.04
2025-03-0062406	MAHAR TERENCE	50 NETTLETON ST	WATERTOWN, CT	2021/1HGCVF49MA019792	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	37.61	-	-	37.61
2025-03-0062531	MALEVILLE ANTONIO B	1021 GUERNSEY TOWN	WATERTOWN, CT	2020/WP1AE2AY4LDA22343	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	185.11	-	-	185.11
2025-03-0063099	MASELLI ANTOINETTA	289 CIRCLEWOOD DR	BERLIN, CT 06037	1990/1J4FJ58L2LL203651	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	66.06	-	-	66.06
2024-03-0064713	NISSAN INFINITI LT LLC	PO BOX 650214	DALLAS, TX 75265	2024/1N6ED1FK7RN626134	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	697.83	-	-	697.83
2025-03-0064765	NISSAN INFINITI LT LLC	PO BOX 650214	DALLAS, TX 75265	2024/1N6ED1FK7RN626134	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	659.08	-	-	659.08
2025-01-0006158	OSTUNO DONALD P &	105 WESTBURY PARK	WATERTOWN, CT	105 WESTBURY PARK RD	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	61.33	-	-	61.33
2025-03-0065361	PALMER DAY O	267 BRYANT ROAD	WATERTOWN, CT	2011/1G1PG5S9B7R181487	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Ov	9.74	-	-	9.74
2024-03-0065882	PERUGINI MICHAEL J	81 BALL FARM RD	OAKVILLE, CT 067	2006/1FTZR45E66PA61524	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	92.52	-	-	92.52
2025-03-0066678	RAICHE GERALD P	21 BRADLEY ROAD AP	WOODBIDGE, CT	2014/1G4GE5G37EF147980	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	24.36	-	-	24.36
2025-03-0068158	SCHULTZ KAITLIN P	83 BRYANT RD	WATERTOWN, CT	2015/1F2GPACCKXF9243911	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	31.30	-	-	31.30
						20,230.84	-	-	20,230.84