

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting  
Waterville Valley Ice Arena  
Town of Waterville Valley, New Hampshire  
May 11, 2021**

**Present:** Moderator, Joan Sweeney  
Selectman, Margaret Turner  
Selectman, Rich Rita  
Selectman, Mike Aronson  
Town Manager, Mark Decoteau  
Town Clerk Assistant, Sharon Charron  
Finance & HR Administrator, Judy Rolfe  
Town Department Heads                      Community Members

**Motion:** To call the Annual Town Meeting Deliberative Session to order at 5:31pm.  
**Motion:** M. Turner  
**Second:** R. Rita  
**Discussion:** None  
**Disposition:** Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Moderator J. Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.  
The Pledge of Allegiance is led by WVES Students Kate Ricotta and Emily McKee.

J. Sweeney made the following introductions:

Seated at the Head Table:

The Board of Selectmen: Margaret Turner, Mike Aronson, and Rich Rita  
Town Manager: Mark Decoteau  
Finance & HR Administrator: Judy Rolfe  
Town Clerk Assistant: Sharon Charron  
Admin. Asst: Alisha Harrington

Department Heads in the audience:

Brooke Wakefield – Recreation Director  
Chris Hodges – Director of Public Safety  
Dave Noyes – Police Chief  
Dylan Tucker – Wastewater Plant Chief Operator

Moderator J. Sweeney made the following comments:

- Cell phones and electronic devices should be turned to silent mode
- Thanks everyone for wearing masks during the meeting
- Town Meeting this year is two parts due to the COVID-19 virus; the first being the Town Election on March 12, 2021, where the Officials and Articles 1-8 were voted on, and the second part is today's Deliberative Session where Articles 9-26 are being discussed and voted on.
- Those present should have a copy of the 2021 Annual Town Report
- Those wishing to speak use the microphone stand at the front of the audience
- Speaking time is limited to 3 minutes at a time per person and masks can be removed to speak
- The Moderator's Rules of Procedure are available on pages 27 and 28 of the Town Report
- All registered voters present should have checked in and received a red voting card and Ballot vote packets.
- Noted the procedure for the Bond Articles 9 and 10 includes the following:

to be voted on after the presentation of information and discussion of Articles 9 and 10 is completed, to be voted by written ballot, and the polls will remain open for 1 hour.

- Article 9 is a BLUE Ballot
- Article 10 is a YELLOW Ballot

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 9?

**Article 9:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) (gross budget) for the engineering, repairs, improvements, permitting and construction of facilities for wastewater collection and treatment and associated building improvements, Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, gifts, and donations, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0.

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Noted that the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and the article takes a 3/5 majority ballot vote to pass.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau made a presentation regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant and explains the reasons this is needed and he included the following information.

1. The existing WWTP is 47 years old.
2. New EPA Permit Within the next 1-2 months to be issued for effluent (discharged) water.
3. New EPA Permit will require more stringent treatment standards that the existing plant is unable to meet.
4. To date, staff has been working with engineers to determine if the current plant can meet new standards, investigating new technology for current treatment processes and considering alternative treatment options.
5. Maintain operations of the current plant while new plant is constructed for a period of 3-5 years.
6. Total cost of a new WWTP is \$16M-\$22M, depending upon treatment methods.
7. Two treatment options are being considered; continue with discharge of effluent water to Mad River or develop a new groundwater discharge system.
8. Plan is to use the \$5M Bond to maintain existing plant and for all engineering work for final design of the new plant and to return to the 2023 Town Meeting to request remaining funds to construct the new plant.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

B. Fries asks if it would be better to wait until the new EPA permit requirements are known before funding.

M. Decoteau stated that we only have one Town meeting a year to request funding. The new EPA Permit requirements are expected in 1-2 months and if authorization is not given now the engineering work will be set back another 9 months if we have to wait until the March 2022 Town Meeting.

R. Rita asks for a description of the current plant issues.

M. Decoteau stated that the current issues include a leak in an intake line, the stability of the lagoons embankment in spots due to the clay liner of the lagoons drying out and aging.

K. Smith asked if the vote is no now, what will happen.

M. Decoteau stated there would be no funding available for the repairs as the emergency repairs account have already been used in 2020 and 2021.

T. Smith asked to confirm the costs; \$5M request now and a total cost of \$16M-\$22M for the project.

M. Decoteau stated that is correct. The proposed timeline would be to wait for the EPA Permit requirements, review the information with engineers during the following 30-day comment period, expect the final permit issued in 2-3 months, start to develop the engineering options (2-3), ask for NH-DES input, and decide upon final design by the fall of 2022, put out to bid for winter 2022-23, and return to 2023 Town Meeting for remaining funding. The construction of the plant will take 2-3 years.

M. Aronson adds that the low rainfall and drought conditions have contributed to issues in the lagoon's clay liners drying out.

B. Fish asked if the \$5M is only for the WWTP, and what if it is not enough funds.

M. Decoteau stated that yes, the funds can only be used for the purposes in the warrant article as written. If more funds are needed, then emergency repairs funds would be used.

R. Rita also stated that the Town has been vigorously looking for funding options through Federal and State infrastructure grants for both the WWTP Project and the Road Improvements Project. Bond rates are low at 2-2.5% and State Revolving Funds rates right now are 1-1.5%.

R. Diehm asked if there is limiting language to the \$5M concerning the acceptance of grant funds.

M. Decoteau stated yes, it is limited to \$5M as the article is written. There are potentially some exceptions and NH-Dept. of Revenue would need to be consulted.

A. Berko asked if the old WWTP can be refurbished.

M. Decoteau stated that is part of the engineering plan to determine if upgrades are possible.

A. Berko asked if additional land is needed to construct a new plant, where would it be located.

M. Decoteau stated that this was unknown at this time. The engineering studies are necessary to determine a suitable location for the new plant dependent upon the treatment method.

Moderator: Asked if there were any further questions.

R. Wilson asked what are the plans for hockey and the ice arena.

Moderator: Stated that other subjects will be talked about later, this discussion is for the WWTP.

Moderator: After no further discussion the voters were directed to mark their Ballot #9 (blue) either YES or NO and wait until all the ballot articles are discussed before placing the marked ballot in the ballot box.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 10?

**Article 10:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) (gross budget) for engineering, repairs, site work, drainage, permitting and repaving of town maintained roads and sidewalks, Nine Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$900,000) of such sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33), as amended; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, obtain, and accept federal, state, or other aid, gifts, and donations, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell, and deliver such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and the maturity and other terms thereof; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action necessary to carry out this vote or to pass any other vote relative thereto. The Board of Selectmen recommends approval 3-0.

Motion: R. Rita

Second: M. Aronson

Moderator: Noted that the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and the article takes a 3/5 majority ballot vote to pass.

Noted that Article 10 is a bond issue which is a ballot vote and the polls will remain open for an hour.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states this is the first year of a multi-year plan to improve roads and pedestrian ways based on the 2014 Pedestrian study results. There has been an engineering assessment of all roads in town which prioritizes the roads by need, projects their repair costs, and is part of our CIP plan. The top 3 priorities are Valley Rd., Tecumseh Rd., and Snows Brook Rd. Four other roads will also have preventative minor maintenance done. Sen. Kuster has submitted the Roads Project as part of the Federal Infrastructure Funding in which up to 80% of the total cost would be covered under grant funds.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

L. Pires asked if the \$900K is approved now, what happens if Federal Grants Funds are awarded.

M. Decoteau stated this authorization is for the total project costs so if Federal Funds are awarded, only the remaining balance will be borrowed.

J. Maudsley asked if the roads study addressed the lack on sidewalks on Tecumseh Rd.

M. Decoteau stated that yes, this would also include an 8'-10' wide multi-use pedestrian way adjacent to the roadside, as recommended in the pedestrian study.

K. Smith asked what the 4 other roads are that would be slated for preventative repairs.

M. Decoteau stated those roads are Beanbender Rd., Packards Rd., Golden Heights Rd., and Greeley Hill Rd., and Drakes Brook Rd.

Moderator: Asked if there were any further questions and then directed the voters to mark their Ballot #10 (yellow) either YES or NO and to deposit their ballots in the ballot box. The Moderator starts the 1-hour clock at 6:14 pm for the voting for both Bond Articles 9 and 10.

Moderator – Do I hear a motion on Article 11?

**Article 11:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,000 for the maintenance of Packard’s Field and installation of new playground equipment. This appropriation is to come from the December 31, 2020, Fund Balance available on January 1, 2021. The Selectmen Recommend Approval by a 3 to 0 vote.

Motion: M. Aronson

Second: M. Turner

Moderator: Noted that the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and this article is not included in the overall budget in Article 22. The article takes a simple majority vote to pass.

Presentation:

B. Wakefield, Recreation Director, states that the current playground equipment is outdated and does not meet the current ATSM Safety Standards. The playground is also in need of equipment that has ADA components. The surface area would be upgraded from sand presently to an engineered surface that will absorb falls from 9’-10’ and prevent injuries. Pictures are displayed for the public to view as examples.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

C. Helfman asked what percentage of the new equipment will be handicap accessible?

B. Wakefield states that two proposals are being considered from two different vendors and both are ADA compliant.

C. Helfman asked what is ADA.

B. Wakefield stated ADA is the American Disability Act.

C. Helfman stated the pictures displayed do not appear to be accessible and would like to see more accessible features in the playground.

B. Wakefield thanked C. Helfman for her comments and reiterated this is not the final proposal as the feature have not yet been selected.

L. Pires adds that in 100% ADA compliant playgrounds features are easily broken by able-bodied children. He asked to consider this when selecting the components.

L. Pires asked if the work on Packards Field includes drainage work.

M. Decoteau stated that any unused funds for the playground equipment will be used to begin to address the drainage issues on Packards Field.

K. Smith asked to explain the Fund Balance and what is the present Fund Balance.

M. Decoteau stated that the Fund Balance is basically the checkbook balance of the Town that is not designated for another purpose. It is the result of either underspending the budget each year or over-collected revenues which were unanticipated after the tax rate had been set. This surplus amount is labeled as the Undesignated Fund Balance. Each year capital projects are selected to be paid for by the Undesignated Fund Balance instead of raising new taxes. These are usually one-time purchases. The Undesignated Fund Balance is also used to reduce the tax rate at tax rate setting time in the fall by the Selectmen. The current Undesignated Fund Balance is \$827K which is 11-12% of our total budget and this is within the recommended 5-15% range per NH-Dept. of Revenue Administration.

Moderator: A Requested a show of red cards in favor of Article 11.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 11.  
Determined that Article 11 passed.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 12?

**Article 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,500 for the payment of the third year of a four-year lease for the Public Works Backhoe. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.**

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states that the Public Works Backhoe is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of 4-year lease and authorization is required each year to continue per the lease requirements.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in favor of Article 12.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 12.  
Determined that Article 12 passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 13?

**Article 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 for emergency repairs and general maintenance of the water distribution and wastewater collection systems. This appropriation is to come from the December 31, 2020, Fund Balance available on January 1, 2021. The Selectmen Recommend Approval by a 3 to 0 vote.**

Motion: R. Rita

Second: M. Aronson

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states this for emergency repair funding to be split between the Water and Wastewater Departments and is funded by the Undesignated Fund Balance.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in favor of Article 13.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 13.  
Determined that Article 13 passed.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 14?

**Article 14:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the payment of the second year of a three-year lease for the Public Works 1-ton Plow Truck. This appropriation is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen Recommend Approval by a 3 to 0 vote.

Motion: M. Aronson

Second: M. Turner

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen recommend approval of this article by a vote of 3 to 0.  
Noted the amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states this is the same as the other leased vehicle, which requires authorization to continue with the lease.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in favor of Article 14.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 14.  
Determined that Article 14 passed.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 15?

**Article 15:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for the replacement of selected guardrails and road drainage general maintenance in Town. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article.  
Noted the amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau stated that these are maintenance issues on road drainage and guardrails in specific areas.

Discussion:

T. Smith asked why this isn't in the general budget.

M. Decoteau stated the Selectmen wanted to include as a specific warrant article.

Moderator: Are there any more questions from the public for discussion?

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 15.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 15.  
Determined that Article 15 passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 16?

**Article 16:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Apparatus Repair and Replacement Capital Reserve previously established. This appropriation is to come from the December 31, 2020, Fund Balance available on January 1, 2021.

Motion: R. Rita  
Second: M. Aronson

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article.  
Noted the amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:  
M. Decoteau stated that this is used for repairs to Fire/Ambulance Vehicles. Any unused funds will be set aside for the future purchase of Fire/Ambulance Vehicles.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?  
Discussion: None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 16.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 16.  
Determined that Article 16 passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 17?

**Article 17:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 for the payment of the final year of a three-year lease for the Recreation Bus Lease. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.

Motion: M. Aronson  
Second: M. Turner  
Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend APPROVAL of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:



M. Decoteau stated that this is the last lease payment and the bus will be owned by the Town afterward.

Discussion: None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 17.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 17.  
Determined that Article 17 passed.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 18?

**Article 18:** To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year lease agreement for \$45,000 for the purpose of leasing a ¾-ton Pickup Truck with plow gear, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend APPROVAL of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.  
Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation: None.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion?

Discussion:

T. Smith asked if this adds a truck to the Town's fleet.

M. Decoteau states no this is to replace the existing ¾ ton truck. It is leased to reduce the tax rate impact.

N. Rose asked if the CIP plan isn't being used.

M. Decoteau states that the CIP plan isn't a separate account to funds purchases but rather a plan to prepare for capital improvements. This vehicle is generally replaced every 3-5 years because of the volume of use.

Moderator: Are there any other questions from the public for discussion?

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 18.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 18.  
Determined that Article 18 passed with a majority vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 19?

**Article 19:** To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Curious George Cottage Capital Reserve previously established. This appropriation is to come from the December 31, 2020, Fund Balance available on January 1, 2021.

Motion: R. Rita

Second: M. Aronson

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.

Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states that the Town owns the Cottage and that the Rey Center operates the programs. The Town is responsible to maintain the building. This \$10K is to be added to the Curious George Capital Reserve Account for building repairs and maintenance.

Moderator: Are there any questions from the public for discussion.

Discussion:

B. Fish asked if the funds will be used for maintenance and not programs costs.

M. Decoteau states the funds go into the Capital Account where authorization for expenses comes from the Selectmen.

P. Furgal asked if the Curious George Cottage operates in the same way as the Osceola Library and is there a similar repair account for the Library.

M. Decoteau states that yes there is a similar account for the Library and two years ago \$75K was funded for Library repairs. Those funds are maintained in a separate account and there is a balance still (unknown amount at the time of meeting).

Moderator: Are there any other questions.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 19.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 19.  
Determined that Article 19 passed with a majority vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 20?

**Article 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Road Repair Capital Reserve previously established. This appropriation is to come from the December 31, 2020, Fund Balance available on January 1, 2021.

Motion: M. Aronson

Second: M. Turner

Moderator: Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation;

M. Decoteau states that each Capital Reserve item must be a separate warrant article. An example of the use of this fund is the repairs to pot-holes on roads following winter thawing.

Discussion: None.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 20.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 20.

Determined that Article 20 passed with a unanimous vote

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 21?

**Article 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for support of the Historical Society. Funding for this is to come from general taxation.**

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Noted the Selectmen unanimously recommend approval of this article and this amount is not included in Article 22.

Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Presentation:

L. Horton of the Waterville Valley Historical Society states that the organization is in its third year since being formed. The \$10K funding from the Town supports operation costs, along with dues and memberships. In the last year, the Society has purchased a computer, was awarded an almost \$10K grant from the NH Moose Plate Fund, hired an archivist, and received guidance on preserving documents previously-stored at Town Hall. Plans include looking towards getting audio tales and oral history recorded, preserving more documents, and improvements to their website. The community benefits from the Historical Society by receiving education events (historical walks/hikes), outreach programs, and blood drives. The Society is hoping to plan a Victorian Day soon. A longer-term goal is to construct a multi-use building to house a museum to display the collection as well as other uses. The Town funding is strictly used for operating costs and larger projects are funded by donations and membership dollars.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Discussion: None.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 21.  
Requested a show of red cards against Article 21.  
Determined that Article 21 passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 22?

**Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,228,752 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations from any of the preceding articles. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.**

General Government	\$ 912,860
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 122,693
Public Safety	\$1,026,846
Highways & Streets	\$ 378,571
Solid Waste & Recycling	\$ 276,239
Water & Sewer	\$ 506,305
Health & Welfare	\$ 8,500
Culture & Recreation	\$ 408,474

Conservation	\$ 3,000
Debt Service	\$ 540,264
Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 45,000</u>
Total	\$4,228,752

Motion: M. Aronson  
 Second: M. Turner  
 Moderator: Noted the vote can take any form and a simple majority is required for approval.

Motion: **To amend the operating budget by adding \$150,000 to the Capital Improvements line item and \$10,000 to the General Government line item for Legal Services. These funds are to provide contingency funds for the Town Water System Improvement Project which is currently ongoing and ongoing legal matters.**

Motion: M. Turner  
 Second: R. Rita  
 Moderator: This amendment would increase the overall budget in Article 22 to \$4,388,752

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states that in 2019 the Town approved a 1 million Bond issue which included connecting both Wells 2 and 3 to the new water treatment building, including a new crossing of the Mad River for the water distribution line. The project did not go out to bid due to COVID and is still in the permitting process. Our engineering firm has informed the Town that they are seeing increases over the engineering estimates of about 15% or more in some larger municipal projects. Our current cost estimate which the 1 million dollar bond issue was based is about 18 months old at this point. The amendment for the additional \$150,000 for the Capital Improvement line item represents a 15% contingency for the project when put out to bid later this year. Additionally, there are some ongoing legal matters and have already expended close to 50% of the Legal Services budget. The total of the amendment is \$160,000 and the impact of this is instead of the proposed \$0.03 decrease in the tax rate will now be a \$0.45 increase. If the amendment does not pass, when bids are received for the Water Line Project if they are over \$1M, the Selectmen will not be able to award the contract as they will not have been authorized to expend more than the \$1M by Town Meeting vote. Alternatively, if the bids come in below the \$1M, the \$150,00 will be returned to Fund Balance.

Moderator: Asked if they are any questions about the amendment.  
 Discussion: None

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of the amendment to Article 22.  
 Requested a show of red cards against Article 22.  
 Determined that the amendment to Article 22 passes with a majority vote.

Moderator: The Moderator re-reads Article 22, with the amendment in place to read as follows:

**Article 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,388,752 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations from any of the preceding articles. This appropriation is to come from general taxation.**

General Government	\$ 922,860
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 122,693
Public Safety	\$1,026,846
Highways & Streets	\$ 378,571
Solid Waste & Recycling	\$ 276,239

Water & Sewer	\$ 506,305
Health & Welfare	\$ 8,500
Culture & Recreation	\$ 408,474
Conservation	\$ 3,000
Debt Service	\$ 540,264
Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 195,000</u>
Total	\$4,388,752

Presentation:

M. Decoteau states that the Town Report includes all of the Budget information by department and line item for expenses and projected revenues on pages 12-20. The Debt by Department and the Long-Term Debt are listed on pages 60-61. He asked if anyone had any questions for Department Heads or the Town Manager.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Discussion:

T. Rose asked with the amendments just made tonight, what is the impact of the changes.

M. Decoteau states that if Article 22 passes with the amendment, instead of a reduction of \$0.03 to the Town portion of the Tax Rate, there will now an increase of \$0.45 to the Tax Rate.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 22, as amended.  
 Requested a show of red cards against Article 22.  
 Determined that Article 22, as amended, passes with a majority vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 23?

**Article 23: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate the terms and conditions of the sale of an approximately 0.8-acre lot abutting Corcoran Pond, at or above fair market value at the time of sale, to the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Chapel, a domestic non-profit corporation, said lot to be sub-divided from Tax Id# 105-001001-00, said authority to lapse one year after this approval.**

Motion: M. Turner

Second: R. Rita

Moderator: Please note this motion requires a simple majority vote. Birdie Britton of the Chapel Committee has a presentation.

Presentation:

B. Britton reviews the 2019 Town Meeting in which the Town voted on a sense of the meeting vote to support the idea of a non-denominational chapel, named the RFK Memorial Chapel. Birdie reviews the Chapel Committees activities since then including the hiring of architect Erik Barth, obtaining non-profit 501c3 status, and surveying of the site. Birdie asks for the support of the voters for the Chapel. Erik Barth presents building plans and drawings to show the location adjacent to Corcoran Pond, exterior and interior building views, as well as views from Valley Rd. looking towards the Chapel.

Moderator: The time is now 7:15 pm and the ballot boxes for articles 9 and 10 are now closed.

Presentation continues:

Erik Barth continues and adds that the proposed walking path that will circumnavigate the pond will be integrated into the plan. The chapel will have seating for 150 inside and an additional 30-40 on the terrace adjacent to the main sanctuary. He describes how the Chapel is planned to be integrated with the natural surroundings of the area and how the design of the roof trusses is intended to mimic the ridgeline of Mount Osceola in the distance. There is a light monitor, which will double as a steeple, and brings light into the Chapel making a bright and welcoming area. The Chapel is intended to be a non-denomination inter-faith Chapel open to everyone. Erik further indicates other key features of the building including the reflecting pool and the timeline of JFK's life. Erik also presents the schedules for fundraising and construction, which is dependent on how quickly the funds are raised by the Chapel organization.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Discussion:

B. Fries asked if there is any parking.

B. Britton answers that the Chapel will be accessed by foot. The Chapel Committee is working with adjacent property owners who do have parking available. Erick adds that the Chapel will be ADA accessible.

K. Cook commented that a Chapel is something that has been missing from the Valley and asked 3 questions:

1. Is this located on Town-owned land?
2. Who retains revenues from weddings/events?
3. Will there be weekly services at the Chapel?

E. Barth answered as follows:

1. Answer is yes, it is now Town-owned but proposed to be sold to the Chapel organization.
2. The Chapel organization would retain revenues for rentals of the Chapel for events.
3. The Chapel organization would rent the Chapel to groups for services/events.

M. Diehm asked what the Fair Market Value price of the land parcel?

M. Decoteau answered that we don't have that amount yet. The Town Assessor needs to do a market analysis to establish the Fair Market Value price after the land parcel is surveyed.

A. Berko asked what happens if the funding isn't enough for the project?

B. Britton answered that there are 2 phases are planned. If there isn't enough funding to build the entire Chapel, the committee will likely decide to do the foundation and an arbor/pavilion-like structure.

M. Decoteau clarifies that the Warrant Article is to give the Selectmen the authority to negotiate the sale of the land parcel. It is not an obligation of the Town to sell the land parcel if the Selectmen are unable to negotiate the terms and conditions in the best interest of the Town.

M. Aronson adds that the warrant article is to only give authorization to the Selectmen to negotiate with the Chapel organization, it is not an obligation. All of the Selectmen concur.

A. Berko commented that the steeple seems exclusive and not non-denominational. The steeple appears to stand out from the building and appears exclusive rather than inclusive.

C. Helfman comments that the proposed structure is beautiful and agrees with Mr. Berko that the steeple isn't non-denominational, as well as the proposed seating plan She also asks if there is a bathroom, heat, or air-conditioning, and asks what the building costs are to construct.

E. Barth answers that there is not a bathroom in the building plan. The committee will work with the Town to establish portable restrooms nearby. There are future plans for a beach pavilion that will have restrooms. The seating plan is not final and adjustments can be made. The estimated costs at this time are \$1.5 million.

B. Britton adds that in other mountain resort communities there are Chapels with similar designs that are inter-faith.

B. Powell asks if the warrant article passes, and negotiations to sell the land are successful, what happens if there are not enough funds to build the chapel, and the land is now owned by the Chapel organization.

M. Decoteau answers that scenario would be part of the negotiations and potentially a reverter-clause would be included in the land purchase agreement.

B. Powell asked if donors have already committed to the Chapel organization.

B. Britton answered that they do have possible donors, though nothing is written in concrete yet.

B. Powell shared his opinion that attaching a politically polarizing family, like the Kennedys, to the chapel may not be well received by donors, and may send a mixed message.

T. Gross added that he has been approached by potential donors and they may have conditions that need to be met, though these are unknown at this time.

C. Powell states she recalls images displayed at a previous Town Meeting of a pavilion-like structure when the idea was discussed and asked if this type of structure would be considered “plan-B” to the Chapel, as depicted here today if fundraising is lower than expected.

T. Gross answered that tonight’s vote is one step in the process. If fundraising falls short, no one wants a foundation without a building.

R. Rita comments that the vote tonight is about giving the Select Board the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of the sale of the land from the Town to the Chapel organization.

M. Aronson adds that the authorization is for one year only. If an agreement cannot be reached within one year, then another vote will occur at the 2022 Town Meeting, if the Selectmen decide to include this on the 2022 Town Warrant.

A. Darnell asked why there isn’t a Selectmen’s vote as a recommendation. All of the other warrant articles either show the Board’s vote either for or against an Article.

M. Turner answered that the Board felt that this was something that the voters should decide for themselves without the Select Board weighing in with their opinion.

M. Long asked if there are other plans for the use of this land by the Town.

M. Decoteau answered that that on the adjacent lot, the Town does have a plan to build a bathhouse or pavilion in the future. There is nothing specific at this time for the area being discussed tonight.

M. Long commented that the phrase “*non-denominational*” usually refers to Christian sects, and he doesn’t view this as being inclusive to all religions being termed “non-denominational”.

J. Berowitz comments that this dialogue is great and asked what the Chapel organization is doing to have a collective discussion with people representing different faiths.

B. Britton said at this time there has not been a collective outreach, but it is something that is planned in the future.

Moderator: Are there any questions.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in Favor of Article 23

Requested a show of red cards against Article 23.

Determined that Article 23, passes with a majority vote.

Moderator: Reported that the polls for the Ballot questions on Article 9 and Article 10 were open for an hour and the votes have been counted to reflect the following results:

Article 9:	Yes 83	No 5	Blank 0	PASSED
Article 10:	Yes 87	No 1	Blank 0	PASSED

Article 9 and 10 both passed by a majority vote.

Moderator: Recognized R. Rita.

**Motion: I move to limit reconsideration of all preceding articles.**

Motion: R. Rita

Second: M. Aronson

Discussion: Mark Decoteau states that a vote to limit reconsideration means that all votes taken up to that point cannot be changed by further action of this meeting.

Moderator: Please note this motion requires a simple majority vote.  
Requested a show of red cards in favor of the Motion.  
Requested a show of red cards against the Motion.  
Determined that the Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: Do I hear a motion on Article 24?

**Article 24:** To see if the Town will vote to amend Selectmen's Ordinance #8, "Noise Ordinance", dated July 13, 1988. Amendments include clarifying the description of unreasonable noise related to construction activity; adding other sources of noise disturbances; and inclusion of a description of loud noise related to the operation of parked and moving motor vehicles. All of the changes make this ordinance consistent with applicable state law, including NHRSA 31:39, Section 1., n., related to noise regulation by a town.

Motion: R. Rita

Second: M. Aronson

Moderator: Please note this motion requires a simple majority vote.

Discussion: Mark Decoteau explains that a handout was available at the check-in table which contains the present language in the ordinance along with the proposed new language.

M. Diehm asked Chief Noyes how many noise complaints are received each year.

Police Chief, Dave Noyes, replies usually a few dozen complaints are received each year.

M. Diehm asked how is unreasonable noise measured? Is there a decibel meter?

D. Noyes replies that the state statute specifies that if an officer can hear noise beyond 50 feet away or if there has been a complaint received about the noise. He explains that the proposed changes to the ordinance are more of a housekeeping issue and will allow for better enforcement by public safety officers. Chief Noyes adds there isn't going to be any change in the way the officers enforce the ordinance, the intention is to better clarify the sources of noise based on complaints that have been received over the years. The State statute is very broad and allows for the Town to be very specific on the specific types of noise.



R. Rita adds that the present ordinance only relates to construction activity and this is an attempt to widen it to include noise from other sources.  
B. Powell asks if the ordinance looks at who is making the noise. The example given is the use of a leaf-blower by a homeowner versus a contractor.  
D. Noyes answers that no, there is no difference in the example provided. The ordinance states it is any noise by a person, corporation, or group.  
R. Rita adds that the time of day is also part of the ordinance.

Moderator: Requested a show of red cards in favor of the Motion.  
Requested a show of red cards against the Motion.  
Determined that the Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Moderator: **Article 25** asks for reports from agents, auditors or committees appointed who need to make a presentation to do so at this time. There are no reports from agents, auditors, or committees.

**Article 26:** To transact any other business as may legally come before the meeting.

Moderator recognized Irit Levy, a member of the Recycling Subcommittee of Solid Waste Committee.

I. Levy informs the audience that the Recycling Subcommittee is sponsoring the Bags to Benches Challenge recycling initiative and the locations of the collection bins for plastic bags.

Moderator: Joan Sweeney, the Moderator, offers thanks to all the Election workers, staff, and volunteers for the time and work during the election and Town Meeting.

**Motion: I move that we adjourn the Town meeting.**

Motion: M. Aronson

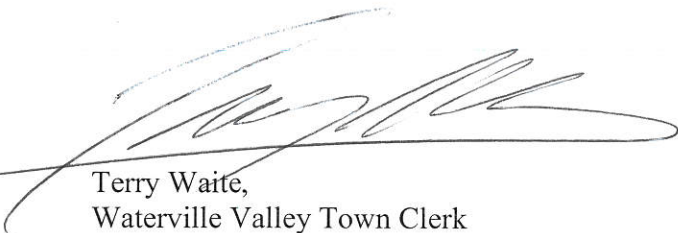
Second: M. Turner

Moderator: Please note this motion requires a simple majority vote.

Discussion: None

Disposition: Motion passes by unanimous voice vote at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry Waite,  
Waterville Valley Town Clerk