



**Town Council
Special Town Meetings
Citizen Communications
July 31, 2025**

6:15 Meeting – Radios

1. Cheryl Johnson – 89 Hamilton Avenue

6:30 Meeting – Water and Sewer Payments


1. Cheryl Johnson – 89 Hamilton Avenue
2. John Flynn – 526 Mt. Fair Dr.
3. Lucy Reardon (No address given)
4. Bryan Holmes – 1083 Bunker Hill Rd.
5. Reale Lemay – 5 Suncrest Dr.
6. Mary Tullo – 1479 Litchfield Rd.

Thursday July 31, Town Meetings Issues

From Cheryl Johnson <santagata120@gmail.com>

Date Tue 7/29/2025 5:59 PM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>; Gerald Lukowski <Lukowski@watertownct.org>

 7 attachments (7 MB)

Town meeting2.jpg; Town meeting3.jpg; Hamilton-sidewalk grass.jpg; Hamilton-sidewalk holes.jpg; hamilton-manholes.jpg; Hamilton-curbs.jpg; Sidewalk Woolson-Merriam.jpg;

1.) Appropriation of \$5M to WTBY Water & Services.

Is this regarding the \$34M due WTBY we hear about. Everyone is "up in arms" about this. And some major explaining and accountability is decidedly due.

And what is the path forward? More interest keeps accruing?

2.) Appropriation of \$5M from General Fund (Police radios, P&R, or Public Works.)

Answer: Public Works only! Police will have to make due with existing radios & Parks and Recreation will have to make due with whatever their current budget is.

Watertown needs our streets and sidewalks re-done and repaired! Some of our streets look like we're trying to imitate Lakewood Rd in Waterbury. We personally, try to steer visitors away from entering Watertown via Rt 8 and Rt 262 because we're embarrassed!!! We try to route them thru Woodbury, Rt 6 since Woodbury roads look so good.

We're definitely embarrassed of the town we chose to live in 20+

years ago. Echo Lake Rd from Greenwood Rd, past the ball field and up to the traffic light is a disgrace and an humiliation to all tax paying residents of Watertown.

It needs to be totally repaved and sidewalks need repair and continual maintenance.

And I'm afraid we have not been paying attention to what is happening specifically on our street, Hamilton Avenue. Is the street not going to be paved properly as was done on Middlebury Rd (nice job!). And are not the sidewalks and curbs going to be re-worked or completely changed? Hamilton Avenue is a walking street. More of our streets should be walkable. Hamilton is busy with dog walkers, baby carriages, runners, children going to school etc. We love having this activity. And the road should be an example of what a street should look like and how it should function and be maintained. It should not be full of holes, decayed curbs, weeds, manholes sunken below street grade etc.

So these are my comments. And kindly see more on the attached. We want some action, please, for all the taxes we have been paying through the years!

Cheryl S. Johnson
89 Hamilton Avenue
Watertown Ct. 06795

Water Service Payments to Waterbury Comments For this Evening's Meeting .

From jerseyjackjr@optimum.net <jerseyjackjr@optimum.net>

Date Thu 7/31/2025 8:46 AM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>

I agree we should start paying the back payments owed to Waterbury. However, Waterbury has declared that Watertown must pay at a rate all customers do which I assume includes all internal Waterbury customers. That rate which includes a factor for internal Waterbury water & sewer infrastructure and administration will be on top of what Watertown ratepayers must pay for our own WSA infrastructure and administration. Mayor Pernerewski let the cat out of the bag when he said in a 7/5/2025 Waterbury Republican article on the subject: " The Mayor said city officials are planning to use the \$34 million judgement to support capital investments in the water and sewer systems which could also help the city manage rates in the future." Has anyone on our Watertown legal team argued before the courts that this is an unfair double charge for both Waterbury and Watertown infrastructure on Watertown ratepayers? Articles on the judgements say the court believes Waterbury is charging Watertown fair rates. How can anyone believe this double charge is fair and just? Watertown ratepayers get no benefit from Waterbury's internal water & Sewer infrastructure and administration. Any back payment and the rates going forward must have any factor for the internal Waterbury infrastructure removed for them to be fair and just. Please make sure this issue is brought up in any court appearances & negotiations going forward.

Sincerely,

John Flynn
526 Mount Fair Drive
Watertown

Vote on payment to Waterbury for overdue water bills

From Reale Lemay <rd.lemay@yahoo.com>

Date Sun 7/27/2025 10:35 AM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>

As a 67 year resident of Watertown on a private well and septic we receive no benefit for those residents who are connected to public water (and or sewer service) . To use taxpayer funding to (begin) pay a bill that should have been properly handled back in 2018 is absurd .

Why should I bear the cost for many years to come for a service I never had access to ?

No one helped me when we replaced our septic system ? Or well pump ?

Reale Lemay

5 Suncrest Drive

Sent from my iPhone

Input for special town meeting on Thursday, 7/31/2025

From Bryan Holmes <bryanholmesstem@gmail.com>

Date Sun 7/27/2025 10:00 AM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>

To the Watertown Town Council,

I am emailing this input because I cannot attend the special meeting this Thursday concerning the issue of paying for the underpaid water and sewer bills charged by Waterbury. I am not a user of Watertown's water or sewer service, as I have a well and septic system at my home. However, here is my input which I ask to be considered along with everyone else's:

1. In the near term, I support the Town Council's payment of \$5 million and any future payments to pay down the \$34.9 million debt now owed to Waterbury for underpaid water and sewer bills.
2. For the long term, I support two parallel courses of action:
 - a. Pay off this debt as expeditiously as possible to avoid further interest penalties. While I believe the water and sewer customers are primarily responsible for paying off his debt, I am willing to support it, even though I am not a customer, through additional tax to pay down a bond or other form of payment. The proportion of payment shouldered by non-customers of the town's water and sewer services should be agreed to through meetings and a referendum of some sort in the future.
 - b. Make Watertown independent of Waterbury in water and sewer service, and in every other way that may currently exist. The way the Waterbury city officials handled this entire issue was arrogant and completely unreasonable. I attended a Watertown town meeting about a year ago where the town attorney explained the water and sewer issue at that time, and I thought we had a reasonable claim that should have been negotiated and resolved. Instead, Waterbury city officials just insisted on the higher rates they were charging and seemed to expect us to just roll over and pay. Beyond this issue, it is obvious that Waterbury is poorly governed and not someplace that our town should be linked to in any way. The biggest mistake in this whole issue is that we did not become independent of Waterbury a long time ago. We share a border, and that is unfortunate, but we don't need to share anything else, especially where the city of Waterbury may be able to dictate terms to Watertown.

Thank you for considering my input.

Bryan Holmes
1083 Bunker Hill Road
Watertown, Connecticut

Water Bill

From lucywtn@aol.com <lucywtn@aol.com>

Date Sun 7/27/2025 8:12 AM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>

Yes, this water bill should be paid. In fact it should have been paid back in 2018. Now we owe \$34.9 million.

Thanks for nothing.

Lucy Reardon

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

waterbury water debt

From Mary Tullo <mbtullo@att.net>

Date Sun 7/27/2025 5:56 PM

To Town Council <TownCouncil@watertownct.org>

I hope that neglecting to pay the water charges to Waterbury will not affect and increase our taxes once again. People who get their water from a well system as we do should not be penalized for something that we have no control over. Will this info be made public at this Thursday meeting ?

Sincerely
Mr. and Mrs. William Tullo
1479 Litchfield Rd.
Watertown