

# MINUTES

**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
JULY 31, 2025  
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD  
WATERTOWN, CT 06795**

A Special Town Meeting was held at Watertown Town Hall, Council Chambers, on Thursday, July 31, 2025. Mary Ann Rosa called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and solicited for the election of a Moderator for the meeting.

Mary Ann Rosa asked for nominations for moderator of the meeting.

MOTION: Ken Demirs, I move to nominate Mary Ann Rosa as Moderator of the Special Town Meeting.  
Seconded by: Robert Retallick

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.

Nominations are closed.

All in favor of Mary Ann Rosa as Moderator of the meeting please say aye.

Motion passed unanimously

Mary Ann Rosa asked for nomination for clerk of the meeting.

MOTION: Ken Demirs, I move to nominate Susan King as Clerk of the Special Town Meeting.  
Seconded by: Robert Desena

Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.

All in favor of Susan King as Clerk of the meeting please say aye.

Mary Ann Rosa, Moderator: read the legal notice.



**WARNING AND NOTICE  
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
July 31, 2025**

The legal voters of the Town of Watertown and those entitled to vote in Town Meeting are hereby **WARNED AND NOTIFIED** of a Special Town Meeting to be held on Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Watertown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers. to consider appropriation(s) as follows:

1. To consider an appropriation of up to \$400,000 from the 015 Water Fund Balance to Sewage Disposal line item 015.50344.074.0000.9015 to cover the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgetary shortfall cost of Water and Sewer Services provided by the City of Waterbury and the Watertown Fire District from May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
2. To consider an appropriation of \$100,000 from 017 Sewer Fund Balance to Utility Water line item 017.50324.075.0000.9017 to cover the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgetary shortfall cost of Waterbury Water Services and the Watertown Fire District from May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
3. To consider an appropriation of \$5,000,000 from the Water and Sewer Reserve funds to cover the cost of Waterbury Water and Sewer Services Debt.

A link to view the special town meeting will be posted on the Town of Watertown website [www.watertownct.org](http://www.watertownct.org) by 4:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to vote at the Special Town Meeting must attend in person. Anyone wishing to provide comments for the meeting may do so by emailing [towncouncil@watertownct.org](mailto:towncouncil@watertownct.org) or by mail to Watertown Town Council, 61 Echo Lake Rd., Watertown, CT 06795 and must be received by 2:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025.

If you require a translator, or accommodations for a hearing impairment or other accommodation, contact the Town of Watertown at 860-945-5255.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2025.

Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager

RETURN OF  
WARNING AND NOTICE  
TOWN OF WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

I hereby certify that on July 23, 2025 I left a duplicate copy of the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut, to be held on July 31, 2025 with Lisa Dalton Town Clerk.

I further certify that on July 23, 2025 I caused a copy of said Warning and Notice to be published in the *REPUBLICAN AMERICAN* Newspaper which has a substantial circulation in said Town and placed upon the Town of Watertown website under Legal Notices.

I further certify that on July 23, 2025 I caused to be set upon the signpost nearest the office of the Town Clerk and all other places with signposts designated by the Town, a written copy of said Warning and Notice signed by me as Town Manager.

I further certify that all the above acts were done at least five (5) days before the holding of the Special Town Meeting on July 31, 2025.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 23rd day of July, 2025.

Mark A. Raimo  
Town Manager

TOWN CLERK'S CERTIFICATION  
AS TO WARNING AND RETURN OF WARNING

I hereby certify that the attached WARNING AND NOTICE of the foregoing RETURN OF WARNING are duly recorded in the records of the Town of Watertown, Connecticut and that Mark A. Raimo was Town Manager of the Town of Watertown on the date the WARNING and RETURN OF WARNING were signed.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 23rd day of July, 2025.

Lisa Dalton, Town Clerk

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated we have a document with a few copies on the table online as of today with detailed chronology of what has taken place so far and what is the potential going forward. It answers all of the questions that we have been asked, all that we have seen on line and all that we have become aware of. Outside of a maybe a question you may have tonight you might find it in that document. We also have several pieces of correspondence that came in I will read after the public gets to speak.

1. MOTION: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to authorize an appropriation of up to \$400,000 from the 015 Water Fund Balance to the Sewage Disposal line item 015.50344.074.0000.9015 to cover the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgetary shortfall cost of Water and Sewer Services provided by the City of Waterbury and the Watertown Fire District from May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

Public questions or comments:

Franklin Pilicy, 235 Main Street concerning the matter of water and sewer rates between Waterbury and Watertown, I was asked at the beginning of those proceedings to prepare a history of the relationship between Watertown and Waterbury. That history begins with Waterbury establishing the water shed where the water is sourced. I have been often asked recently on a daily basis to explain Watertown's position to answer why did the Watertown Council contest the water & sewer rates and why should the Town of Watertown not pay the same rates as other towns that Waterbury provides water and sewer service to. It's a long history, much of it I prepared earlier as part of the proceedings between Waterbury and Watertown. I have recently updated the history of the relationship between Waterbury and Watertown and I have prepared a written report. That report is lengthy it runs about 21 pages and that report answers all of the questions with respect to the history. It answers questions in my view of why Watertown was compelled to contest the Water & Sewer rates. It answers the question in my view of why Watertown should not have been expected to pay the same rates as paid by other towns. There is a significant distinction between Watertown's relationship with Waterbury's Water & Sewer Departments and the other towns that receive a relatively modest amounts of water. They were not involved initially and for any time period with Waterbury the same as Watertown. I wrote this report on my own, I was not asked to prepare this report by anyone. I did it on my own because I felt that were too many in Watertown that did not fully understand the history of the relationship between Waterbury and Watertown and were not aware of all the components or different parts of Watertown's position that I don't think has been adequately explained as well. I have prepared this report and I have delivered a significant number of copies for tonight's town meeting. I have additional copies that I can provide to the Town Manager. Again, the report is written to be as comprehensive as possible and to explain why in my view the Town Council made the proper decision to contest the water & sewer rates and really the only decision, that could have been made.

Mike Fusco, 917 Hamilton Avenue stated if it was a prudent and wise decision, why do the courts keep knocking us down and why do we owe 7 million in interest.

Denise Russ, 135 Porter asked are the road infrastructures going to be on the same bonding as the water & sewer?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered it would be a separate question held at the same referendum to save us money; we would have two questions.

Denise Russ my other question is, people that are on septic and well how are you going to separate them if we do bonding?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered the rate payers handle are the ones that handle the bonding repayment, well and septic do not.

Jonathan Ramsay noted this meeting is not for bonding.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered the first question is only that we have to deal with the transferring of funds, it does not have to do with the bonding.

Steve Dubauskas, 22 Orlando Street stated during the 2024 budget process & 2025 budget process why did not the Water & Sewer Commission, the Town Manager and the Town Council who were supposed to review the budget to finalize it, why did they not put in the debt allowance in those two years when they were ordered by the court to start paying in 2023.

Elizabeth Wasiutynski, 514 Sylvan Lake Road asked am I correct that persons giving long or short commentary today all persons here in this room or perhaps the commentary that is sent to you the Town Council are doing it as very able and interested town's people and are not being treated as consultants and therefore being paid for lengthy reports?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered no one to my knowledge is being paid anything including any of us, so no, no one is getting paid.

Elizabeth Wasiutynski noted I know you are not being paid, I am asking whether any other persons in this room speaking to the issues are going to be paid in a consultant manner?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered no.

Steve Dubauskas stated it was recently reported by the Town Manager and the Water & Sewer Superintendent that only 5 million dollars out of the 10-million-dollar special fund for the debt payment was available. Why did monies get taken out of that fund when the sole purpose of the fund stated by the council was to start paying off the water debt.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered the Water & Sewer Fund is a basic fund they were not set aside to pay this debt. The reserves were put in there to do projects and accumulate extra monies that were revenue through the rate increases. They were not specifically made or used for payment to Waterbury, that is where the town's cash monies were held.

Steve Dubauskas added the statement that was made in the paper was the Town Manager and the Superintendent specifically said that fund was set up to start paying off the court ordered debt that was ordered in 2023.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered with all due respect I am not responsible for writing articles for the newspaper. It is clear that these reserve accounts were set up to house cash as the revenue was collected.

David Mango, 240 Riverside Street stated I went to high school with Mayor O'Leary he is a pretty fair person. At one time he wanted to settle for 10 million dollars and you got 5 million now that would have been a piece of cake to settle it, now we are triple. You got to listen to the town's people not the lawyers.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated I would ask speakers to address the particular motion on the floor with regards to authorizing the money.

Cheryl Johnson, 89 Hamilton Avenue stated this is quite a presentation, I am a late person with all of this and I am confused and would like some answers. I previously read some of the issues you put down. Am I to understand we have not had a contractual agreement with Waterbury since 2018, we just been saying we are not going to pay it, we have no agreement anymore?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered I will answer the question but you have to talk to the motion, that is correct we have not paid.

Cheryl Johnson asked about these 5 million dollars, how does that get applied against this money that we apparently owe, is that against principle or is that all interest, how does this work?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered that would be for the City of Waterbury to decide. We do not have any control over that.

Bruce Emmerick, 99 Guernseytown Road stated I recognize that there is a municipal part of the water budgets that we all pay for as part of the budget so certainly some of these funds need to be coming from those dollars. As we look at line items one and two that you have going forward, monies that are going to come from the Water & Sewer Department and I have a well myself, how is that money allotted so that us well users will not be paying towards this debt that you have left the town with. How much of my dollars has already gone into the water and sewer fund from the budgets and how does that relate to me as a well user and how much of this should I really be paying? How much of those dollars are coming up from well users as opposed to users of the Water & Sewer Department.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered the Water & Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund it is separate. The rate payers are the ones that are going to be billed not someone such as yourself that does not use city water.

Bruce Emmerick asked I seem to recall when I reviewed the budgets that we passed that portion of those budgets also go into the Water & Sewer Department and we all have a municipal part of all of this, I understand that if my dollars are going into the Water & Sewer Department some of those dollars have gone into these reserve funds. How much of my dollars as result now are going to pay towards this settlement.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered just to explain this, there no tax dollars coming from the General Fund that are funding this request. This is all coming from the enterprise fund which is funded by rate payers for the water & sewer. If the town were to sell the water and sewer system, we are actually doing the research to make sure that there is no seed money that was put by the town because that would have to come out of the sale of the proceeds. Although, I understand the thought process you have, that is not the correct thought process. None of your tax dollars are going to this payment. It strictly comes from the rate payers and any budgetary money that we go through in the normal budget year, anything that is paid out comes back to the rate payers. We pay salaries for an individuals that work for Water & Sewer, the water rate payers compensate the town for that and it goes through the whole gambit. IT services anything like that there is a reimbursement that happens. There are no general fund tax dollars being asked to be used in this decision.

Catherine Dinsmore, 35 Reynolds Street stated the Town of Watertown is a rate payer, I do not understand how it is going affect our budgets and thus the taxpayers because the Town of Watertown has to pay as a rate payer to WSA to Waterbury. I would just like to understand how that works?

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answered yes you are correct, the Water & Sewer is a utility and would be expensed as any other utility such as gas or electricity. Yes, there is going to be an increase to water & sewer usage to the Town in which the Town will have to pick up and pay for that. That is outside of our control, the rates have gone up and that is something we are going to have to absorb.

Catherine Dinsmore asked do you absorb it, if the rates are going up then does it affect our budget and thus affect the tax payers because somebody has to pay for it.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager answer I guess at some point the cost of the increase to the water could affect the tax rate that would have to be determined as we go into the next budget cycle. We basically understand what that increase is going to be, so the water & sewer is going through a rate increase and then will have a public hearing. Once those rates are stated and approved then yes, the town would be affected through a rate increase.

Catherine Dinsmore stated and the BOE as well. It's conceivable that the budgets will go up to pay for the expenses and all the tax payers including people with wells and septic will have to be responsible for assisting to pay for the Town of Watertown usage.

Mark Raimo answered off course just like any utility.

Catherine Dinsmore stated but when we say to people if you have a well, if you have a septic, you are not going to be affected, the rate payers are going to be affected. The Town of Watertown is a rate payer so the people who do have septic and do have wells they are going to be affected, just as the people in the fire district will be affected as well. All though, we don't receive our water from WSA Waterbury our sewer does go to Waterbury, so everyone will be affected.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated they are being affected now, the Town and the BOE pay rates.

Catherine Dinsmore stated we as tax payers help fund the expenses that you have.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated but there is no stop to that rate increase regardless.

Catherine Dinsmore added to say that only the rate payers are going to be affected and the bond is for the rate payers everyone in Town is going to be affected.

Mark Raimo answered I understand your point and I will be careful how I make that statement later but it is a utility that has gone up like any other utility to adjust our budget to pay for that.

Catherine Dinsmore stated I understand that but we are responsible.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated the town's general residents that have sewers, that have wells will not be part of the bond cost only the average rate that goes up from Waterbury.

Frankie Popilowski, 35 Chestnut Avenue stated that makes no sense to me, the municipalities are all on water & sewer yes or no.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered yes.

Frankie Popilowski stated the town taxes pay all that. You don't want to say that the taxpayers in this town are responsible for some of this bill. You have to show us line by line what the water & sewer rate payers are paying and what the tax payers are paying. Because we are paying double, we are tax payers too. We not only have to cover this 34-million-dollar mess we got to cover it as a taxpayer too.

Mark Raimo responded I am sorry but I was very clear but I understood the point. The way I refer it is that the rate payers, this is a general rate increases to a utility, the town has no control over that. We have to absorb that cost however many tax payers there are. This majority of this payment is come is going to come on the rate payers.

Frankie Popilowski asked what about the Town Hall are they on water & sewer?

Mark Raimo answered they are.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa yes, we have answered that.

Frankie Popilowski stated all these buildings are on water & sewer, the tax payers pay those bills not just the rate payers. Everybody keep saying this is on the rate payers, the bond is on the rate payers but part of the money that has already been, part of the water and sewer that has been used is on the tax payers not everything on the rate payers. Anybody that has sold before now they don't have to pay a dime into this. All the water that they used the whole time they lived here or did business here that money is all lost. If I were to sell my house tomorrow, I wouldn't be responsible for any of this water & sewer. That to me is not fair to the person that buying my house but that is what you are expecting those people to do.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated if there was no lawsuit, Waterbury would have increased the rates and everybody in town would have paid that rate increase.

Frankie Popilowski stated now we are going to pay worse six or seven years ago.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered no.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue stated I am a rate payer, whatever it is by the number of rate payers which is about \$7,000. That doesn't seem like much but it doesn't cover all the bills. Am I understanding it correctly that if we go out and bond to pay this bill off, are the rate payers going to pay for the bond tonight?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated we are talking about the appropriation of \$400,000 dollars from the water fund?

Al Mickel stated we don't know yet the rate payers are going to be the only ones paying for future bonding.

Franklin Pilicy, 235 Main Street stated I heard a question about whether or not any consultant was being paid. As I stated no one asked me to prepare this report, I am not a consultant. The report is not being paid for by anybody. I think it is safe to say that no one from Town Council or the Town Manager knew that I prepared this report until tonight's town meeting. This is not something I was asked to do and I am not acting as a consultant with no expectation of being paid. I did as a private citizen because I was asked numerous times as a private citizen a number of these questions. The best way to do this was to put it all in one report and make available to as many individuals in Town who want it and the purpose is to explain the issues.

David Mango, 240 Riverside St. stated years ago in Naugatuck I was an operator for Smith Environmental we capped the Laurel Park Landfill, this is the same example. These people that sold their houses they contributed to this, so they should pay their share too. Why should all these people here pay for their share.

Paul Vance, 24 Summit Ridge asked it is my understanding that the appropriation of 5 million there is no agreement as to how the funds are allocated by Waterbury?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered we would have no control over that.

Paul Vance asked there is no agreement?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered not to my knowledge.

Mark Raimo noted this is stated in statute any payment we make goes to the arrears and goes through interest just like any other obligation. The importance is to bond this and get this payment behind us, but this is all rooted in state statute.

Paul Vance asked we are not talking bonded money this is money from the Water & Sewer fund?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered corrected, when that question comes up, we are not at that question yet? The first question is for the transfer?

Paul Vance stated these funds are to pay for by the Town Council to budget properly for seven years. I don't know anyone who would buy a house in the sections of town that are both rate and tax payers. I get the distinctive action of having both my taxes raised to pay for this indecision and the rates to follow that indecision, it is a complete mismanagement. I would have to vote no on all these things tonight.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa voting no would put us in a much worse position than we are in now.

Steve Dubauskas added to help my fellow townspeople in clarity. The Mayor of Waterbury stated as approved by the court that the payments will be applied to the oldest debt and will be applied to the interest first. Basically, we are going to be paying over 30 million dollars for many years because of mismanagement of the last seven years.

Franklin Pilicy stated I moved the question.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa all those in favor of moving the question.

The motion passed.

The motion was read again.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa this is for May and June.

Aye: 26 + Town Council members present

Nay: 17

**THE MODRATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED**

2. Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: I move to authorize an appropriation of \$100,000 from 017 Sewer Fund Balance to Utility Water line item 017.50324.075.0000.9017 to cover the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budgetary shortfall cost of Waterbury Water Services and the Watertown Fire District from May 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated it is for the same month two-month period from the sewer fund balance.

THE MODRATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED

3. Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation of \$5,000,000 from the Water and Sewer Reserve funds to cover the cost of Waterbury Water and Sewer Services Debt.

Bruce Emmerick asked this is money that is going to the actual debt now, is that correct?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered it is how the city by law must apply it.

Bruce Emmerick asked this is specific to outstanding debt?

Chair Mary Ann Rosa answered yes.

Mark Raimo answered yes.

THE MODERATOR DECLARED THE MOTION PASSED

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mary Ann Rosa, Moderator

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan King, Clerk

