



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025
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, Chairman
Michele McHugh, Vice Chair
Dan Cocchiola
Ken Demirs
Robert Desena
Carina Noyd
Robert Retallick
Mary Ann Rosa
Rachael Ryan

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
Maria Guerrero, Finance Director

4. Public Participation.

The Town Council invites the public to speak under public participation. Please complete and provide a *Watertown Town Council Public Participation* Form if you wish to speak at the meeting. Copies are available on the Town's website or at the meeting. There is a time limit of three minutes per speaker.

Dan DiVito, Pineridge Ext. congratulated the council members who won the elections and thanked the council for their service to the town. Mr. DiVito thank the council for the bond effort savings residents approximately \$600,000 in the first year alone.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue talked about changing Public Participation back to Public Comments. Mr. Mickel asked about the arbitrary bond limit and asked if the Finance Director could put the quarterly report for this year on the web page under budgets. The aquatics program requirements did not specify being able to swim. Mr. Mickel talked about the Water and Sewer Lawsuit and asked if there could be new ways to audit the Finance Department to prevent this from happening again.

Denise Russ, 135 Porter Street congratulated the new council members and asked that there be a bid for a new Town Attorney. Ms. Russ asked instead of the full nine council be on the budget committee to go back to the previous way of having a subcommittee with three or four council members.

Tadd Johnson, 100 Canon Ridge Drive congratulated the new members on the council. Mr. Johnson would support appointing an Independent commission to investigate the 34-million-dollar Water & Sewer debacle.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place talked about the internal memo from the October meeting regarding a statement that she made regarding absentee laws. Ms. Camara asked about the funds for the litigation payment and what the money will cover.

Frankie Popilowski, Chestnut Ave asked why spend \$82,500 for another road survey? She tried to put in a blight complaint on the web and it was not working correctly. Ms. Popilowski asked what the rates are for Water and Sewer?

5. Minutes.

a. October 20, 2025 - Regular Meeting

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes October 20, 2025 as presented.

Aye: 7 Ramsay, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Rosa, Ryan

Nay: 0

Abstain: 2 McHugh, Cocchiola

Motion passes

b. November 10, 2025 – Special Meeting

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the Special Meeting minutes dated November 10, 2025 as presented.

Motion passes

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence

1. Letter received from Jaime Young Bernardi regarding a request for memorial sign, dated October 9, 2025.

7. Staff Reports.
 - a. Town Manager
Attached

Questions asked by council:

Carina Noyd asked are the extra funds from the band for the Water & Sewer in the General Fund.

Mark Raimo answered they are currently in the Special Fund with a high yield interest bearing account.

Carina Noyd asked when the bond attorney was discussing the road bonding, he had recommended 4 million initially to utilize the funds and then borrowing 6 million down the line and his reasoning was IRS regulations earning interest above what we bonded at and is that going to be an issue?

Mark Raimo answered it will not, just to clarify we were projected to borrow 10 million dollars and actually borrowed 6 million dollars. We left 4 million on the table for another band or bond in the future anticipated in 2028. When we discussed this with our bonding attorney because we were initially expensing \$30 million out of that \$34 million request for the Water & Sewer, allowing 4 million to sit in an interest-bearing account would not be an IRS issue. If we were to borrow that additional 4 million it would have looked like we were trying to actually earn money on what we borrowed and he advised us not to that. But we were in agreement that it would be the best interest for us to move with the 34 million dollars with WSA.

Carina Noyd asked at any point in the near future would we be able have the bond attorney in again for follow-up questions since we have gone for the band?

Mark Raimo answered that is up to the council to give me that directive.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked related to the extra money on the Water & Sewer bond right now it is earning interest. A year from now when we re-band or we go out to the long-term bond. Is the intention to keep that in the bond or would that bond possibly be a couple million dollars less when we go for the long-term bonds?

Mark Raimo answered I think this would be up to the council and WSA to direct me to do that, but I think it would be prudent for us to take that 4 million dollars and apply it and reduce the actual amount of the bond in 2026. We would take that 4 million dollars apply to the payment of the band and that would reduce it.

Rachael Ryan asked the 4 million dollars you would then apply to the 34-million-dollar bond even though that was supposed to be used for roads?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay answered no, this is all Water & Sewer.

Mark Raimo wanted to clarify a comment made in public participation. Meetings for WSA have been cancelled. I have not seen a cancellation for the December meeting but they did not have a meeting scheduled for November. I have prepared a memo to send to the WSA and the Superintendent on your behalf directing them to have a meeting as soon as possible. So, they can evaluate what was prepared in this document. I created a memo that pulled out the details that they need to move forward with so we can get a special hearing to actually get the band increase that would result in the payment of the band up and running properly. I don't want to wait until the last minute because then this may potentially have to happen in the last three months before the ban is due. We want to get this up and running as soon as possible

b. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

1. We are continuing to work on our audit for fiscal year 24/25. The auditors are scheduled to be on site this week. Our goal remains to have the audit completed by December 31st and staff are actively preparing documents and reconciling key accounts to ensure a smooth and timely audit.
2. Our budget for 26/27 has been successfully exported from Tyler and uploaded to a newly created share drive. This drive was created by Sean Thiel in our IT Department to communicate and streamline documents sharing amongst the Town Manager, designated staff in the Finance Department and specific department heads.
3. Our year-end payroll processing, as the calendar year draws to a close on December 31st, are actively working with Tyler and our Payroll Coordinator to make sure our payroll processes are timely and accurately filed by December 31st.

8. Subcommittees – none.

9. New Business.

- a. Consider approval of the proposed agreement between the Town of Watertown and Town Hall Supervisors Employees, CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the proposed agreement between the Town of Watertown and Town Hall Supervisors Employees, CSEA/SEIU, Local 2001, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- b. Consider approval of a job description for Recreation and Aquatics Program Coordinator.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the job description for Recreation and Aquatics Program Coordinator.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider a request for a bid waiver for services to be provided by BETA Group Inc. to provide additional and updated road asset management services for the Town of Watertown, to include data collection on guide rails, signage, pavement markings and road surface condition scores for an amount not to exceed \$82,500.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorize a bid waiver for services to be provided by BETA Group Inc. to provide additional and updated road asset management services for the Town of Watertown, to include data collection on guide rails, signage, pavement markings and road surface condition scores for an amount not to exceed \$82,500.

Carina Noyd asked how frequently do we do these assessments and how frequently it is recommended.

Jerry Lukowski answered it is recommended to do every three years, especially with the amount of road miles that we did over the past three years to get a current snapshot of our conditions of our road network.

Carina Noyd asked so we are on target.

Jerry Lukowski answered yes.

Rachael Ryan asked what we paid for the service three years ago?

Jerry Lukowski answered I don't know of the top of my head, I did ask for additional things, which was a 360 view, so I could have it along the 141 miles of road, it is currently on 50% of our roads on Google Street View. I also asked for pavement markings, guide rails and road signage so I could have a good inventory of our assets to put our fundings towards repairs.

Rachael Ryan stated it has definitely increased.

Jerry Lukowski answered we asked for additional things to support all of our assets in the right of way.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated the previous work was just for the roads. This includes the signs and everything else.

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Consider authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$731.40 from the General Fund to Police Overtime line item-010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received from the State of Connecticut for Homeland Security activities.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorizing an appropriation in the amount of \$731.40 from the General Fund to Police Overtime line item-010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received from the State of Connecticut for Homeland Security activities.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- e. Consider a resolution approving Town Council meeting dates and times for 2026.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution approving Town Council meeting dates and times for 2026.

Attached

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Consider approval of the resolution authorizing transfers for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to close out the Fiscal Year.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2024-2025 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:

**OTHER EXPENSE ADJUSTMENTS
FOR FY 2024-2025 TO CLOSE OUT THE FISCAL YEAR**

GENERAL FUND

To:

010.50334.004.0000.9010	LEGAL & FISCAL SERVICES	11,172.25
010.50323.014.0000.9010	UTILITIES - ELECTRIC	15,894.21
010.50334.041.0000.9010	LEGAL & FISCAL SERVICES	48,530.71
010.50341.043.0102.9010	TAX REFUNDS	161,126.05
		<hr/>
		236,723.22

From:

010.50325.014.0000.9010	UTILITIES - FUEL OIL & GAS	45,884.55
010.50326.014.0000.9010	TELEPHONE	\$13,109.83
010.50410.014.0000.9010	BUILDING MAINT SUPPLIES	\$7,437.82
010.50332.028.0000.9010	MAINTENCE AGREEMENTS	\$31,989.31
010.50480.040.0206.9010	FUEL INVENTORY	\$117,060.46
010.50690.046.0000.9010	MISCELLANEOUS OBJECTS	\$21,241.25
		<hr/>
		\$236,723.22

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 17th day of November, 2025.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing transfers for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to close out the Fiscal Year.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

g. Consider approval of resolution authorizing transfers for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2025-2026 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:

**Line Item Transfers Needed
 FOR FY 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR**

GENERAL FUND	No. 1
To:	
010.50620.050.3046.9010 2020 BOND INTEREST	104,850.00
010.50620.050.3079.9010 2021 BOND SERIES B INTEREST	81,746.00
010.50620.050.3080.9010 2022 BONDS INTEREST	270,150.00
010.50620.050.3078.9010 2021 BOND SERIES A INTEREST	21,400.00
010.50620.050.3008.9010 2019 BOND INTEREST	<u>127,560.00</u>
	605,706.00
From:	
010.50620.050.3078.9010 2021 BOND SERIES A INTEREST	104,850.00
010.50620.050.3080.9010 2022 BONDS INTEREST	81,746.00
010.50620.050.3081.9010 2023 PROPOSED BAN INTEREST	270,150.00
010.50620.050.3046.9010 2020 BOND INTEREST	21,400.00
010.50620.050.3046.9010 2020 BOND INTEREST	108,800.00
010.50620.050.3079.9010 2021 BOND SERIES B INTEREST	<u>18,760.00</u>
	605,706.00
SPECIAL FUND	No. 2
To:	
220.50620.050.3008.9220 2019 BOND INTEREST	67,740.00
220.50610.050.3047.9220 2019 BOND PRINCIPAL	120,000.00
220.50610.050.3078.9220 2021 BOND SERIES A PRINCIPAL	<u>132,000.00</u>
	319,740.00
From:	
220 New Line Item 220 New Line Item	<u>319,740.00</u>

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 17th day of November, 2025.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair

Watertown Town Council

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing transfers for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made application for the 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 17th day of November, 2025.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorization the payment of tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- i. Consider approval of the suspense list.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the suspense list as presented.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Old Business.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I make a motion to add to the agenda under Old Business, discussion and possible action relative to establishing a committee to review and make recommendations relative to the Water and Sewer lawsuit.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- a. Discussion and possible action on creating a commission to investigate what lead to the Water and Sewer lawsuit; why it happened and develop recommendations for preventing similar situations in the future.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay at a previous meeting on October 6th there was a motion made by Rachael Ryan that was worded: I make a motion for discussion and possible action on creating a commission to investigate what led to the Water and Sewer Lawsuit, why it happened and to come up with recommendations for preventing similar situations in the future.

Rachael Ryan: I have a more specific motion.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay: Would you like to amend that motion and what would you like to amend it to?

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I would like to amend the motion to establish a seven person commission whose charge will be to investigate what led to the decisions that led to the Water and Sewer Lawsuit with Waterbury and to provide recommendations for the changes that the Town Council can make so that the Town Attorney, the Town Manager, the WSA and the Town Council are all informed and involved in any further decisions of this magnitude. Two members of the commission should be current members of the Town Council and the other five should be citizens of Watertown but they cannot currently be serving on any boards or commissions, be employed by the Town of Watertown or be on any parties on Town Committees. All members must be approved by unanimous consent of the Town Council.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked how would the members be chosen?

Rachael Ryan answered in the past the Town Council has reached out and asked people from the Town to do that.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay: All in favor of amending the motion that was on the floor please say aye, opposed, abstentions.

Aye: 8 Ramsay, McHugh, Cocchiola, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Ryan
Nay: 1 Rosa
Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Chairman Jonthan Ramsay asked Rachael Ryan to read the motion.

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Carina Noyd: I move to establish a seven person commission whose charge will be to investigate what led to the decisions that led to the Water and Sewer Lawsuit with Waterbury and to provide recommendations for changes that the Town Council can make so that the Town Attorney, the Town Manager, the WSA and the Town Council are all informed and involved in any further decisions of this magnitude. Two members of the commission should be current members of the Town Council and the other five should be citizens of Watertown but they cannot currently be serving on any boards or commissions, be employed by the Town of Watertown or be on any parties on Town Committees. All members must be approved by unanimous consent of the Town Council.

Mary Ann Rosa stated I think the intent of the motion is a good one. As the previous Chairman I had even thought of something along the same line to be handled after elections. My thought is not so much against the concept, it's more in the way the motion reads. It can not be a commission, the council has to appoint a committee, not commissions.

Rachael Ryan answered that is not what the charter says, the Town Council has the power to create commissions.

Mary Ann Rosa stated I am not going to debate that; it does not list who the members are and it doesn't give a time frame for the action to be done. I believe seven members is too long, I am going to vote against the motion.

Robert Retallick stated I would also have to agree with Mary Ann, I think that seven members is going to be way too much and then to get all of us together to agree on these seven members unanimously it not going to happen. We need to make sure we

get this information out to people and we want it to happen quick and precise. I think that amount of people on here will never allow that to happen.

Rachael Ryan stated I have been on other commissions where there have been many people including on the ARPA funds that very successfully came up with the idea for the parking lot which just won the award from the Chamber of Commerce. I think it is unfortunate to say that we can't agree on outstanding members of our community to serve on this commission. The point is to find people who are not partisan and are willing to do that and what's in the best interest of the town. And if we can't all agree on those people, that's a problem.

Robert Retallick stated it is going to be difficult to find those people and to get people to volunteer to do this and then set committee times and make these committees happen. We are going to be a year down the road and we are still going to be talking about this and I don't think it is the right time frame.

Rachael Ryan stated there are people really interested in this. I bet there are people who would be willing to serve in this room. The population of Watertown is over 20,000 people I think we can find five people.

Dan Cocchiola stated what I think I hear is not the disagreement in the concept. I also don't think I heard disagreement in the idea that the people on the committee should be people that we all agree on. There might be in my mind some middle ground where we could find out how to create the commission. On Rachael's proposal she identified that there should be two council members as part of that committee. Do we want to do this in a two-step process? Step one to identify the council members who would take the lead on this and then come back to this council at our next regular meeting and identify who the potential public candidates are that then could be chosen. In that way we create a quick scenario.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh stated I agree with you, I think that we absolutely need to get the information out to the Town because you can hear it very loud and very vocal. Does it really matter if it is three, five, seven, 10 as long as the people that are on the committee commit to making sure there is transparency and that the actual information in an easy-to-read way get out to the town, on the website, etc. I agree the idea it's overdue.

Carina Noyd stated I agree that middle ground can be found. I think it's a good concept and I think amongst us we can move forward with something that's agreeable. It's extremely important that the committee is not made up of entirely council members. The public has voiced their opinion that they do not trust this council after this water and sewer issue, I think community engagement is vital.

Dan Cocchiola stated we could put out a request for interest to see if there are any community members who want to be engaged and the two council members who would head up that commission could bring candidates to the whole council.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh stated I think it is going to take too long, you are going to get a hundred people who want to be involved. We want to get the information out there, there is a lot of documentation around on what went wrong, I think part of the charge is to make the safeguards in place to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Aye: 3 Cocchiola, Noyd, Ryan

Nay: 6 Ramsay, McHugh, Demirs, Desena, Retallick, Rosa

Abstain: 0

Motion is defeated

Added to agenda

Discussion and possible action relative to establishing a committee to review and make recommendations relative to the Water and Sewer lawsuit.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to establish a bipartisan committee to review the history of the Water and Sewer Lawsuit with Waterbury, with the following objectives:

To recommend safeguards that will help prevent similar situations from rising in the future.

To recommend policies and/or procedures to ensure the public remains informed;

To examine the business relationship between the Town Council and the Water & Sewer Authority and recommend any appropriate changes.

The committee shall consist of Republican Town Council Member Michele McHugh who will serve as Chair; Democratic Town Council Member Daniel Cocchiola and Watertown Police Department Chaplin Pastor Joseph Chabot.

The committee will report its recommendations to the Town Council no later than February 2, 2026.

A conversation ensued amongst the council regarding the motion.

Dan Cocchiola stated I do have concerns with this proposal there are no community members to be part of the committee. I do think there would be a lot of value to opening it up to the people who want to have a voice.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated keep in mind as far as the participation from the public, there is nothing stopping the committee from having a meeting and having receive comments from the public. That final recommendations to the Town Council would be made up of the committee but there is nothing stopping them from getting input from everyone in town. One of the reasons why Michele and Dan were selected is that they are the two council members that had the least involvement, no activity involved in the lawsuit.

Dan Cocchiola stated I honor that thought process. I do think we feel the energy in the room. My suggestion of allowing that would go a long way towards mitigating some of this that we feel.

Carina Noyd stated Michele and Dan great idea, I don't know who the third person is and how they came about?

Mary Ann Rosa answered I made a recommendation that we ask a clergy so that their opinion would be unquestioned. That they would be someone in the community respected along with the new members that had no previous action.

Carina Noyd stated I can appreciate your thought process because I know you are a faithful woman.

Mary Ann Rosa added you want to do what is right for the town. You care as much as everybody else does. I am a rate payer, too so I care just as much as everybody else does. I want all the answers and I want my neighbor that I live next door to and talk to, to have all the answers. The motion in front of us now is the same answers the exact same questions as Rachael made and it goes farther. It goes farther its look into the authorities that allowed it to happen. It is just different language it doesn't have as many people; it doesn't have the citizens. I understand that you want to involve people from town but it is really hard to find anybody right now that isn't mad about the issue. Anybody that can be unprejudiced about the facts, they there are going to see and give us an honest answer.

Carina Noyd stated I mean this with the greatest respect, I don't know this gentleman but for me personally or other folks the dignity of being a clergy member does not automatically ensue trust. It does not mean we can find folks who can work well together to get to the bottom of the issue. I do think that forming the committee this

way is not going to restore the trust and the accountability that the town's people strongly are asking for.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated just to be clear the main issue is not the motion as far as what the committee is going to do. It's just the makeup of the committee.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked are you in agreement with that.

Rachael Ryan answered yes, I would agree with everything that Carina just said. I think there a number of people in town who do not use water & Sewer that could be objective. I think the argument that we can't find five people or objective people is just false. I would think it would be hard for people who practice different faiths to feel like somebody was picked because they are of a particular faith to serve on this commission. I don't think its appropriate for a governmental body to pick somebody because they are particularly religious. I think there should be a separation of church and state in that.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay noted it was someone who can be trusted.

Rachael Ryan stated but you are basing that trust on their religion faith it seems to be a violation of the first amendment.

Mary Ann Rosa added and their involvement with the Police Department.

Robert Desena stated when I heard before the name of the person that was suggested as sitting on the committee with Michele and Dan, I said to myself what a great choice. The man is not denominational he is a counselor; he is an advisor. If anyone on the council googles his name, he has done papers that have been published in the past. He was the Police Chaplin and I worked with him on death notifications, counseling officer at times of grief. He would be one to sit on the board and wouldn't pass judgment, I think he is a good choice. He said he would do it providing it was on a voluntary basis and would not interfere with counseling.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh gave her background history for qualification on the committee.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated I might make a suggestion on the motion, that we have Dan, Michele, and the Chaplin, if we have the three of them decide on two additional members from the public it would be voted unanimously that all three of them agree.

The consensus of the council it sounded fair and great

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Michele McHugh: I will make an amendment to the motion that the committee be expanded by two members from the public to be chosen and approved unanimously by the three members of the council.

All in favor of the motion please say aye.

Aye: 8 Ramsay McHugh, Cocchiola, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Rosa
Nay: 1 Ryan
Abstain: 0

Motion passes

That is amending the motion.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked any further discussion on the amended motion.

Aye: 8 Ramsay McHugh, Cocchiola, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Rosa
Nay: 1 Ryan
Abstain: 0

Motion passes

9. Adjournment.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Jonathan Ramsay: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 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: 11/17/25

(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:

Daniel D. Vibe

(please print)

Address:

100 Riverside Dr

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Written materials may be submitted to the Clerk of the Town Council. Personnel matters should be directed to the relevant Department Head and/or Supervisor or in the case of a Department Head to the Town Manager except for the Town Manager which should be directed to the Chair of the Town Council.



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6. I agree that if I cause a disruption and am asked to leave, I will leave the Chambers.

Name: _____
(please print)

Address: _____

Signature: Jason Michl

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Name: Denise Rus
(please print)

Address: 135 Porter St
Watertown CT

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

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WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 11-17-2025

(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:

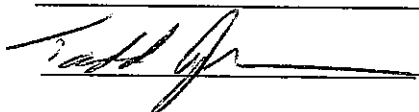
TADD JOHNSON

(please print)

Address:

100 Cannon Ridge Drive

Signature:



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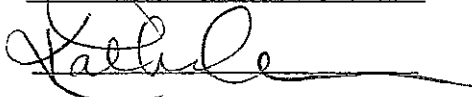
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Name: Katherine Camara
(please print)

Address: 31 Cottage Place
Oakville, CT 06779

Signature: 

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Name:

Frankie Popilowski
(please print)

Address:

Chestnut Ave

Sakville Ct

Signature:

Frank Popilowski

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TOWN OF WATERTOWN CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Watertown Town Hall • 61 Echo Lake Road
Tel: 860.945.5255 • Fax: 860.945.4974 • www.watertown-ct.gov

Town Council
Regular Meeting 11/17/2025
Item: TM REPORT

TO: Watertown Town Council, Watertown Water & Sewer Authority
FROM: Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager
CC: Maria Guerrero, Finance Director, Paul R. Jessell, Town Attorney
DATE: November 2025
SUBJECT: Updated Billing and Revenue Impact Schedule and General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note Settlement Details

Background

On **October 29, 2025**, the Town of Watertown successfully completed settlement of the **\$34,000,000 judgment owed to the City of Waterbury** following the Connecticut Appellate Court's affirmation of the 2023 ruling. The payment was facilitated through the issuance of **\$40,000,000 in General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (BANs), a short-term debt instrument.**

The winning underwriter, **Truist Securities**, will transmit **\$40,381,200** to the Town as follows:

Bank: Thomaston Savings Bank

Proceeds	Amount (\$)
Par Amount	40,000,000.00
Premium	381,200.00
Total Proceeds	40,381,200.00

1. Allocation of Note Proceeds

Purpose	Amount (\$)	Percentage of Total	Funding Source
Judgment (Water & Sewer)	34,000,000.00	85 %	Water & Sewer Funds
Road Improvements	6,000,000.00	15 %	Town General Fund
Total	40,000,000.00	100 %	

The inclusion of multiple projects or purposes within a single bond issuance is fully permissible under state statutes and federal tax regulations governing tax-exempt bonds. This approach is consistent with the Town's longstanding

practice, as demonstrated in both the 2023 and 2024 bond issues. Many municipalities routinely consolidate projects into a single issuance, as there is no prohibition against doing so. Combining purposes into one bond issue also reduces overall issuance costs by eliminating the need to structure and execute multiple separate financings.

2. Interest Allocation

The total gross interest due at BAN maturity on **October 28, 2026**, is **\$1,396,111.11**. After applying the **\$381,200 premium**, and deducting **\$85,200 in issuance costs**, the **adjusted net premium applied to interest is \$296,000.00**, resulting in a **net interest cost of \$1,100,111.11**.

*(Note: A **premium** is extra money paid to the Town up front by investors when they buy debt)*

Purpose	Allocation (%)	Gross Interest (\$)	Less Premium Share (\$)	Net Interest Due (\$)	Responsible Fund
Judgment (Water & Sewer)	85%	1,186,694.44	251,600.00	935,094.44	Water & Sewer Funds
Road Improvements	15%	209,416.67	44,400.00	165,016.67	Town General Fund
Totals	100%	1,396,111.11	296,000.00	1,100,111.11	

(Note: The adjusted premium allocation reflects the deduction of \$85,200 in BAN issuance costs from the total premium of \$381,200.)

Anticipated Budget Impact

The Town of Watertown must anticipate and budget for its **\$165,016.67** share of the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) interest payment due **October 28, 2026**, allocated to the General Fund for road improvements in **FY26/27**.

(Note: An additional \$4 million bond issuance is anticipated in calendar year 2028 to fulfill the remaining portion of the approved bond ordinance.)

The **Watertown Water & Sewer Authority (WSA)** must incorporate its **\$935,094.44** share into rate adjustments effective during **FY25/26**, as this payment will also be due on **October 28, 2026**.

In preparation for the forthcoming long-term bond issuance that will replace the one-year BAN upon its maturity in late 2026, the WSA must plan for additional rate adjustments. The Town will continue to collaborate with the WSA to refine the projected bond amount, considering the **Watertown Fire District's contributions** and the application of approximately **\$2.8 million in reserves** previously designated to offset FY25/26 shortfalls associated with the Town's transition to paying the full Waterbury billing rate.

The **Town of Watertown and the Watertown Fire District** are currently engaged in discussions to review and reconcile financial obligations associated with prior and ongoing utility-related costs. These discussions are part of a cooperative effort to ensure accuracy, transparency, and mutual understanding as both entities move forward in coordinating future financial responsibilities.

3. Referendum Authorization

The **Electors of the Town of Watertown** were duly warned to meet on **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**, between **6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.**, pursuant to **Section 709 of the Town Charter**, to act upon two bond ordinances adopted by the Town Council on **August 12, 2025**, entitled:

1. *"An Ordinance Appropriating \$34,000,000 For Settlement Of Litigation Against The Town In The Case Of City Of Waterbury v. Town Of Watertown And For Related Costs; And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds Or Notes And Temporary Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Appropriation."*
2. *"An Ordinance Appropriating \$10,000,000 For Various Road Improvements And Related Work; And Authorizing The Issue Of Bonds Or Notes And Temporary Notes In The Same Amount To Finance The Project."*

The full ordinances were published in the *Town Times* on **August 21, 2025**, and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk. Approval of both ordinances authorized the Town's \$40 million BAN issuance, with **\$34 million** directed to satisfy the **Water and Sewer Judgment** and **\$6 million** for **Road Improvements**.

4. Council Directive and WSA Evaluation Requirement

At the **Town Council Special Meeting held August 26, 2025**, the Council acted on repayment assumptions related to the Water and Sewer debt service:

Motion: *Ken Demirs, seconded by Jonathan Ramsay:*

“I make a motion to approve item two — usage-based approach as the payment method to pay the bond.”

Motion passed unanimously.

As a result, the **Watertown Water & Sewer Authority (WSA)** is required to:

- Evaluate the **BAN financing cost** as outlined in Section 2;
- Schedule a **public hearing** to discuss the financial impact of this cost on the Water and Sewer Fund; and
- Integrate the cost of BAN interest into the water and sewer rate structure using the **usage-based methodology** approved by the Town Council.

This ensures compliance with the Council’s directive that BAN-related debt service associated with the judgment is **funded through WSA revenue derived from ratepayers.**

5. Payment to the City of Waterbury

On **October 29, 2025**, the Town issued **bank check #30151133** in the amount of **\$30,596,251.12** to the **City of Waterbury**, representing payment in full of the **judgment account, accrued interest, and active balances as of October 31, 2025.**

Supplemental payments included:

- **\$132,431.37** (Water Accounts – Straits Turnpike and Fern Hill)
- **\$205,038.16** (Sewer Account – Mattoon Road)

The payments were made through **Thomaston Savings Bank Special Account** and recorded as **Paid Under Protest**, pending future reconciliation of the City’s interest computations and rate applications.

6. Reservation of Rights

By letter dated **October 29, 2025**, Town Attorney **Paul R. Jessell** issued a formal **Reservation of Rights** to the **City of Waterbury**, advising that all payments were made under full protest and

without prejudice to Watertown's rights to challenge the accuracy of Waterbury's rate and interest calculations.

"Watertown disputes and reserves the right to challenge the accuracy of Waterbury's computations underlying both the rates and the payoff amount, including but not limited to the calculation and imposition of interest... all payments made by Watertown pursuant to the judgment are hereby tendered under full protest, without prejudice and with full reservation of all rights and remedies."

This preserves Watertown's standing to seek adjustment or reimbursement for any amounts determined to have been improperly calculated or assessed.

7. WSA Billing Implementation

Following the approval of new rates at the **WSA Special Meeting held August 27, 2025**, updated water and sewer rates will first appear in **Cycle 2 bills issued December 31, 2025**, covering service from **September through November 2025**, due **February 1, 2026**.

Billing Cycle	Billing Period	Bills Issued	Due Date	Notes
Cycle 2	Sept–Oct–Nov 2025	Dec 31, 2025	Feb 1, 2026	First bills with updated rates
Cycle 3	Oct–Nov–Dec 2025	Jan 31, 2026	Mar 1, 2026	Updated rates continue
Cycle 1	Nov–Dec 2025–Jan 2026	Feb 28, 2026	Apr 1, 2026	Updated rates continue

8. Revenue Impact Evaluation

It will be incumbent upon the **Watertown Water & Sewer Authority (WSA)** to conduct a **revenue comparison in mid-April 2026**, reviewing total usage and billing for **February through April 2026** against the same period in **2025**. This analysis will measure rate performance and confirm that revenues are sufficient to meet **BAN repayment obligations** and align with the **Town's overall financial plan**.

In addition, the WSA should evaluate its revenue stream as it relates to the billing received from the City of Waterbury, ensuring that future rates accurately reflect actual consumption costs, billing adjustments, and long-term financial sustainability.

It should be noted that this document is not intended to serve as a stand-alone source of information. Readers are encouraged to visit the Town's official website for additional context regarding the Water and Sewer litigation and the steps the Town is taking to address next phases of this matter.

Prepared by:
Mark A. Raimo
Town Manager

Reviewed by:
Maria Guerrero
Finance Director



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section *304 of the Town Charter requires that the members of the Town Council establish by resolution a place and time for conducting the regular Town Council meetings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL, that the Town Council shall meet on a regular basis at the Watertown Town Hall, 61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Connecticut at 7:00 P.M. on the first and third Mondays of each month except as noted below, and also except when the first and third Monday falls on a designated holiday, in which case the Council will meet on the day immediately following the designated holiday;

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETINGS 2026

Monday, January 5, 2026
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
Monday, February 2, 2026
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Monday, March 2, 2026
Monday, March 16, 2026
Monday, April 6, 2026
Monday, April 20, 2026
Monday, May 4, 2026
Monday, May 18, 2026
Monday, June 1, 2026

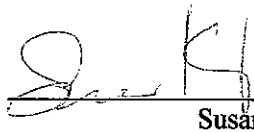
Monday, June 15, 2026
Monday, July 20, 2026
Monday, August 17, 2026
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Monday, September 21, 2026
Monday, October 8, 2026
Monday, October 19, 2026
Monday, November 2, 2026
Monday, November 16, 2026
Monday, December 7, 2026
Monday, December 21, 2026

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut, this 17th day of November 2025.


Jonathan Ramsay, Chair

At a regular meeting of the Watertown Town Council held on Monday, November 17, 2025, the foregoing resolution was moved for adoption by Councilwoman/Councilman McHugh
The resolution was supported by McHugh

The resolution was declared adopted.


Susan King, Clerk

*Sec. 304. Meetings. The Council shall, at its first meeting or as soon thereafter as possible, establish, by resolution, a regular place and times for holding its regular meetings and shall meet regularly at least once a month. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Council or a majority vote of the Council and no matter shall be considered at such special meetings which was not included in the call.