



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026
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.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue talked about 9d on the agenda regarding party representation on boards.

Dana Gottseger 53 Hamilton Ave talked about being a new resident experiencing an incident with a speeding vehicle.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place talked about having a public hearing on the speed cameras. Ms. Camara talked about the gifts given on the Christmas holiday needing more discussion.

5. Minutes.

a. January 5, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 5, 2026, as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence – none.

7. Staff Reports.

a. Town Manager

Mark Raimo reported:

1. In your packet I am putting together a letter sending to the Water and Sewer Authority regarding freezing their budget.
2. We did have mediation with the Highway Department and we have come to a tentative agreement. Once language is corrected in the contract we will be coming to the council for review.

b. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

1. I gave council members a semi budget to actual report by department noting the reports were run as of January 17th 2026.
2. The 24/25 audit requests are still being submitted to our auditor and we are making great progress. The auditors are finalizing the EFS report with the BOE. We expect the final audit report to be issued in February.
3. The Town Manager and I continue to meet with department heads on their second round of budget submissions.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief gave a brief update on the status of the communication upgrade project having more coverage, new dispatch consoles and tower sites.

Council questions:

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked about if there was any anti-theft devices around the equipment at Judd Farm and Black Rock?

Joshua Bernegger answered the tower site at Black Rock has fencing with a robust box having padlocks. Judd Farm has the robust box with padlocks.

Robert Desena thanked staff for their role in the project and talked about the dead spots in town for officers and public safety.

Joshua Bernegger thanked the council for their role in the project.

Mary Ann Rosa asked when will the project be finalized?

Joshua Bernegger answered by the end of the year.

8. Subcommittees – none.

9. New Business.

- a. Discussion regarding Waterbury's application of interest rates for water and sewer and updated service rates.

Town Attorney Paul Jessell stated the Town through its management, the Tax Collector, Town Manager and several other town officials have taken a long look at the stats to the City of Waterbury and realized there are some things that were perhaps not done appropriately. There are matters of interest that may have been assessed improperly, figured incorrectly, we are concerned the rates are being applied incorrectly. As a result, the dollars are large enough that we need to take a long look at it. I have talked to two attorneys from Harris Beach, Murtha Kline they are here and a forensic accountant, Mat Soroka in an effort to at least explore what there is that should not have been imposed on the Town of Watertown. They are here tonight to give a view of where they are coming from and they have not been retained. They are not in a position to go into a lot of detail but I think it is important that we review this because the Town Manager seems to believe that there is money that could be recovered.

Atty. Dan Canavan and Atty. Jennifer Morgan, Harris Beach Murtha we have talked to Paul Jessell preliminarily about the issues he has outlined with the ongoing issues with Waterbury, the water and sewer charges that were being assessed. We would be very happy to assist the town and further investigate these issues if there is anything there and whether it would be appropriate for litigation later.

Atty. Jennifer Morgan gave her background history.

Atty. Dan Canavan gave his background history.

Council questions:

Dan Cocchiola asked what kind of claims might we have against the City of Waterbury. My understanding is the interest accrues at 18 percent compounded. We were on the hook for the time opted straight through. Does the math not jive or is there something else in there?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered we can't go into much detail now because we have not fully investigated this and for privilege issues. Yes, there are some concerns about the post judgement interest that was assessed against the town. We would be looking at a way to recoup the money that has been already paid to Waterbury. We would be looking at issue with the application of payments to the accounts receivable whether that was done appropriately that could result in some savings as well. The methodology you are currently calculating sewer charges and whether it was done appropriately.

Dan Cocchiola asked about the post judgement issue. Is it one of the things we are trying to figure out. Did we pay Waterbury interest that we didn't owe them is that a question on the table?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered there are all sorts of reasons to pay what they charged us and would stem the tide if you will and if it was later determined that was the appropriate amount, then you would be charged continuing interest on that.

Dan Cocchiola asked is there a reason that is the case?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered I believe we would recommend looking into it that there is a possibility that you over paid and to recoup some of that money.

Mary Ann Rosa asked assuming that we ask you to look into this, what kind of timeframe are we talking about for you to be retained by the Town?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered it depends when we start peeling back the layers of the onion. We would certainly aim to get this done 60-to-90-day timeframe.

Attorney Paul Jessell my idea would be let them assess the claims and come back to the council to determine whether we want to pursue them. Just to assess it should be a relatively short term. I would be looking for is to retain them for a short period of time in order to say yes, we have a good claim here and let you make the decision whether you want to pursue them.

Rachael Ryan asked when you talked about the methodology did you say sewage and water or just sewage charges?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered the sewage charges.

Rachael Ryan asked how does it differ from the original lawsuit?

Atty. Dan Canavan answered the sewer charges we are talking about with the Fire District are based on the outcome of the lawsuit on the analysis whether the Fire District is paying their fair share.

Rachael Ryan asked to Watertown or Waterbury?

Atty. Dan Canavan answer to Watertown, that is one of the issues we want to explore.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked related to the sewer side of the discussion is it safe to say that the prior lawsuit and the outcome, the judges said that Waterbury could charge Watertown the same way that they charge their residents? Is it our believe there is a chance of not charging Watertown using the same method and to go after Waterbury for that?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered there are some unique aspects of the Watertown situation that are going to be different than the citizens of Waterbury are charged that is part of what we would be looking at. Based on initial investigation we believe it is good to look at.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked as far as the assessment period what type of contract costs, what does that look like for us and what that agreement could look like?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered we would be doing it in phases if you want to continue and this would be a limited initial engagement.

Rachael Ryan asked given your experience and expertise in utility law were you involved in the original case in any form?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered we were not.

Rachael Ryan asked or your law firm involved?

Atty. Jennifer Morgan answered the law firm was involved, the attorneys that were part of that is no long with the firm, but they were not part of our utilities group.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked assuming we retain you and do the initial assessment what happens after that?

Atty. Dan Canavan answered we would come back to you with our conclusions were from our investigation and some options on how to proceed.

Carina Noyd asked with the Fire District possibly having an issue with the sewage charge does that specifically deal with INI?

Atty. Dan Canavan answered it could that would be one of the questions we would have to explore.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked if the CPA wanted to add anything to the discussion on the accounting side.

Town Attorney Paul Jessell stated part of this may require some expertise in the accounting area.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked what firm to you work for?

Mat Soroka, Forensic Accountant CPA answered FML of Glastonbury gave his background. I believe my role would be greatly reduced compared to the attorneys that may be involved in this case. I would assume that would be used on an hourly basis. I am assuming I would be there for recalculating things, some of the things that we would go through related to water and sewer both.

Town Attorney Paul Jessell stated the issues are complex enough. Waterbury has not shown themselves able to produce the kind of reports that are in order to verify what is going on.

Mat Soroka I would be retained to be there for the expertise of recalculating some of the items that we are going through related to both water and sewer. I image the majority for that calculation are with the Finance Department. As well as look at by the attorneys to help with the initial calculations or to double check.

Town Attorney Paul Jessell stated the issue is complex enough. Waterbury has not shown to be able to produce the kind of reports that are staff has been looking for to verify what has been going on. That's the reason why it is needed to take a look at the accountant to do a deeper dive to have a better handle on what Waterbury can produce than any of our staff. Beyond that our staff is pretty much pushed to the limit between the Finance Department, the Tax Collectors Office, the Town Manager's Office. We really don't have the staff to go to Waterbury and say these are the reports we need and that is a lot of what we have not gotten from Waterbury and asking for.

Mat Soroka stated I will take direction from Paul's team as to the usage rates, interest rates, judgement rates. I am going to rely on them to tell me what to work on.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked there are a lot of statutes that are in play when it comes to what is calculated and interest rates and things of that nature. Is it our position that there is a likelihood that Waterbury did not follow those regulations?

Mat Soroka answered I have not seen the settlement documents or the judgement documents I have only seen a couple of the numbers on a spreadsheet here and I don't know the root cause of some of those showing.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated but is one area we would be looking into?

Mat Soroka answered yes, again a lot of that would be first driven by the attorneys.

Carina Noyd stated your role would be only looking at Waterbury's calculations is that correct?

Mat Soroka answered I just don't think just Waterbury, it could be Watertown's recalculations.

Attorney Paul Jessell added it may involve the Fire District.

Mat Soroka stated whatever is asked of me will I'll tackle.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move we add to the agenda to move into Executive Session to discuss the retaining of these attorneys and accountant to discuss the Waterbury application of interest rates for water and sewer and updated service rates.

Town Attorney: Paul Jessell asked who will be going into executive session?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay: answered Town Council, Town Manager, Town Attorney, the Attorneys, and accounting that is present.

Motion passed unanimously

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated that would be item 10b.

b. Presentation regarding speed cameras installation in Watertown.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief gave a presentation regarding speed cameras installation, staffing required and possible locations.

c. Discussion and possible action on speed cameras in Watertown.

Police Chief Joshua Bernegger and Officer Jeffrey Segura from Middletown PD answered council questions.

Mary Ann Rosa stated listening to what you said and looking at the documents briefly, there is a lot more work that seems to be involved than I realized. Who would all those responsibilities for reporting and all of that fall to, would that be through the Police Department?

Joshua Bernegger answered I think most communities choose to use their Police Department to manage this program and we would probably be best suited for that but the vendor itself helps out significantly with these reporting requirements.

Jeffrey Segura added yes, our vendor that we have chosen are willing to pull the data points, they have access to these same forms and when the time comes, they will pull all the data points that are required by the DOT and help us put it into a presentable form to send off to the DOT when the time comes.

Mary Ann Rosa asking you are thinking this is something conceivable your department with the appropriate vendor could absorb that work?

Joshua Bernegger answered I do believe if we decide to move forward with the speed camera program the Police Department would be able to manage this program.

Robert Desena stated I am very impressed with the presentation it appears you have done your homework on all the pros and cons of this issue. Can this be enacted by the council let's do it, a copy of the ordinance and there must be a public hearing about. What I really like about this is to justify the locations, everybody here has in their mind there would be good spot for such a device. There has to be crash history, speed, enforcement data and so forth that would have to be done at the PD in advance. What I also like it is very important that a ticket issued like a parking ticket, we are not going to issue a misdemeanor summons, not going to issue an infraction to the registered owner of the vehicle and if it goes on that there is no pay then it would be bumped up to failure to pay or plead.

Joshua Bernegger answered it would not.

Jeffrey Segura so right now the ordinance is followed by the state's guidance on it, is that there is no subsequent punishment for failure to pay other than the amount due would be sent off to collections. If the town already has collections agencies employed then they can work that out and whatever their rates are to purchase the data to go after can be on the town.

Robert Desena stated that sounds like in the past, if someone didn't pay a parking ticket there would be a follow up by employee not necessarily a sworn officer. A phone call first, then a subsequent letter you have one, two, three parking tickets and the collection agency would be the PD. They would come and pay the parking ticket to the PD.

Joshua Bernegger with this particular program the vendor of the contract would handle all collections. No town employee would be directly involved in the collections process.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked how long has Middletown been doing this and what improvement if any have seen in safety?

Jeffrey Segura answered our first cameras went live July 7th of this year on our Ct Route 66 Washington Street which is a heavily traveled roadway collecting about 250 to 3 hundred thousand dollars per week. It is typically treated as a highway even though we have a posted speed limit of 35 mph. This area empties into to a densely populated area with many apartments, hotels and shopping areas with very high levels of pedestrian traffic as well. When we went live in July we issued approximately 20,000 violations from July to August. As this program has progressed from November to December we issued 4,600 hundred citations. behaviors of the drivers are changing. Then at that point it is verified 85 percent decrease in largess speeders entering our town with these cameras. Our crashes in the area from July to November 2024 we had 10 significant crashes in the immediate vicinity of the cameras. 50 percent of them were all speed related. While our crashes have not gone down none of them have been attributed to speeding relating issues and we are receiving a lot less speed complaints. Even though we have advertised them and are well known they tend to drive through the town a bit slower.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked what sort of revenue has the town seen to reinvest into safety?

Jeffrey Segura answered right now we don't plan nor do we plan for any type of revenue that comes from this. We have the mindset that we should be getting rid of them, if we could correct all the drivers' speeding habits we won't need them anymore. To date we are at a 76 percent collection rate from July to December we collected about approximately 2.2 million dollars.

Joshua Bernegger asked how many cameras?

Jeffrey Segura answered we only live with our West Hills Country Club Road cameras in late December, that is pretty much all of our Washington Street.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked have you seen any accidents coming off the highway and slamming on their brakes causing an accident with either the sign or camera?

Jeffrey Segura answered we haven't had any of those yet, we put our initial warning signs pretty well in advance and the secondary signs people have been feathering the brake rather than slamming on the brakes. Even when they are speeding at 65 mph the foot was typically on the brake and ready to stop at a moment's notice. now they are doing it at a lower speed.

Joshua Bernegger noted just so the council knows we never issue a violation less than 10 miles an hour over the speed limit. But the town can only issue greater than 10 miles an hour if they elected to.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked who regulates that?

Joshua Bernegger answered that would be Town Council through an ordinance.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked the ordinance would state the mileage.

Joshua Bernegger answered yes, however the Town Council would deem an ordinance or through a regulation the management of the program.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked would it state the locations?

Joshua Bernegger answered that would be done in the actual plan that would be submitted.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated the plan submitted to the state would need change if there is a location change.

Joshua Bernegger answered that is correct.

Dan Cocchiola asked about civil liberty concerns and how do you address that in Middletown?

Jeffrey Segura answered our issue in our town; it is such a densely populated that the cost to the city not only the officers but liability insurance to have 20 officers out there 24/7 making all of these stops would cost far more than what the town or anybody even get out of it. It would cost the town a great deal of money where this system we remain accessible to the town. This has the ability of correct behavior actions.

Rachael Ryan asked are you talking about speed cameras only or red-light cameras?

Joshua Bernegger answered my predication was far more geared for speed cameras however state law is that allows for red light cameras. We don't have a community in Ct. yet as far as to put them. There are some applications in New Haven and possibly Waterbury to install red light cameras within their cities. I don't have a lot of information on that particular program.

Rachael Ryan added I know in the Taft School area I think the camera you mentioned at Guernseytown Road for Woodbury Road would be very effective. People come in down the hill there is definitely a lot of speed along Route 6 there. That intersection the people run that red light all the time going right onto Middlebury Road in front of the parking lot, which is daycare and a high school parking lot. It is amazing that no one has been hit and everybody I know myself included multiple people have almost been run over. I would highly advocate for a red-light camera there. Even though we put up multiple signs do not turn on red signs, people still just turn and don't stop.

Mark Raimo stated I would like to add a little context to council member Cocchiola's statement. This is not just separating community service, the officer is still going to be out there doing motor vehicles, this is additional and this is a way to change behavior and through the reduction of the number of tickets its self-regulated. Responding to multiple motor vehicle accidents with serious injuries this is a way to hopefully save our citizens and children in our town. I think this is a good way to change behavior. I would support this presentation.

Robert Retallick stated I agree 100 percent and Dan, I hear you too. Has this been brought to the Police Commission yet?

Joshua Bernegger answered it has: the Town Council did refer this matter to the Police Commission in the middle of last year. The Police Commission did take this up on their agenda and voted to recommend speed cameras back to Town Council.

Robert Retallick asked do you support this effort?

Joshua Bernegger answered when this first came out I was very weary of the idea. Seeing them operate in other communities the change in driver behavior is significant. The way this camera can change driver behavior within a few months going from 20 thousand violations in one month to 46 hundred that is real data. That is 15 thousand vehicles that are now doing the speed limit that were not before. We cannot put a police officer on the side of the road 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, the officer can only stop one car at a time.

Rachael Ryan stated my son is in college in Colorado and he has gotten one of these tickets. I was glad that I got that in the mail and could speak to him about it. The picture was very clear with his license plate, he was behind the wheel and he

has gotten more parking tickets, including parking tickets too far away from the curb. He is learning his lesson the hard way which I think is good.

Joshua Bernegger asked Jeffrey Segura to explain the due process of how people deal with this ticket.

Jeffrey Segura answered after they receive their citation and we have expanded it to 30 days for them to appeal the ticket or pay, we set up a process for them to be able to do it online or in person. When they do it online, they are allowed to upload files that it wasn't their responsibility or state their case for someone to adjudicate it. It cut down on a lot of concerns from citizens because they are immediately getting responses at the Police Department. We had phone lines set up that way when they are emailing there is somebody getting back to them, listen to their concerns or complaints on what is going on. After they contest if they didn't meet the requirements of not being liable for the infraction, they can escalate it to an in-person hearing, which is all adjudicated in house. Our program now the Chief has hired four attorneys to split the duties all paid for by the program and we are going to hire two part time employees to review citations overseen by the Police Department.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked when someone goes through the appeal process what types of things have, they been successful at appealing?

Jeffrey Segura answered the public act in our ordinance is very specific on the defensible reasons.

Mary Ann Rosa stated we had a resident who talked earlier tonight only having living here a short time, concerned with how people are driving. If you lived here any length of time like some of us, you remembered when it wasn't like that and it makes it more frightening now. I live off of Davis Street and there is a school right there and the cars that come flying down Davis Street even at school release time it gets scary. I am frequently concerned for the crossing guard that is there. I understand Dan's concern but into today's digital world if you go to one doctor the whole world knows all of your information. There isn't anything now that isn't violated by electronics. If you're breaking the law, I don't think electronics is violating any of your rights, it is something we need in Watertown. We need to know when people come to our town, they have to obey the law whether it's stopping at a traffic light or turning on red or speeding. If it takes a camera to slow down, I am for it.

Carina Noyd asked would there be signage in all these areas ahead of time?

Jeffrey Segura answered yes by DOT standards there is signage that has to be up and clearly visible to the operators. We took it a step further in town because some operators complained that they couldn't see the sign; we went out and bought larger signs.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked in Middletown the signs are set up well in advance of the camera being operated and then when it was operation the first 30 days the ordinance was written.

Jeffrey Segura answered correct.

Carina Noyd asked would there also be a posted speed limit sign close to those signs.

Jeffrey Segura answered yes, it's not in the plans, it's the posted speed limits, all school zones it has to be posted all that is set up and has to be in place, times and flashers with all of that set up.

Joshua Bernegger asked how long did it take from when Middleton started to enact an ordinance to get approval through the DOT. What is the time fame for an application?

Jeffrey Segura answered I would say since we were running mostly blind, it took us approximately one year before our first cameras went up.

Joshua Bernegger added it may be shorter with the experience of other communities: Middletown was the second community to get a working camera.

Carina Noyd asked would it be reasonable to anticipate decreased traffic enforcement would actually have our officers out in the community more available doing the things they should be doing in person.

Joshua Bernegger stated I think the automated traffic enforcement speed cameras you are targeting a single location with a camera that you are trying to slow traffic down for a known reason. It may be a spot where there have been a significant number of crashes, maybe coming into a school zone, it may be coming into a pedestrian safety zone like a downtown area. The idea of having a Watertown downtown right on a state road where the speeds are high on either end, having a low speed in the downtown area are good places to put those cameras. Where you can't have an officer sitting there 24 hours a day slowing traffic coming down into a congested area, or a school zone these cameras are very effective at doing that. does it change how we do business otherwise with the Police Department, it would not, it does not address all the other roads in town. Looking at doing speed cameras we would be starting to look at one to see how it goes and if it is working to slowly expand locations if our staffing allows that.

Carina Noyd asked are we buying or renting these cameras?

Jeffrey Segura answered there is many vendors. I recommend that you shop around and see what best suits your town. We in Middletown wanted zero cost to the community. We decided to lease from a vendor who agreed that not one penny would be paid until citations went out. Once citations were going out that money from the citations pays for the lease, then they would send us what is leftover.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked what is the percentage that was left over of cost should we expect to pay a third?

Jeffrey Segura answered this is where I have limited ability. I did not sign any of the contracts, the citations paid for I don't know. The administrative fee on the other side processing that is going to cover their ability to send the letters out, paper all that go out in sending citations, we charge \$9.00 administrative fee. At the end of the day the vending company it averaged about 89 cents a citation. The rest of that money is sent to processing the citation sending it out. On the back side for convenience fees they pay online through their portal there is standard credit card fees that every website or terminal charge in order to use their service.

Chairman Jonthan Ramsay asked with Middletown's ordinance, the speed has to be at least 10 miles over the speed limit or is it something else?

Jeffrey Segura answered we have a higher threshold, we are above that 10 mph mark that we are targeting. We had to decide between what is lag Rejus and reasonable. It is not an easy decision, its location based. We determined in some of the locations 10 miles over would be unreasonable and a cash grab. We are focused on correcting and changing drivers' behavior so we are targeting well above the 10 MPH zone.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked so if the town council wanted to move forward the next would be sending it to the ordinance committee for further review.

Joshua Bernegger stated that is correct if you enact an ordinance, I would also recommend a hearing and choosing a vendor to enter into a contract early on in the stages. When it comes to creating a plan that vendor would need to be intimately involved with that.

Robert Desena asked regarding an appeal when we create this ordinance should we have a provision in there for a hearing enforcement person to answer appeals in the ordinance as we propose?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay answered the plan with the state would need to answer all that.

Robert Desena asked how did they decide that in Middletown? Was it you?

Jeffrey Segura answered once they issue the citations they want a bias opinion. the person who approved the citation is not a part of the appeals process.

Robert Desena asked who would answers the appeals above the department levels on the issuance?

Joshua Bernegger answered it would be entirely up to Town Council or a committee or it might privatize that function like Middletown did when it gets to that final person appeal process and retained attorneys to handle that. So, there would not be any in town bias probably funded through the actual issuance of the program. It would be net zero cost to the town.

Robert Desena added it would be good to have a hearing enforcement officer for such ordinances or other ordinances.

Johua Bernegger answered you could employ a magistrate. I imagine there would be good discussion on that.

Jeffrey Segura added our parking authority already has a set appeals process in place. we just tried to mirror that. We are retaining attorneys to assist with the work load. The camera program can pay for that.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded Robert Retallick: I move to send this to the ordinance committee.

Aye: 8 Ramsay, McHugh, Demirs, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Rosa, Ryan

Nay: 1 Cocchiola

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated if you could reconsider your motion to go into Executive Session to add the two members of the WSA that are here. They did attend the meeting it would probably benefit them to hear what goes on in Executive Session.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I will make a motion to amend.

Motion passed unanimously

Mark Raimo, Town Manager stated for the record that is the Chairman, Mr. Sugden and another member Mr. Masi.

d. Consider appointments to boards and commission.

Commission on Aging – 6 Positions Open
2 Yr Terms 9 Members
1 to expire 1/27
5 to expire 1/28

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Debra Desena, 80 Parkman St. Oakville, be reappointed as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

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

Motion passes

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Melanie Flaherty, 21 Neill Dr., Watertown, be reappointed as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Joy Goldfarb, 935 Buckingham St., Apt C8, Watertown be appointed as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Tracy Dasilva, 10 Farm Circle, Watertown be appointed as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Democratic Nominees:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Wilbur Hughes, 370 French Street., Watertown, be appointed as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2028, to fill a vacancy.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Michele McHugh: I move to appoint Amy Quinnan, 159 Fern Hill Rd., Watertown as a member of the Commission on Aging for a term to expire January 31, 2027.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated I believe that one is supposed to expire 2027.

Motion passed unanimously

<p>Conservation Commission 3 Yr Terms 3 Positions Open- 2 Reg. 1 Alternate</p>
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Republican Nominees

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move that Luigi Cavallo, Jr., 97 Joshua Tree Rd., Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Mary Ann Rosa: I move that Douglas Ancil, 188 Honey Hill Rd., Watertown, be reappointed as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Constables

2 Yr Terms
3 Positions Open
Bare Majority

Democratic Nominees:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move Jeff Desmarais, 294 Neil Drive, Watertown, be reappointed as a Constable for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Mary Ann Rosa: I move Joseph Romano, 11 Howland St., Oakville, be reappointed as a Constable for a term to expire January 31, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Economic Development
5 Yr Terms
2 Positions Open
1 Reg – Exp 1/30, 1 Reg. – Exp 1/31, 1 Alt – Exp 1/31

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Zaiga Antonetti 397 Kimberly Ln., Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Democrat Nominees:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Michele McHugh: I move that Peter Linn, 110 Woodbury Rd., be reappointed as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Jeff Desmarais, 294 Neil Dr., Watertown, CT be appointed as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2030, this appointment is to fill the unexpired term of James Gambardella.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

<p>Park and Recreation Commission 3 Yr Terms 2 Positions Open Term to exp 1/29 1 Position Open Term to Expire 01/28</p>

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I move that William Donston, 105 Dunrobin Ln., Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Park and Recreation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I move that Joseph McGrail, 87 Pleasant View Street Oakville, be reappointed as a regular member of the Park and Recreation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Democrat Nominees:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Tadd Johnson, 100 Cannon Ridge Dr., be appointed as a regular member of the Park and Recreation Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2028. This is to fill the unexpired term of Jeff Desmaris.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Planning and Zoning
6 Yr Terms
3 Reg Member Positions Open

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move that Luigi Cavallo, 97 Joshua Town Rd., Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Raymond Antonacci, 166 Ice House Rd. #9, Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Police Commission
5 Yr Terms
1 Position Open

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move that Richard Antonetti, 397 Kimberly Ln, Watertown be reappointed as a regular member of the Police Commission for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Public Buildings Committee
3 Yr Terms
2 Positions Open

Republican Nominees:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move that Robert Porter, 319 Thomaston Rd., Unit 55, Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Public Buildings Committee for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Jeffrey Franson, 410 Plungis Rd., Watertown, Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Public Buildings Committee for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Torrington Area Health 3 Yr Terms 1 Position Open

Democratic Nominee:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Carina Noyd, 29 Bessie St., Oakville, be reappointed as a member of the Torrington Area Health District Board for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Aye: 8 Ramsay, McHugh, Cocchiola, Demirs, Desena, Retallick, Rosa, Ryan

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Noyd

Discussion: none.

Motion passes

Watertown Historic District Commission 5 Yr Terms 1 Positions Open
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Democratic Nominee: (resident of district)

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Michele McHugh: move that Jean King, 126 North St., Watertown, be reappointed as a member of the Watertown Historic District for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Water and Sewer Authority
3 Yr Terms
2 Positions Open

Republican Nominees

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move that Raymond Primini, 410 Cherry Avenue, Watertown, be reappointed as a member of the Water and Sewer Authority for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move that Marissa Mancini-Cavallo, 97 Joshua Town Rd., Watertown be reappointed as a member of the Water and Sewer Authority for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Watertown Housing Authority
5 Yr Terms
1 Position Open

Democratic Nominee:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Mary Ann Rosa: I move that Peter Mucciarone, 63 Bowers St., Watertown, be reappointed as a regular member of the Watertown Housing Authority for a term to expire January 31, 2030.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Watertown Library Board of Trustees
1 Yr Terms Term ends in September, 2026
1 Position Open

Democratic Nominee:

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Dan Cocchiola: I move to appoint Matthew Wright, 27 Highland Avenue, Watertown as the Town of Watertown representative on the Watertown Library Board of Trustees for a term to end August 31, 2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

<p>Zoning Board of Appeals 5 Yr Terms 1 Alternate Position Open</p>

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move that Gary Swingle, 2579 Litchfield Rd., Watertown, be reappointed as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire January 31, 2031.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Mary Ann Rosa stated we had agreed as a council created a year ago that any new member appointed to a board or commission give some information about them and we have not done that tonight. I would ask that both the Republican and the Democratic new appointees provide the council with a sentence or two about themselves. So that we are on record as filling the obligation that we undertook.

- e. Consider an appropriation in the amount of \$83,409 from the Ineligible Construction Cost line item 214.50619.235.0000.9214 for final closeout of the State of Connecticut Polk School Elementary Project 153-0053EA.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$83,409 from the Ineligible Construction Cost line item 214.50619.235.0000.9214 for final closeout of the State of Connecticut Polk School Elementary Project 153-0053EA.

Carina Noyd asked what I read in the packet is said that this was caught by an internal audit and self-reported to the state is that accurate.

Atty. Paul Jessell answered yes that is accurate it was self-reported by the Town of Watertown.

Carina Noyd asked was there any penalties or interest assessed?

Atty. Paul Jessell answered I don't know the answer to that question. The legislature did pass a bill to forgive audit discrepancies but not the self-reported shortfalls.

Mark Raimo added just as we have gone through and made changes, this project dates back 2015 we are going through and closing these projects so we can retain any reimbursement to the town. This one we found we owed some money. We are in the process of closing these projects out and finalizing them. That is how we got to where we are.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked if there are any other projects that need to be closed out.

Maria Guerrero answered our books currently I am looking through them, each individual one in working with our audits to see what the project consists of. We need to take a deeper dive in what it is and what department it belongs and things like that.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked based on Paull said if we discover a discrepancy should we be reporting it or should we not.

Maria Guerrero answered yes if we come cross something we have to self-report my thought would be yes. They can come back we have all the backup to show.

Mary Ann Rosa stated this is a lot of money to come up with all of a sudden on a project. Supposedly we have a school building committee going on to do repairs to that building and somebody missed it a while back. Is there money set aside on those projects and held until they are closed?

Maria Guerrero answered in this case: I can't speak on the specific project. When I say that there was a letter that came and I worked with the BOE at the time. It was years ago the backup and what was presented this truly was due. I felt I did my due diligence in making sure we truly did owe this. If you see the backup the date was in December. I said let's look into it to make sure that we truly do owe this and I reached out to the state, reached out to different people to make sure in fact we owed it and yes, to me we owe it.

Mary Ann Rosa stated I question was their account holding any money from the project?

Maria Guerrero answered yes, in our capital lines there are projects that hold funds but that is what I am in the process of doing right now is working through each project what's are on-books and what needs to be closed out.

Ken Demirs asked is there any other projects that have been closed out?

Maria Guerrero answered right now we are working on it. I would have to pinpoint them to tell you which ones in this audit.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked the reason why because the bonding is through the town is that accurate?

Mark Raimo answered that is accurate.

Motion passed unanimously

- f. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$3,500 to be placed in the Watertown Dog Fund Donation Line Item 059.40836.460.0000.0000. Funds donated by Blasius Kia.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$3,500 to be placed in the Watertown Dog Fund Donation Line Item 059.40836.460.0000.0000. Funds donated by Blasius Kia.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- g. Considering modifications to part time wage schedule for Part Time Transfer Station Attendant and Seasonal Laborer.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the following modifications to the Part Time Transfer Station Attendant and seasonal Laborer positions effective January 31, 2026

Part time Seasonal Laborer for Public Works and Parks

Entry Level – Minimum Wage plus \$1.00 per hour

Year 2 – Minimum wage plus \$2.00 per hour

Year 3 Minimum wage plus \$3.00 per hour

Transfer Station Attendant

Employed up to 3 years Minimum wage plus \$5.00 hour

After 3 years – Minimum wage plus \$7.00 hour

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 20th day of January, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

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

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Executive Session: Time in 8:50 p.m.

Mark Raimo, Town Manager suggested doing b first.

- b. Discussion on the retaining of the attorneys and accountant to discuss the Waterbury application of interest rates for water and sewer and updated service rates.
- a. Pending Litigation – Siemon Realty Company Tax Appeal.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to enter into executive session for discussion regarding Waterbury's application of interest rates for water and sewer and updated service rates with the Town Attorney, James Sugden and Joseph Masi from WSA, Attorneys Daniel Canavan and Jennifer Morgan from Morgan of Harris, the Town Manager, Town Council and Matthew Soroka of FML CPAs.

I move to enter into executive session for pending litigation for the Siemon Realty Company v Town of Watertown tax appeal case with the Town Manager and Town Attorney.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Leaving out of executive session under item b at (9:15) were James Sugden, Joseph Masi, Attorneys from Morgan and Harris - Daniel Canavan and Jennifer Morgan and Matthew Soroka of FML CPAS's.

Out of Executive Session for item a at 9:34.

11. New Business Continued:

- a. Consider settlement of Siemon Realty Company v. Town of Watertown Tax Appeal.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the settlement agreement of a tax appeals with Siemon Realty Company v Town of Watertown.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Adjournment.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Dan Cocchiola: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:35 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: 1/20/2026

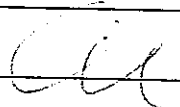
(Please complete this form and submit it to the clerk of the Town Council if you wish to speak at this meeting)

Please Note: Three Minute Time Limit

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

Name: ALAN MICHEL
(please print)

Address: _____

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.



WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 1/20/20

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

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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:

Dana Gottsegen
(please print)

Address:

53 Hamilton Ave
Watertown

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

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WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 1/20/22

(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:

Katherine Canavan
(please print)

Address:

31 Gutter Place
Danvers CT 01929

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.

Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

Town Council Regular Meeting January 20, 2026 Line item 9h

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2024-03-0057046	JOHNSON JEREMI	375 WOODBURY RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06108	2023/5UXXCY8C07P9P64965	Sec. 12-128 Refund of Tax Erroneously Col.	928.57	-	-	928.57
2024-01-0004849	LUPO ELECTRIC LLC	56A ECHO LAKE RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06108	51 DEPOT ST	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments - /	1,751.63	-	-	1,751.63
2024-03-0068910	SPAZIANTE JOSEPH C	166 CHERRY AVE	WATERTOWN, CT 06108	2018/5J8TB4H31JL025083	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - /	313.98	-	-	313.98
2024-03-0069962	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	525 FELLOWSHIP RD S	MT LAUREL, NJ 08058	2022/JTDEAMDE0N1060300	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - /	397.73	-	-	397.73
2023-03-0071139	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 61898	2021/3VV0B7AX4MM024756	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - /	230.65	-	-	230.65
2023-03-0071143	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 61898	2021/WA1DECF33M1047216	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - /	204.80	-	-	204.80
2023-03-0071173	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 61898	2021/WA1LJAF79MD015089	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - /	418.03	-	-	418.03
						4,245.39	-	-	4,245.39