



**TOWN COUNCIL  
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – 6:45 P.M.  
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  
Carina Noyd  
Robert Retallick  
Rachael Ryan

ABSENT: Ken Demirs, Robert Desena, Mary Ann Rosa

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.

Barbara Zulkeski requested answers regarding the Town Attorney in regards to the Water and Sewer litigation. Ms. Zulkeski talked about the transfer of ownership to a public utility.

Frankie Popilowski, Chestnut Ave spoke about the bleeding of funds for the Water & Sewer litigation.

Richard Rozanski offered comments on the legal counsel for the investigation of the Water and Sewer regarding additional litigation.

Katherine Camara questioned the legal counsel for the Water and Sewer litigation and talked about the Town Attorney. Ms. Camara spoke about an email sent regarding her bill.

5. Minutes.

a. February 2, 2025 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated February 2, 2026 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

b. January 20, 2026 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated January 20, 2026 as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

6. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence

1. Resignation Letter from Mario Mancini as a member of the Watertown Water and Sewer Authority effective January 21, 2026, dated February 7, 2026
2. Email from Wendy Osborn, regarding safety concerns at the intersection of Rt. 6 and Middlebury Road, Dated, January 19, 2026.
3. Notification of Number of Electors and Number of Polling Places, dated February 3, 2026

7. Staff Reports.

a. Town Manager

Mark Raimo reported:

1. With the federal government not making pennies anymore, we are going to have to put a policy in place on how we are going to refund cash payments to our Tax Collector and other offices.

2. I would encourage the council with the budget coming up to go to the WSA website or my office will send a copy of the packet, there is a lot of good information on how we came to build that budget. It would be helpful to understand the budget review when asking questions.

b. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

1. We are still on track to complete our 24/25 audit by the end of this month.
2. We are continuing to work on budgets for upcoming meetings.

8. Subcommittees.

Jonathan Ramsay: May I have a motion to add to the agenda under subcommittee budget reviews the Police Department budgets:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to add to the agenda under Item 8 subcommittee budget review, the Police, Animal Control and Communications Departments budgets.

Motion passed unanimously

a. Finance – Budget Reviews

1. Town Clerk

Lisa Dalton Town Clerk reviewed the budget with line items regarding personnel services, purchase services, supplies and materials with a \$540.00 increase. Ms. Dalton gave a copy of a revenue comparison and will be applying for a grant for vital records that are bound from 1910 to 1920.

2. Building Inspection Jeff Biolo Building official stated the budget remained the same and reviewed the budget highlighting on staffing, vehicle maintenance, meetings without travel, memberships, office supplies, reference materials, equipment, software, and wants to purchase a blueprint scanner.

Council questions:

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked can I assume that in the past we never had a scanner that can do blueprints in the Building Department in that size?

Jeff Biolo answered in the Building Department we have never, this would be the first time.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked do we have others in town?

Jeff Biolo answered in engineering, a plotter is a much more sophisticated. This is just strictly scan them in, digitize them and put them in the computer.

3. Historic District

Jeff Biolo stated the budget is very small and remains the same as last year. Mr. Biolo reviewed personnel services and purchased services.

4. Land Use

- a. Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands
- b. Zoning Board of Appeals
- c. Planning and Zoning

Mark Raimo introduced Spencer Musselman, the new Land Use Administrator.

Spencer Musselman, Land Use Administrator reviewed the budget with the largest change for the POCD Act for 2027. Which is a 10-year plan establishing the goals in Watertown. Mr. Musselman highlighted on personnel, printing and binding, office furniture, vehicle maintenance and mileage allowance.

Council questions:

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked is the POCD done every 10 years?

Spencer Musselman answered yes, it's a ten year plan the town has to do, lead by the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Council. We work to reevaluate the last 10 years of growth and see what needs to be changed, modified for the next 10 years. We do believe we have a plan that doesn't need a full rewrite.

Rachael Ryan asked the state requires this?

Spencer Musselman answered yes, the state requires you to do it every 10 years. There is a housing affordability plan that is required every 5 years however with the new housing bill COG has to produce a plan by 2028 with the town deciding if we want to do that or not if you don't like that plan then you would have to establish your own plan.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked do you recall what we spent 10 years on the last one?

Mark Raimo answered I believe it was in the \$60,000 range.

Rachael Ryan asked on the overtime, why is overtime accrued?

Spencer Musselman answered with land use working with many commissions, we have 2 staff members that are present at meetings including Carol, the Wetlands, the zoning, the ZBA meetings and that has accumulated over the years.

5. Police, Animal Control, Communications (to be added to the agenda)  
Joshua Bernegger Police Chief and Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief gave a presentation regarding the Police Department Budget for 26/27 reviewing the six different budgets: Administrative, Patrol-Detective, Maintenance & Support, Traffic, Animal Control and Communication.

presentation attached

Council questions:

Rachael Ryan asked with the drone is their training costs associated with that?

Joshua Bernegger answered we currently have 2 licensed pilots through the FAA. I would probably be looking to get 1 or 2 more additionally trained and that would be through our normal training budget to accommodate that.

Rachael Ryan asked do they get paid extra for doing that.

Joshua Bernegger answered they do not.

Rachael Ryan asked if heat detection is constitutional, I thought that was a warrantless search?

Joshua Bernegger answered this would be more for search and rescue than for serving warrants.

Carina Noyd asked do we have ideas for the alternate use for the current drone maybe some other department in town?

Joshua Bernegger answered I can certainly confer with the Town Manager on that as long as it is not used for law enforcement purposes.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay added the DJ drones are good drones, is there a brand that you have in mind with the new drones?

Joshua Bernegger answered we are shopping around now and I am still dazed by the sticker shock cost. One of them we looked at is through Axon the company that does our body cameras, this was the gold standard in drones it has been compatible with our current body cams software and control through a cellular connection attention. They are looking at \$120,000 and that is too much for the Watertown. We have not settled on one yet, we are still shopping.

Dan Cocchiola asked on the overtime line item, 24/25 we have overtime of \$456,000 so far. this year we have overtime expenses of \$259 when I calculate that out it puts us on the course of having over time expenses of \$445,000. You are setting the overtime budget line at \$386. is that enough?

Joshua Bernegger answered the additional funds that you are seeing are coming through grants that get allocated in the overtime like distracted driving, DUI enforcements things along that line. We put it on the agenda quite often asking the council to allocate the imbursement fund into the overtime fund, that increases that total number.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked related to overtime a year or two ago we were switching to a different system on the administrative side it was being sent to a third party, how is that working out?

Joshua Bernegger answered absolutely fantastic, I love it, the officers and the payroll clerk love it, it's been great.

Robert Retallick stated and that is a revenue generator for the town.

Joshua Bernegger answered it is you will see it on a slide later the town received a quarter million dollars in revenue.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked related to the vehicle maintenance, how much of that is done inhouse vs sending a car out whatever maintenance might be?

Joshua Bernegger answered the only thing we do in house is windshield wipers, windshield wiper fluid. We don't have the facilities to do anything else in house.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked how many LPR cameras do we have?

Joshua Bernegger answered 16.

Robert Retallick asked has anybody looked into solar for this?

Joshua Bernegger answered the first ten if you recall when we had that gang related shooting on Kimberly Avenue in 2021 we entered into a contract to install 10 cameras and part of the deal was that Recor was looking to get into this area, a new product. We were able to lease those 10 cameras at a cost of \$12,000 a year total, all expenses covered with that cellular connectivity and the mounting of them on utility poles. At that time Eversource was allowing us to mount them on utility poles and was doing a direct hookup on those utility poles giving us a flat rate of \$10.00 dollars a month per camera is long gone now. When that lease is up, we would have to redo the cameras, that is going to be looked at. Now they are requiring us to put these cameras on our own poles and a separate service for each camera with a meter.

Carina Noyd asked do we do the neutering of animals at animal control?

Renee Dominguez answered we do on the circumstance, the last hoarding case we did spay and neuter all those animals. If you adopt through us, we get some vouchers to pass on to the individual adopting the animal.

Dan Cocchiola asked the 30 percent increase I think it is less because the overtime goes down significantly in animal control here.

Joshua Bernegger answered that number is strictly carried to the actual budget last year not what we are but what was actually allocated. It is going to be paying out because we have not had an assistant animal

control officer. The Assistant Animal Control Officer is going to balance out the overtime.

Robert Retallick stated again I have been saying that one line item you should be looking at consolidating with other towns and starting aggressively looking at Thomaston or Middlebury maybe they can close theirs and we can all save some money.

Joshua Bernegger answered we do have an agreement with Thomaston where we get some revenue in from the town. We provide coverage during daytime hours Monday through Friday.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked on the bargaining agreement how many are open to the Police Department?

Renee Dominguez answered 2.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked will we have those signed off on?

Mark Raimo added we anticipate we would be bringing Highway in the beginning in of March. Communications we are still working on but I anticipate we will have that done by the end of March.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh asked what is the primary driver of overtime in communications?

Renee Dominguez answered when individuals take time off and we just had to hire one, we had somebody leave the full timer who completed her training. The three months she was on training that shift she was going to get all overtime. It is filling shifts, individuals dispatching on shifts.

Michele McHugh asked would it be worthwhile to add a full-time dispatcher and drop the overtime?

Renee Dominguez answered the staffing model they are currently at 5, 2 5,3 model, we are looking to change that in this current contract that will allow the 3 to be assigned to each shift, as long as nobody takes time off there would always be a rotation where it is on. If we hired an additional one, we don't have enough call volume with three there all the time.

Joshua Bernegger added we did consider that because it would be a bench player in essence. Where if we hired or resigned or let go, we wouldn't

have to be spinning that overtime but it's a gamble in a given year where you may not have a vacancy. When we do end up with a vacancy it is expensive and we try to use our per diem as much as possible.

Robert Retallick asked on maintenance agreements wouldn't it go down because we have brand new communication equipment.

Joshua Bernegger answered in a year or two we may end up with sticker shock on a brand new 5 million dollars communication system. It's going to go way up, in particular we have made our radio system more robust and filled in our dead zone. We added additional tower sites requiring a fiber optic connection. The expense you see here is to cover that fiber optic connection to the tower.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked the line for permits and reports what is included in that?

Joshua Bernegger answered any town permit, firearm permits, all reports, accident reports and anything through the records room.

#### 9. New Business.

##### a. Engagement of Legal Counsel and Financial Advisory Services – City of Waterbury Dispute.

Discussion and possible action on executing an agreement with Harris Beach Murtha Attorneys at Law to provide legal representation in connection with the dispute involving the City of Waterbury/Watertown Fire District, and with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP (FML) to provide accounting and financial advisory services related to billing analysis, financial review, and support associated with this matter.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with Harris Beach Murtha Attorneys at Law to provide legal representation in connection with the dispute involving the City of Waterbury/Watertown Fire District, and with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP (FML) to provide accounting and financial advisory services related to billing analysis, financial review, and support associated with this matter.

Carina Noyd stated I agree that the sewer usage calculation absolutely needs to be looked at. It's my understanding and correct me if I am wrong, I don't believe the Town Attorney has attempted to discuss this issue with Waterbury yet. We are rushing ahead to pay attorneys for \$175.00 an hour to take a look at this when we

have not had a conversation yet. I am against hiring the same firm that gave us advice that cost us many millions of dollars in interest. The interest rates that were within the judgement already reviewed by the initial judge and then the 3 appellate judges. I think we are throwing good money for that.

Dan Cocchiola stated one of my thoughts is the firm and speaking with a member from our water and sewer, the industry has a lot of respect for the firm. They could do a high-quality job and the rate is within the range of the going rate. In having a conversation about it, it helped me come to terms a little bit more clearly. Additionally, I think the monitoring of cost and I am not comfortable with saying yes, we want to hire you to come back in 90 or 120 days and tell us where you are. I am much more comfortable with a tighter leash, if I think we are going to move forward we have to establish what that tighter leash looks like. Is that monthly reporting, is that recording based on a certain dollar amount billed. If we can get that kind of structure that puts us on a scale. Council can share with the public forum, so everyone is informed, I think it would be an okay thing to do.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh stated I agree with Dan I had the same concern as Carina about hiring the same firm with those concerns. I spoke with the same person as Dan did who spoke very highly of their ability of the two attorneys and the forensic accountant to be able to provide information. That being said I agree we do not want to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars with legal bills. I agree we should put a tight leash on it and have them do a little bit of research, present it to the town and the Town Council. Let's make sure the money we spend would be worth it. The last thing we want to do is rack up large bills yet again.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated just for the record the contract is to do more or less with the research behind the possible case. To stop the actual litigation per say but it's the ground work that may or may not lead to that or it might lead to negotiations. Mark, do we have an estimate from the legal firm as far as what they believe the cost would be for this phase of the work.

Mark Raimo stated we talked about the \$25,000 but when they initially gave us their scope of work that is one of my concerns and we discussed that so we put a price point of \$10,000, let's say it is \$500.00 dollars an hour. That is 50 hours of work they would come back to the council either through a direct report or presentation to the council to give us an idea where we are going. I would suggest if you are considering making a motion today. We could certainly look at our relationship with WSA, WFD because we still have to resolve a lot of the issues that we have to work through. The WSA is going to play a lot on how we structure paying our bond conversion of the band. There is a lot of plates in the air that we have to understand. To push it off another month if we can come to some terms tonight, we could at least get them working on it. The WFD relationship, we can understand where that goes and at the same time, you're in agreement that \$10,000 can be put developing a scope for a better understanding of those additional points. There is 5 points that identify the scope of work.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated I believe they said they would be reporting back to us every \$10,000 and see where it goes?

Mark Raimo answered again, I believe it was the \$25,000 but again I want to establish the understanding of where we are heading. That \$10,000 mark seems an appropriate price point to say okay are we going to move forward or this doesn't make any sense again we have to figure out how to approach them. We have some open discussion; they have an issue with the way a bill does open up a scope of our concern. I think we owe it to the people; people may be upset by this to explore this.

Rachael Ryan asked if we voted on this motion \$10,000 and then they come back and report?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked the contract doesn't have that but we can amend the motion?

Mark Raimo let me read the paragraph of what we are talking about. The scope of work under exhibit A, it says and lists 4 points. The appropriate methodology of calculations of all post judgement interest rates relating to the judgment dated July 28, 2023 issued by the Ct. Superior Court. The proper allocation of any interest payments made to date on the judgement. The proper methodology calculating sewer rates based on water usage vs. meter usage or related issues. Proper calculation of rates levied against and paid by the water of the Fire District related issues. Then there is another thing of tasks assigned and that assignment would come from Town Council and then it goes on to say intern progress report during the course of our investigation of the forgoing we will endeavor to provide you or at your request the Town Council with an update with our progress and effort to provide you or at your request Town Council with an update of our progress and interviews of approximately \$10,000 in legal fees. It goes on and gives a little more choices we could limit it to \$10,000 report back and make a decision that makes you feel more confident in moving this forward. I would even suggest that maybe the issue with the Watertown Fire District we would like them to kind of start looking at that more directly and then we can direct from there.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked is there a reason why we should start with that topic?

Mark Raimo answered my concern this is more personal knowing what we are going through of WSA and we had to deconstruct the budget. In doing that we went over 5 to 7 years to look at our revenue. In doing that numbers were not in alignment. We recorrected the amount of usage by using a 6-to-7-year average. Once we understood what our usage was, we went back and looked at our budget. Our past Superintendent was looking at increasing for all the projects that needed to happen for us to keep our infrastructure. In doing that it created a budget that did not reflect what was happening. We had to deconstruct that budget to see what

was happening, looking at the past years and reduce the numbers and we didn't do anything for capital. There is a lot of things that went on to solve the WFD to give us a direction, it will allow us to understand the impact of the rate payers as we start to go through this process for the next 3 to 4 to 5 to 6 months to understand what that rate increase may or may not be. Again, I would like to see all after discussions I have sat on and everything we have gone through, I think there is some valid points for us to look at. I would suggest we don't shy away from this at this point.

Robert Retallick stated I like the \$10,000 cap, I want them to come back. What is going through my head is that they are going to spend \$10,000. If they got something at \$5,000 and they are going to continue to go without reporting to us. That is what spinning in the back of my head, is what lawyers do. I am in agreement with hiring them, I am just trying to figure out how to do it in the most cost-effective way.

Robert Retallick noted are they just going to spend \$10,000, how do we word that differently, so it's not just numeric, it's what they are finding, when do they come back to us.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh added can we not say you give us everything you got whatever more at \$10,000 we will make a decision whether or not where we are going to proceed.

Mark Raimo stated I am in agreement I like that idea, it gives us a chance to understand on how to move forward. I think the council after looking at this issue would give you the ability to understand how to move forward. If you would adjust the motion to say \$10,000 is going to be a reporting point. I would make this part of the exhibit and then we could regroup after the 50 hours.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked is there an amendment to have a maximum of \$10,000 for the contract.

Amendment to the motion:

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to authorize the Town Manager to execute an agreement with Harris Beach Murtha Attorneys at Law *at a maximum of \$10,000* to provide legal representation in connection with the dispute involving the City of Waterbury/Watertown Fire District, and with Fiondella, Milone & LaSaracina LLP (FML) to provide accounting and financial advisory services related to billing analysis, financial review, and support associated with this matter.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated any discussion on amending the motion.

Mark Raimo stated the billing of this is going to come out of WSA tomorrow night if decided to approve this. I will approach WSA because as we talked about keeping our books straight where everything is coming and going from, we would regroup from this motion. If we end up with a significant amount the town may look back at anything that would have to go to the general fund but at this point the cursory looks like we don't see anything to keep all the expenses out of WSA, we will put all the money back.

Motion passes unanimously

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay is there any discussion on the amended motion.

Rachael Ryan asked should we talk about the accounting firm?

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay answered my understanding is, it is at the direction of the law firm. As far as law firm, this is the proper way to calculate something and the accountant would do the actual calculations.

Mark Raimo added with the limited 50 hours it will not even get to the accounting but if we did, I will report back to the town with that activity and we will keep it within that \$10,000 cost.

Aye: 5 Ramsay, McHugh, Cocchiola, Retallick, Ryan  
Nay: 1 Noyd  
Abstain: 0

Motion passes

- b. Consider approval of the updated Town of Watertown Organizational Chart.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the updated Town of Watertown Organizational Chart.

Rachael Ryan asked what changed?

Mark Raimo answered the only change that we made was it realigned Water & Sewer Superintendent to be underneath Public Works. When I first got here in 2021 our operations were separated but it was on the organizational chart. We separated the organizational chart and went back to that model, that change was made. We also recommended that the Town Clerk be an appointed position in concurrence with the Town Manager and Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation for tax refunds.

**RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Refund of Excess Payments; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certified the refunds in accordance with the provisions of Refund Statutes; and

WHEREAS, to refund taxpayers monies must be appropriated into the budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council appropriates \$115,656.70 to line item 010.50341.043.0102.9010 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes unanimously

- d. 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman  
Watertown Town Council

See attached

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

Discussion: none.

Motion passes unanimously

9. Adjournment.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Dan Cocchiola: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Jonathan Ramsay, Chair  
Watertown Town Council

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



**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting: 2/7/26

(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:

Barbara Zukesi  
(please print)

Address:

17 Malony Rd

Signature:

Barbara Zukesi

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



**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting:

2/17/26

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Name:

Frankie Topilowski  
(please print)

Address:

20 Kettle Hill Rd

Signature:

Frankie Topilowski

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting: 2/17/2026

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Name: RICHARD ROZANSKI  
(please print)

Address: 35 REYNOLDS ST.

WATERTOWN, CT 06795

Signature: Richard R. Rozanski

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## WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 2/17/26

(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

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Name: Katherine Camara  
(please print)

Address: 31 Cottage Place  
Oakville, CT

Signature: 

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*\* This agreement violates my first amendment rights.*



# PUBLIC BUILDINGS

BUDGET PRESENTATION – 2026/2027



### New Down Spouts- Quote - \$8,000

The Gutter system is original to the building. Instead of replacing the entire underground system, we've determined that replacing the gutters with a larger size should take care of the problem of the gutters becoming blocked causing water to overflow and pour off the side of the building.

### Roof Replacement - Quote - \$65,000

Roof is still leaking in areas. Work has been done to patch roof but we are still seeing leaks in other areas. The roof will have to be replaced before we can install a new HVAC system.

### HVAC System - \$988,000

As we have presented in past years, the HVAC system has passed its life expectancy. Control parts are no longer available, ductwork is splitting and system is totally inefficient causing electric bills in both the summer and winter to increase. Heat in some areas has become insufficient in the winter and air conditioning in other areas is barely working. Engineering services to design the entire system is also included in this quote. We are still hoping to receive a grant for this project but as of yet, have not heard anything. Every year this project is getting more and more costly.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS

▶ **Generator – Quote - \$240,000.**

As we have presented in the past, the generator is undersized for what is needed. At this point the only area it supports is Communications.

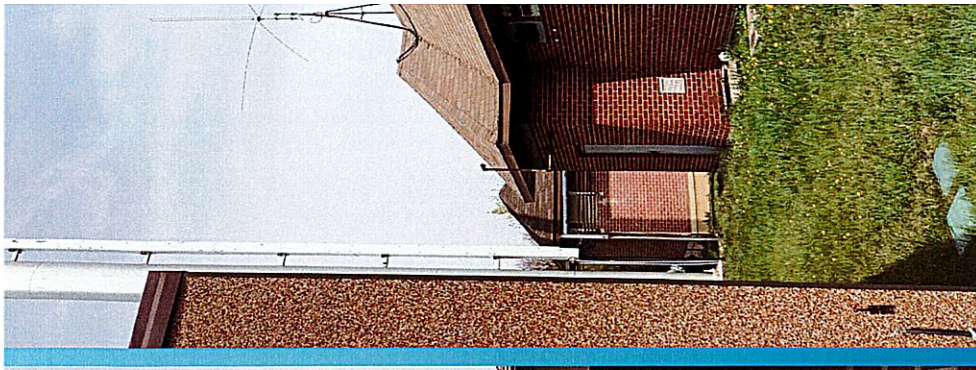
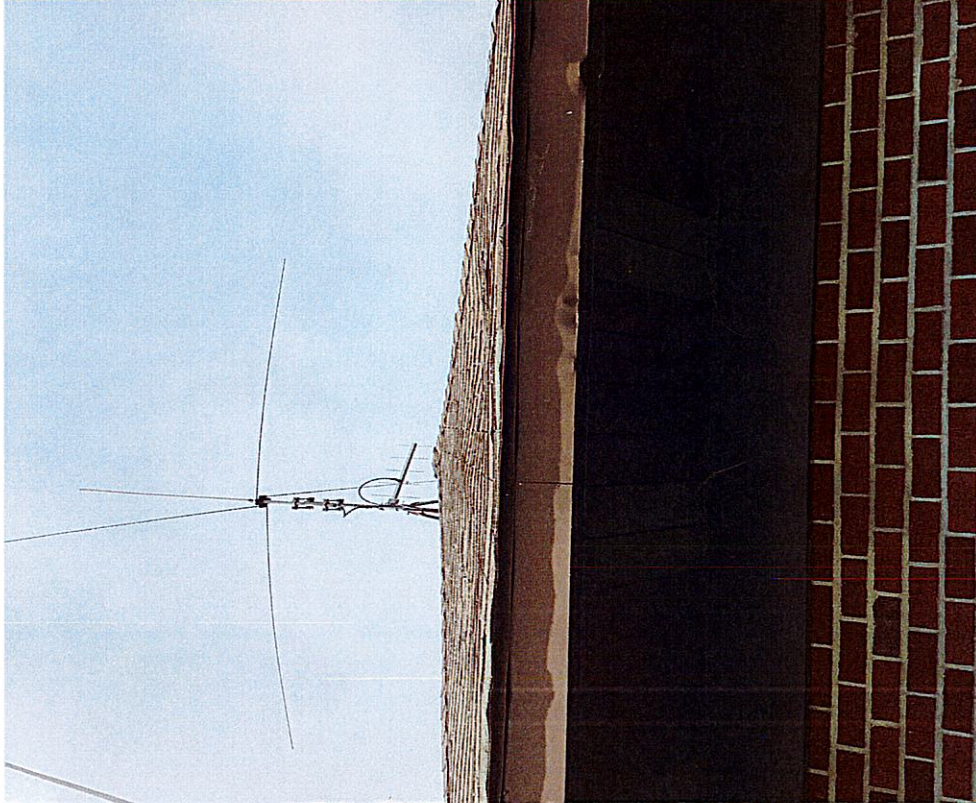
POLICE IMPROVEMENTS (CONTINUED)

# POLICE DEPARTMENT GUTTERS



- ▶ The 911 Building on Buckingham Street houses the communications equipment for Fire/Police/Highway and Northwest CT Public Safety. The roof is very old and has passed its lifespan. This is an extremely important building and we would like to replace the roof before any damage can be done. It would be detrimental to the safety of the town if the computer equipment housed in this building was ever compromised.

911 BUILDING ROOF – QUOTE \$7,000



# 911 COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING

- ▶ This was approved in the budget two years ago but we were unable to complete it at the time and the money went back into the general fund. We are obviously still having the same problems with the roof leaking into the building causing mold and damage to the interior. This building also houses the police motorcycle, public works signage and the new skid steer, roller, paint trailer, paint, roll off, etc. for the highway department. We received another quote that was much more affordable.

MAINTENANCE GARAGE ROOF --  
QUOTE \$40,000



# MAINTENANCE GARAGE



# MAINTENANCE GARAGE STORAGE

▶ **Painting and Exterior Repairs** – Quote \$45,000

The exterior of the Senior Center is deteriorating and is in need of painting and also repairs to the siding which has begun to rot. The senior center has over 900 Members and we are unsure of when this building was painted last.

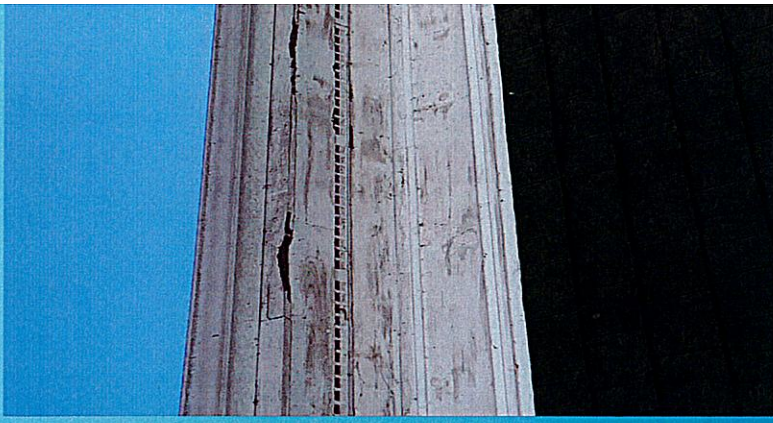
▶ **Repair of Handicapped Emergency Exit** – Quote \$126,000

This is a safety issue, an OSHA issue and a building code issue. The handicapped emergency exit is in desperate need of repair. The sidewalk has deteriorated where it is not wide enough for a wheelchair and is in very poor shape. We are asking to move the emergency exit access to the other side of the building. This was the less costly option that was proposed to us. A new ADA ramp would be built onto the existing deck and a new sidewalk and rails would be installed.

## SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS



# SENIOR CENTER HANDICAPPED EMERGENCY EXIT



# SENIOR CENTER EXTERIOR

## ▶ New Garage Doors – Quote \$50,000

The Highway Garage was recently updated with all new windows but they are still losing heat and air conditioning due to the old and rotted garage doors. The wood is rotted and doors are in poor condition. The weather stripping has disintegrated and the doors may be too rusted and damaged to repair. Installing new doors will lower the cost of heating and cooling. This proposal would replace 4 double doors and 1 single door.

# HIGHWAY GARAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Rotted wood on doors

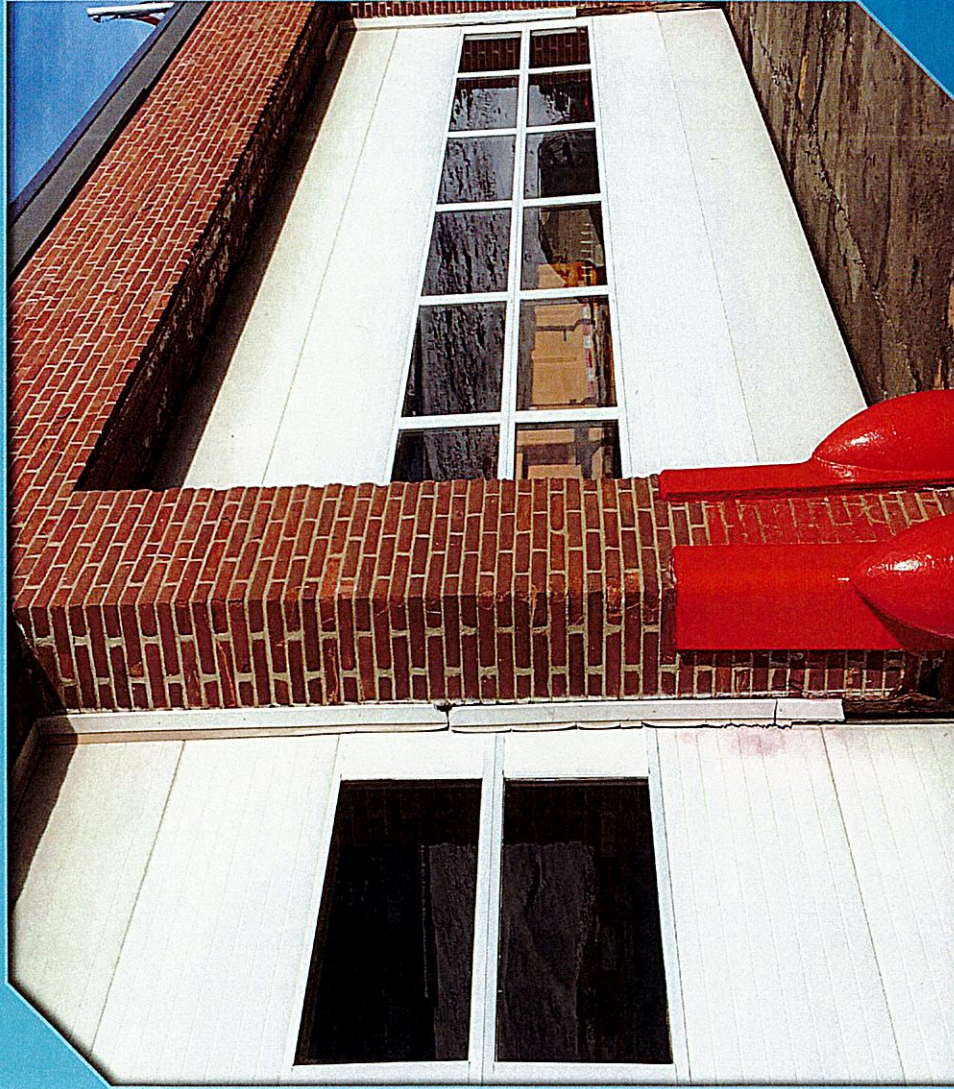


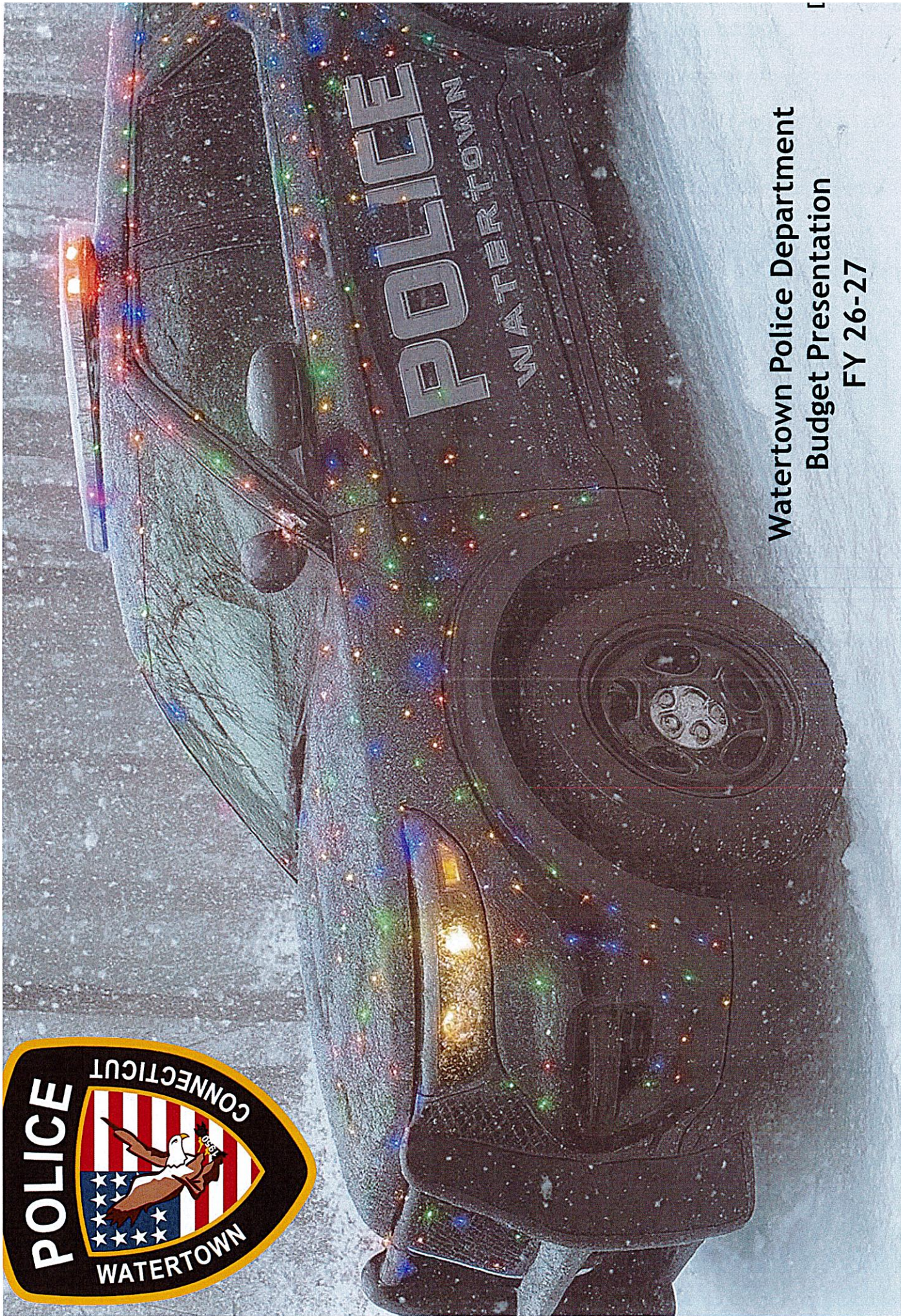
Frames are bent



# HIGHWAY GARAGE DOORS

# HIGHWAY GARAGE DOOR DOORS





Waterbury Police Department  
Budget Presentation  
FY 26-27

FISCAL YEAR	25-26	26-27 (proposed)	Difference
▶ Administrative	\$694,314	\$742,588	+6.95%
▶ Patrol-Detective	\$4,926,803	\$5,111,512	+3.75%
▶ Maintenance & Support	\$240,003	\$233,880	-2.5%
▶ Traffic	\$9,400	\$10,180	+8.3%
▶ Animal Control	\$101,599	\$138,520	+36.0%
▶ Communications	\$829,864	\$843,649	+1.68%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,801,983</b>	<b>\$7,080,329</b>	<b>+4.0%</b>
			<b>+\$278,346</b>

## Police dept.'s SIX budgets



# Budget Breakout



Personnel Expenses:

\$6,211,043

88 % of total

Equipment / Other:

\$869,286

12 % of total

**TOTAL:**

**\$ 7,080,329**



# Administrative Budget



Proposed:            +6.95%            + \$48,274

- UPSEU: 2.75% raises included
- Crossing Guards: Minimum wage increase, projected at 3.6% (0.59 cents) (Adds \$48,274)
- Maintenance Agreements:
  - Gray Key forensic software budgeted at \$13,350. We may be awarded another grant (\$6,500).
  - Licensing fees for the 6 LPR cameras added this past year is \$5,000/year.
  - \$20,000 has been added to cover the partial purchase of a new police drone.



# Patrol / Detective Budget

Proposed: +3.75% + \$184,709

- Staffing: No additional staff requested
- Wages:
  - No wage increase included. CBA expired 6/30/25.
  - \$67,811 in step increases
- Overtime: 2.5% added (\$9,500)
- Vehicle Purchase: 2 Patrol Vehicles, 1 Support Pickup, 1 Admin vehicle (-)
- Equipment: (+\$20,475)
  - Replace 6 sets of expiring body armor (\$6,000)
  - New handguns for 3 new hires (not addt'l staff) (\$4,500)
  - On Gun Lasers for 3 ERT members (\$7,500)
  - Night Vision Goggles for 3 ERT members (\$24,000)
  - On Gun Laser Mounts for 3 ERT members (\$1,575)



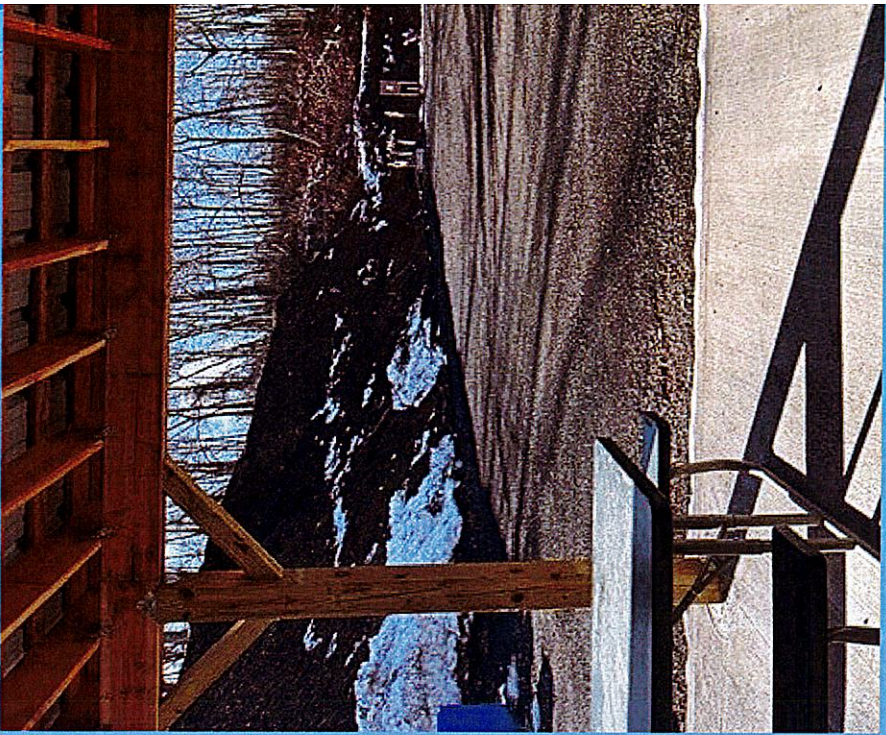
# Maintenance & Support



Proposed: - 2.5% - \$6,123

- Motor vehicle maintenance: (+ \$3,000)
- Other Equipment: (+ \$3,400)
  - Red Dot Sights for 3 ERT members (\$3,630)
  - 2 new patrol shotguns (\$2,460)
- Electricity: NEW service at firing range (est. \$600/year)

**\* Overall decrease primarily due to the firing range project being completed.**





# Traffic Budget

+ 8.3%      + \$780



- Increase in the cost of electricity to operate the traffic signals and LPR cameras in Town (6 additional LPR's were added this past year).



# Animal Control Budget

+ 36% + \$36,921

- **STAFF:** 2.5% raise for ACO  
Assistant ACO becoming full time (+\$25,000)
- **Overtime:** \$2,500 increase
- **Professional/Technical:**
  - Increase in veterinary account, due to increase in the volume of animals in our custody (\$1,500).





# Communications Budget



+ 1.68%      + \$13,785

- Pay raises not included - CBA expired 6/30/25
- New Staffing model working well:
  - 9 Full time dispatchers
  - 1 Full time supervisor
  - Part time line item increased by \$2,000 for per diem staff
- Overtime: 2.75% increase (\$2,600)
- Holiday Pay: 2.75% increase (1,800)
- Maintenance Agreements: + \$5,000 for Black Rock connectivity
- Electricity: NEW service at Black Rock & Judd Farm radio sites (e
- Uniforms: Requesting \$3K to purchase uniform shirts



# Revenue...

## Grants, permits & private duty

### GRANTS

FY 24-25<sup>actual</sup>

FY 26-27<sup>pr</sup>

- Driving While Intoxicated
- Distracted Driving
- Click-it or Ticket
- Rural Roads Speed Enf.
- Crime Suppression
- Body Armor Grant

\$24,183  
 \$15,102  
 \$6,975  
 \$44,579  
 \$35,000  
 \$3,600

\$30,000  
 \$18,000  
 \$10,000  
 \$50,000  
 -  
 \$7,800

- Permits & Reports
- Extra Duty

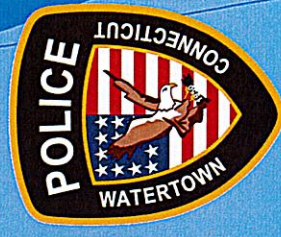
\$21,551  
 \$255,965

\$25,000  
 \$260,000



# What we did in 2025

With your support....



- 30,136 incident numbers (7,000 increase!)
- SRO's at WHS and SMS
- Patrolled all of Watertown's 188 miles of roadway
  - Conducted 3,354 motor vehicle stops
  - Issued 2,564 traffic citations
- Task Force Officer in the Regional Violent Crimes Taskforce
- Built a new firing range on Old Baird Road (see photo)
- Partnership with Litchfield County Opioid Taskforce. WPD remains a leader in the State for police-led deflection efforts.
- Fully staffed at 42 officers, 10 full-time dispatchers, 2 ACO's
- Coordinating the buildout of a \$5M town-wide radio system upgrade.



# Thank You!!



- The Watertown Police Department would like to express our sincere thanks for your continued confidence and support!!
- It is our pleasure to provide service to the wonderful community of Watertown/Oakville.
- Questions?

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2024-01-0001596	BENZINGER PETER & SARAH SURV	343 CONCORD DR	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-3244		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments -	4,596.61	-	-	4,596.61
2024-01-0001597	CLEMENT ALINE	52 CANNON RIDGE DR	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2452		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	5.00	-	-	5.00
2024-01-0001598	COLLINS AMANDA M	185 REISEY ST	WATERBURY, CT 06706		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Property Assessed I	200.01	-	-	200.01
2024-01-0001599	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	1683.88	-	-	1683.88
2024-01-0001600	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,412.97	-	-	2,412.97
2024-01-0001601	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,712.61	-	-	2,712.61
2024-01-0001602	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,509.87	-	-	2,509.87
2024-01-0001603	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	3,527.48	-	-	3,527.48
2024-01-0001604	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,626.40	-	-	2,626.40
2024-01-0001605	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	3,834.99	-	-	3,834.99
2024-01-0001606	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	8,039.60	-	-	8,039.60
2024-01-0001607	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,727.48	-	-	2,727.48
2024-01-0001608	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,986.98	-	-	2,986.98
2024-01-0001609	COMANILE	PO BOX 2202	CORPELL, TX 75061-9760		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	4,700.80	-	-	4,700.80
2024-01-0001610	DEKSEY MANUFACTURING CO INC	78 NEW WOOD RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2461		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	2,645.32	-	-	2,645.32
2024-01-0001611	DEKSEY MANUFACTURING CO INC	ONE PLYMOUTH PLACE STE 100B	WATERBURY, CT 06703		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	29,890.88	-	-	29,890.88
2024-01-0001612	EVES BANK	35 WEST ST	DANBURY, CT 06810		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	1,162.85	-	-	1,162.85
2024-01-0001613	MALANCA DOLORES	202 MAIN ST	OAKVILLE, CT 06879		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	79.61	-	-	79.61
2024-01-0001614	MOUSSA KURT A	21 FREDERIC DR	AVON, CT 06001		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	9.00	-	-	9.00
2024-01-0001615	NISSAN FINITILL LLC	P O BOX 2202	NASHVILLE, TN 37202		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	58.02	-	-	58.02
2024-01-0001616	REARDON JASON P	66 ROCKDALE AVE	OAKVILLE, CT 06779-1937		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	40.67	-	-	40.67
2024-01-0001617	SHAWERS GARNSHER DOBOSHEEP TRAM	1280 MAIN ST	WATERTOWN, CT 06795-2341		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	9,410.67	-	-	9,410.67
2024-01-0001618	SHAWERS GARNSHER DOBOSHEEP TRAM	674 SHARLES TRKE	WATERTOWN, CT 06795		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	11,018.46	-	-	11,018.46
2024-01-0001619	THOMPSON LYSSA	25 LANCASTER ST	OAKVILLE, CT 06779		Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	5.18	-	-	5.18
TOTAL 139						89,865.28	-	-	89,865.28