

REGULAR MEETING

**WATERTOWN FIRE DISTRICT
DISTRICT COMMISSION**

DATE: September 8th, 2025
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: District Office
24 DeForest Street
Watertown, CT 06795

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Steve Ouellette, Chairman	Present
James Lehner	Present
Robert Yerger	Present
Anthony Martone	Absent
Pedro Soares	Present
Mark Crane, Alternate	Absent
Carl Minicucci, Alternate	Absent
Nicolas Perugini, Alternate	Present

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were commissioners Ouellette, Lehner, Yerger, and Soares, and Alternate Commissioner Perugini. Commissioner Martone, and Alternate Commissioners Minicucci and Crane were absent.

ALSO PRESENT:

Watertown Fire District Superintendent Michael Tanuis and Watertown Fire District employees Vincent Tanuis, Heather Edwards and Leah Perugini, Watertown Fire District Treasurer Barbara Zulkeski, and 22 members of the public.

3. Public Commentary

Residents of the Westgate Road area serviced by Watertown Water and Sewer Authority questioned the 200% rate increase in their water rate and the effect it would have on their bill. These are customers of Watertown Water and Sewer Authority and were advised that this was a question that should be addressed by the town.

Questions regarding the Watertown Waterbury lawsuit settlement and the share the Fire District would be paying were presented by members of the public. The Fire District and the town of Watertown are still deliberating the amount owed by the Fire District and no final numbers have been received. Several members of the public questioned how the Fire District would pay the settlement. In turn, the Fire District responded that a final number would be needed to answer.

Members of the public also expressed frustration that there is a town referendum regarding the bond to pay the lawsuit settlement, but they feel they cannot get any answers regarding the final numbers before the vote takes place.

A resident raised the question of the Fire District building their own sewer treatment plant. This is not a fiscally feasible option at this time.

Denise Russ of 135 Porter Street questioned her sewer fee as she has fewer people in the house now than during the winter quarter. The Fire District will review the account and it may be addressed at a future meeting.

Jeton Durmishi of 112B Woodruff Avenue addressed the board to request a sewer fee adjustment due to leaks during the winter quarter.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to close public commentary.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Pedro Soares to approve the minutes from the Monday, August 11, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Pedro Soares to add Agenda Item #5A
– Discussion of a sewer fee adjustment for 112B Woodruff Avenue.

Motion passes unanimously.

5. Discussion of Sewer Rates

We received the first sewer usage bill from Watertown WSA at Waterbury's rate. We will need a sewer rate increase to maintain a balanced budget.

5A. Discussion of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 112B Woodruff Avenue

The board reviewed the usage history at 112B Woodruff Avenue and discussed a sewer fee adjustment. The homeowner had multiple leaks during the winter quarter and has since repaired them.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to adjust the sewer fee for 112B Woodruff Avenue from \$637.72 per month to \$535.34 per month effective with the August 25, 2025 bill.

Motion passes unanimously

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Tanuis reported that:

- The state will be paying the Fire District for a portion of land for the Steele Brook Greenway Pathway.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report.

8. Executive Session – Litigation Waterbury vs. Watertown

MOTION: By Mr. Nicolas Perugini and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. to discuss the Waterbury vs Watertown Lawsuit.

Motion passes unanimously.

Invited into Executive Session along with the board members were Michael Tanuis, Vincent Tanuis, Heather Edwards, and Leah Perugini.

MOTION: By Mr. Robert Yerger and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to exit Executive Session.

Motion passes unanimously.

All those in Executive Session are now out and no votes were taken. Executive session ended at 9:20 p.m.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: By Mr. Pedro Soares and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Monday, September 8th, 2025 at 9:20 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

Steve Ouellette, Chairman