

REGULAR MEETING

**WATERTOWN FIRE DISTRICT
DISTRICT COMMISSION**

DATE: October 14, 2025
TIME: Immediately following the Public Hearing at 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
Pedro Soares	Present
Anthony Martone	Absent
Mark Crane, Alternate	Absent
Carl Minicucci, Alternate	Absent
Nicolas Perugini, Alternate	Present

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 7:18 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 5 members of the public.

3. Public Commentary

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of the United Methodist Church of 305 Main Street regarding an adjustment to their sewer fee due to a leak during the winter quarter of 2025.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to close public commentary.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve the minutes from the Monday, September 8, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. Pedro Soares and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to add Agenda Item #5A – Discussion of a sewer fee adjustment for 305 Main Street.

Motion passes unanimously.

5. Discussion of Sewer Rates

The Board discussed the 50% sewer rate increase recommended by the Fire District to avoid using prior year funds and maintain a balanced budget while paying the higher rates for sewer disposal. Capital projects would remain as they are necessary to maintain the sewer system and minimize infiltration of groundwater.

MOTION: By Mr. Nicolas Perugini and seconded by Mr. Pedro Soares to approve the recommended 50% sewer rate increase.

Motion passes unanimously.

5A. Discussion of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 305 Main Street

The board reviewed the usage history of the United Methodist Church at 305 Main Street and discussed a sewer fee adjustment due to a bathroom leak in February 2025. The church has repaired the leak.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to adjust the sewer fee for 305 Main Street from \$352.71 per month to \$49.52 per month effective with the September 24, 2025 bill.

Motion passes unanimously

6. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Tanuis had nothing to report.

7. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report.

8. Executive Session – Litigation Waterbury vs. Watertown

MOTION: By Mr. Pedro Soares and seconded by Mr. Nicolas Perugini to go into Executive Session at 7:28 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. James Lehner 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 8:47 p.m.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Pedro Soares to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 8:47 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

Steve Ouellette, Chairman