

**TOWN OF WATERVILLE VALLEY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** April 8, 2015

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Aronson, Margaret Turner and Bill Larsen.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Decoteau, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield, Chris Hodges, Sharon Charron

**1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chairman Aronson.**

**2. Privilege of the Floor I**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of 3/25/15**

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of 3/25/15 as amended

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Financial Update**

Mark Decoteau reports all departments revenues are on track and doing well. Mark reviews the accounts which will be liened this week unless payments are received. Pre-lien notices were sent previously. Mark informs the board of 3 accounts which have less than a \$10 balance, and the fee to place a lien is \$19 each, and he requests permission to abate these amounts. This usually occurs when a payment is made just a few days late, and interest has begun to accrue on the principal until payment is received. The accrued interest amount will remain on the account after the principal amount is paid. Total collections for FY2014 tax warrant are at 98.4%, which is about 1% ahead of last year the same time.

Bill Larsen motions to abate all interest payments less than \$10.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

All other departments are on track for expenses. Insurance shows higher due to payment schedules.

**5. Department Head Updates**

- **Recreation Department**

Brooke reports that Easter Weekend activities were well attended with over 100 kids attending in the Easter egg hunt. The Native ID program was launched on 4/1 and some have already been sold. The staff has been educating visitors about the Native ID cards. She is working on recreation brochures and summer schedule of events and activities being offered. There will be extra programming the week of 4/20 for MA vacation spring vacation week. This was requested by the resort due to an increase in reservations in response to a Groupon special advertised. The

Resort Pass users will be tracked for review of whether or not being opened is worthwhile. The Rec Dept will be closed the following week of 4/27 and the gym floor will be resurfaced during the time.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that there was a run of late ski season injuries on the mountain. Last week alone they had 3 DHART flights. During the April 1<sup>st</sup> special day, it was busy and 2 of the DHART flights were from that day. Police were very visible through parking lots to deter underage drinking, drug usage, and ski/snowboard thefts. Forest Service patrols were also on hand to assist WVDPS. Planning for the summer events continue; Fishing Derby, Citizens Academy, and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

- **Public Works**

Jim Mayhew reports that we are still waiting on the frost in the ground to thaw. Discussion followed of the areas affected (River Rd. / W. Branch Rd. and Beanbender Rd.) and potential remedies to correct. The area of W. Branch & River Roads has the low pressure sewer line affected, and Beanbender Rd has the water line affected between 2 homes. Residents affected by sewer issues have been told to keep their alarms on, and the grinder pumps off. Mark and Jim have been working with the town engineers to find remedies and identify reasons for blockages. Notes are being reviewed from the field engineer's log when the lines were installed. The BOS stressed that we need solutions to be found.

Bill Larsen motions to waive the water and/or sewer fees for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015 for those residents whose services have been interrupted due to freezes in the water and/or sewer lines.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

## **6. Calendar**

4/22; No Bill Larsen but both Mike & Margret will be present. Bill can call in if needed.

5/13; No Margaret but both Mike & Bill will be present.

## **7. New Business**

- **Review and Sign the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Water/Sewer Bills**

The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Water and Sewer warrant was reviewed and signed by the BOS. There will be an abatement presented at the next meeting of those accounts affected by line freezing. There is also a supplemental warrant to correct an administrative error for a property which was discovered to be on town water during the water meter installation project. The supplemental warrant presented and signed.

- **Health Trust 7/1/15 Final Rate Notice**

Health Trust rates have been finalized and were reviewed. The rates are within 0.1% of the guaranteed maximum so budgeted numbers are still good. Discussion followed concerning the Health Trust credit coming as a check in August, as opposed to a premium holiday.

- **MSW/Recycling Report 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr FY2015**

The numbers for the recycling and solid waste were presented. Recycling is currently at 17% for the year, with each month represented as: Jan 18.8%, Feb 11.6%, and March 22%. The average recycling load on the truck for each run is 3.2 tons. The truck can hold up to 12 tons at

maximum. The truck is making trips to Bethlehem with less than half of its load capacity, which is costing more money. The solid waste loads, comparatively, averages 8.9 tons per load. The discussion continued to how to increase recycling percentage to make it worthwhile to continue with recycling. Mandatory separation of certain items (cardboard specifically) and increasing fees for solid waste disposal for commercial accounts was suggested. The storage of recyclables on site was seen as a potential solution as well, and mandating all recycling to be dropped at the transfer station. The volume changes during the year are very diverse which adds to the challenge of managing both solid waste & recyclables. Methods used at the Campton/Thornton transfer station were discussed, and if WV opted to go to mandatory separation, would C-T accept it? Mark will approach C-T and report back to the board. The market rates on recyclable items are very low presently, and C-T is able to store items onsite until areas are full and/or market rates increase.

- **Weekend Transfer Station Coverage**

The BOS discussed recycling further and included ways to staff the transfer station area on weekends. A rotation schedule of employees was presented and discussed. Difficulty in scheduling arises without adding a part-time employee on a seasonal basis. Also discussed was hours of operation, being closed on certain days of the week, and other events impacting staffing such as winter storm cleanup and state licensing requirements to become a transfer station attendant.

After a lengthy discussion, it was thought best to begin to separate and flatten cardboard boxes to reduce wasted space in the truck, look for a part time attendant, and approach C-T to start discussions about WV and recycling.

## **8. Old Business**

- **Generator Grant Application Review**

Mark reports that Dave Noyes has been working on gathering additional information on the questions the BOS had at the last meeting. An electrical engineer who has done similar work in other communities did an onsite analysis and provided a report. The report was reviewed by the board and items noted as deficiencies were discussed and how to correct. Limitations of the existing panel(s) needs to be corrected to conform to current codes and to add additional electrical capacity for current and future needs. Additionally, the generator specifications of automatic switch vs. manual switch, generator size, and fuel source of generator were also part of the discussion. The BOS asked for more information from the electrician which will be reviewed at next meeting.

- **Discussion of Capital Program Policy Strawman**

Bill Larsen proposes capital program reserve accounts to manage capital spending. In this format, all capital spending is run through these accounts. A designated amount each year would be added as part of the budget. All expenditures with a life expectancy of less than 15 years or less than \$250K are paid through the reserve account. All expenditures greater than 15 years life expectancy or greater than \$250 cost would be bonded. Additionally all capital spending is run through the CIP committee, regardless of cost or life expectancy of purchase. It was thought this method of management of capital spending would also aid in maintaining a more level tax rate for the town's portion. Mark comments that the original CIP was started in this type of format in

2002. Bill proposes to write a policy statement which governs the accounts and capital spending. Other accounts, such as maintenance/emergency repairs, also need to be managed as a part of this policy. Bill will discuss with the CIP committee at the next Planning Board meeting about becoming more involved in the capital program and establishing needs and priorities with the town manager and department heads.

## **9. Correspondence**

Mark informs the Board that the ISO letter regarding Fire and we received a rating of 4 (1 is best, 10 is worst) which is very good. The last inspection was conducted 10 years ago. On the building inspection portion, we are being re-rated due to the inspector leaving pages blank.

Mark informs the Board that he received a call from Portsmouth city manager asking for support of a Senate Bill to create a committee to review the distribution of the states rooms and meals taxes to towns. The taxes collected currently are disbursed based upon town population and budgets, as opposed to by the area from which those tax revenues are generated. Waterville Valley receives about \$12K a year back now, and there are many more dollars sent to the state that are generated by rooms and meals taxes in town annually.

Mike Aronson motions to support the Senate Bill which forms of a committee to review the distribution formula of the State's Room and Meals Taxes.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Worker's Comp CAP agreement for 3 years was reviewed and accepted by the board.

Bill Larsen motions to lock into the Worker Comp 3 year CAP contract with Primex.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mark informs the BOS regarding the insurance claim for the Dias' home. The amount of the claim is \$1,400. Mark will confirm with our insurance carrier whether or not the Town needs to report the claim and recommends paying the claim out of pocket. The Ciffolillo's claim will be forthcoming as well. The BOS is fine with out of pocket payments as long as our insurance carrier allows for it to be done.

## **10. Privilege of Floor II**

None.

## **11. Board Concerns and Directives**

## **12. Non-Public Session**

The BOS and Mark and Sharon go into non-public at 5:12pm to review a domicile request, and a general assistance matter.

The BOS come out of non-public at 5:17pm.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the domicile request of Elisabeth Peoples and her 2 children.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **13. Adjournment**

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 5:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant