

**WATERVILLE VALLEY, NH  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Town Offices Lower Meeting Room**

**DATE:** September 10, 2014

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Mark Decoteau, Tom Quackenbush, Rachel Gasowski, Irit Levy, John Recine, Tina Koppel, Mike Koppel, Marilyn Clarkson, Sharon Charron.

**1. The public meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.**

**2. Privilege of the Floor I**

**3. Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2014**

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of 8/27/14 as presented.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Financial Update**

Mark reports that the financials are on track. There is no handout to present, and there were not enough changes from the last presentation. Mark will forward an update to BOS by email after bills are paid this week.

**5. Department Head Updates**

**Public Works**

- Jim reports that the National Weather Service has approached him concerning the installation of a weather station in town. The location would be the front lawn of the WWTP. It will be an automated solar powered station and it will transmit data wirelessly and they will give us access to the data as well.
- Water Line Project is almost complete and the expected end date is 9/11/14. The new trail surface has been well received after the restoration work which improved the trail itself. The trail closures signs have been removed in most places, but any remaining signs up are left in place by the Forest Service and should be adhered to. The Livermore Trail is open.

**Recreation Department**

- Rachel reports that fall planning and programming is underway and programs will begin next week. 11 kids registered for afterschool program. Adult activities resume in October.

The summer was overall very good, and the boat numbers are anticipated to be about \$18K. The summer campers were comprised of many 2<sup>nd</sup> homeowners' children, which is a change from the past few years when there was more of a draw from surrounding Towns. The July 4<sup>th</sup> events were well attended overall. Other summer events need to be reviewed for attendance to determine whether or not to schedule them again next summer.

### **Public Safety**

- Chris reports that Officer Joe Lacasse is attending the fulltime Police Academy. There has been good feedback on the school crossing. The Pinnacle Race at the mountain is scheduled for the dates of 9/19-20 and has been told to staff safety services for approximately 1500 guests.
- Chris also informed the BOS that the WV-DPS has been awarded the EMS Service of the Year for the State of NH. There will be a ceremony on 9/29 in Concord, and Chris would like as many DPS staff present to receive the award. The BOS also commented that the Town should additionally recognize the department with a dinner or a lunch event to congratulate them all.
- The next Coffee with a Cop will likely be before Columbus Day weekend.

### **6. Calendar**

Not discussed.

### **7. New Business**

- **Sign Changes for Town Square Sign on Tripoli Rd**

Tina Koppel questions the sign agenda item, which pertains to the mountain sign at the end of Tripoli Rd. She mentions the need of consistency of signage for street and directional signs to trails. Bill Larsen comments that the Planning Board, as part of the Pedestrian Village Study, is reviewing the "signs" section of the Zoning Ordinance and will likely be proposing some changes and/or additions to better clarify some sections. Mark comments that the agenda item, concerning proposed changes to the Mountain's sign has been turned down by the Forest Service. There is discrepancy between the Forest Service and the Mountain as to whether the land the sign is located on Forest Service land or is it considered a state ROW for Tripoli Rd.

- **Leashed Dogs Discussion**

Bill Larsen spoke regarding proposing a public hearing on how best to enforce a leashed dog ordinance, if it were to be proposed and passed as a warrant article at the 2015 Town Meeting. He felt that the hearing needs to explore how it would be enforced, not whether or not the town should have one. The decision to whether or not the town needs a leashed dog ordinance would not be a part of the discussion at the hearing, as that will be decided by the voters. Discussion followed as to whether or not that falls to police or citizens to report. Dates and times were discussed and 11/29 in the afternoon or evening of Thanksgiving weekend was suggested. The DPS was asked for their suggestions on enforcement. Chief Noyes responds that currently exercise a 3 strike rule. For dogs in violation of the ordinance the 1<sup>st</sup> offense is a verbal warning, the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense is a notice to abate referencing the ordinance or statute being violated, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense (within a 12 month period from the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense) is a citation and civil forfeiture of \$25. Dog bites incidents are given a citation and \$25 fine. Approximately less than 1/3 of calls to the DPS concerning dogs are from residents, and the remaining are guests & non-residents. July is typically the most active month for calls concerning dogs. This is about 1% of the total call

volume to DPS in a given year. Discussion followed regarding citizen involvement in reporting incidents, and identifying a problem to which a potential change to the current ordinance corrects. Margaret Turner, speaking from the audience, stated that many people who are not dog owners, and who may have a fear of dogs, believe that if a dog is restrained it is under control and will behave better. Bill Larsen comments that whatever is decided upon, an ordinance has to be able to be enforced and that if it cannot be enforced, it will be a waste of time. Marilyn Clarkson speaks to her discussions with other residents, and the lack of understanding of the current dog ordinance. She also states that the problem is not with the dogs, it's the owner's ability, or lack thereof, to keep their dog under control, albeit voice or leash. She also states that from her discussion with people that most incidents are not reported to the police.

## **8. Old Business**

- **Town Bus System**

Mark reports that he met with John Carpenter from the mountain and they reviewed the mountain budget for the buses. Discussion included actual versus budgeted amounts and the history of the financial agreement of funding the buses. The BOS expressed the need to have the costs for bus trips/usage out of town separated from the whole budget as the BOS felt taxpayers shouldn't be supporting transportation costs for mountain employees, bus pass holders, and skate camp participants. The 25% rate of total costs paid by the Town was debated as to their benefits to the residents versus visitors and guests. Other comments included the lack of a current budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year (which we are currently in), the inclusion of depreciation costs, and bus operation outside the valley. The BOS felt that the mountain should be able to separate these costs from their budget, and upon doing so the town would reconsider its 25% portion above and beyond the \$48K dollar amount.

- **Water/Sewer Billing**

In anticipation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr bills for water/sewer for commercial properties, Mark recommends using the 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr average of the past seven years for all the commercial properties since not all of the commercial meters are installed yet. Once all meters are installed and active, the readings will be taken and compared against the 7 year averages and then charged the amount of whichever is less. This will be the method for one full year of services, while data is collected and then analyzed, before any changes are made to the commercial rate system for water.

- **Recycling/ MSW August Figures**

The current figures for recycling are at almost 19% for August.

- **Solid Waste / RFP – Bond Counsel**

Mark reported, after discussions with bond counsel, that each solid waste management bidder provide an add alternate bid for vehicle storage here on site, and if those amounts are high enough in cost savings, bond counsel would approach the IRS to make an exception. These costs amounts will not be known until the bids are received. There is a pre-bid meeting on 9/18.

- **Town Building Project – Security Improvements**

Mark reports on a proposed safety improvements in Town buildings and presents a proposal from Winnepesaukee Security. Currently we have 4 different companies for fire and alarm systems for Town properties, which include Town Hall/DPS, WW Plant, Ice arena, and the Library. The proposal includes upgrading the current systems, as well as adding other locations which are totally lacking in security systems. Additional systems include video monitoring on

the Corcoran Pond Dam and outside the Public Works Garage and Town Hall/DPS, interior cameras in the police booking room, and installation of fire and alarms systems in the well houses and the Snows Mt reservoir. The total package price is \$63,979 and Mark reviews funding options available through the current budget, contingency funds, and maintenance funds under building and grounds. Discussion followed regarding insurance requirements and if any buildings are deficient at present, and to make a priority list. Also questioned was if this needed to go out to bid? Bill Larsen asked to why this is needed to be done at this time, as opposed to it going to town meeting for a vote. Mark replies that it came about as part of the Public Works Garage project, and the benefit to interconnect the systems at this time. The suggestion was that it is better to have one system and central monitoring location than multiple ones. Chris Hodges comments that there is substantial risk exposure at present time, but declined to go into these detail publically. The BOS felt that this should be a warrant article to be presented at Town Meeting, and that this should go through a bid process as well. It was also agreed to discuss Chris' concerns in non-public session.

## **9. Correspondence**

- **Meeting with US Forest Service RE: Brox Land Swap**

Mark will be meeting with the US Forest Service next week to discuss potential land swap arrangements between the Brox's and the US Forest Service. The Brox land is located off Upper Mad River Road in WV near the Thornton town line on the north side of the Mad River.

- **Approval of Town HAZMIT Plan**

The Department of Homeland Security has approved the HAZMIT Plan. This approval keeps the Town compliant with regulations and allows the town to apply for emergency funding in the event of natural disasters.

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

None.

## **11. Board Concerns & Directive**

- There was a brief discussion regarding the generators which were purchased for use by the Town during power outages. The generators are unrated and after checking with 2 separate electricians, and because of them being unrated, they are unable to be installed for use. Decision was made to return these generators.

- Election recap: A railing is needed to help direct people and keep certain areas separate from public to poll workers. Moderator Marilyn Clarkson stated that a larger area would be beneficial. The noise level of the room was sometimes a little loud, and it is tight on space for the workers. Also need to have clarification of whether or not a quorum of BOS is needed to be present on election day. Mark will ask the school about the possibility of more space on election days.

- Margaret Turner asks about bear baiting, and if anything can be done to prohibit it in town. The same hunter returns every year to an area off Tripoli Rd. Mark will ask the FS if there is anything can be done.
- Mark comments that the MS-1 was submitted electronically and presents a form confirming the submission for the BOS signatures.

- Mark presents the last BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) of \$263K for the BOS signatures. This is the last one to bring the total to 2.138 million for the project.
- There was a request from Birdie Britton asking for a waiver to reserve a cemetery plot. The regulations currently state that plots can only be purchased at the time of need. There was a brief discussion, and it was decided to not allow a pre-sale to occur, unless the need was imminent.

**Action Item List:**

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**13. Non-Public Session**

The 3 BOS members go into non-public session, along with Mark and Sharon, for discussion of 2 domicile applications at 5pm.

The BOS come out of non-public at 5:12pm.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the domicile requests of Bradley Stamp, and Corrilee & Robert Trudeau and family

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Bill Larsen motions to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 5:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron  
Town Clerk Assistant  
Town of Waterville Valley