

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

DATE: **October 4, 2017**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: **None.**

OTHERS PRESENT: **Ray Kucharski, Vicky Ayers (DRA), Phil Bodwell (DRA), Rich Rita, Reggie Breeckner, John Recine, Brooke Wakefield, Dave Noyes, Kevin Pierce, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew and Sharon Charron.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Privilege of Floor

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 9/13/17 Regular Meeting.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Selectmen of 9/13/17 with as slightly amended.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Mark reviewed the numbers and states that the water/sewer 3rd qtr billing is included, and is at 73% and 80% respectively and is tracking as normal for this point in the year. There were no questions or concerns from the board.

5. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reports that the afterschool field trip last Friday which went very well. There are 9 kids in the program, which represents about half of the school's students. The trip to the Fryeburg Fair was also successful. She is gearing up for the Fall Foliage Road Races. Halloween events are in the works for the last weekend of the October. Brookes reviewed her revenue numbers and shows being down \$8K in boats, down \$3K in camps (one week less of camp this year) and up \$25K in other areas of events or programs.

- **Public Works**

Jim Mayhew informs the board that the conduit and pad for the new generator at the WWTP is in place. The generator is not onsite yet. The cost will be \$17-20K for the generator. Jim also states that there is a burial scheduled for 10/28 for Andre Meyer later this month.

- **Public Safety**

Chris reports that are going well. The Citizens Academy has had good attendance. Chris states that there are 2 new part time officers coming on staff, Kevin Pierce and Joe Nericko. REI Outessa event went well. Bill Larsen comments he heard that there was one complaint about the noise levels. Mike Aronson commented that there needed to be more communication on the event to residents and property owners and asked that this occurs in the future with these types of events.

Bill Larsen asked about the Snow Star Inn and whether this is being operated as a boarding house or are the occupants all mountain employees. Discussion followed with concern expressed by the board. A boarding house is defined by being a place which rents rooms and provides meals on a long term basis.

Dave Noyes was asked about the pink patches on WVDPS uniforms and answered that they are in support of breast cancer awareness for the month of October. A member of the WV-DPS was directly affected by this illness in the last year and the department is showing their support in wearing the pink patches. They can be purchased for \$20 through the WVPSOBA.org and the town office.

The status of the school play area was questioned and Mark stated that the after meetings with the school board, it was decided that another area will be sought out as the play area. No location was mentioned at this time. Rubber matting will be the temporary fix for now, and the school board is actively pursuing other options at the school's expense.

- **Administration**

Mark informed the board that part time employee Mary Pelchat has left to accept a full time position in Lincoln town office. The position is advertised with NHMA, as well as local paper the Penny Saver. The job opening will also be posted in the town notice boards at the PO & Town Office.

6. Calendar Review

The next regular meeting will next Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 3pm to be back on the regular schedule of the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month. The following meeting will be Wed., October 25, 2017. There will be a public hearing will continue on the Cemetery Regulations at the 10/25 meeting.

7. New Business

- **3rd Quarter Water/Sewer Bill Warrant**

The warrant was presented and signed by the board. Mike Aronson motions to accept the 3rd quarter water/Sewer commitment warrant.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Museum Committee Report**

Reggie Breeckner informs the board that there have been 2 meeting thus far. It was found that a Historical Society needs to be formed first and they are figuring out how to do it in the best manner from the start. Reggie stated that it will likely be a 501-c3 non-profit, and they are working on that with the SOS office. She is also looking into the Moose Plate grants, which offer grants up to \$10K for historical preservation of documents. She has also spoken with Plymouth State University and potentially getting students involved in the future. The present priority is in preservation of the items in the town's possession and safe guarding them for future inspection, cataloging, storage and eventual display. Reggie is also seeking quotes for the cost of storage facilities to place items now stored at Dartmouth College and WV Town Office. Brenda & Preston Conklin are also planning an event show casing the history of WV which will be offered this December, though no date it set yet. Margaret Turner suggested Reggie contact Bob Fries regarding funds rumored to have been left by Tom Corcoran for historical preservation.

- **Workers' Comp/Property Liability Insurance Coverage**

Mark reports on discussion regarding WC risk pool alternative, as Davis & Towle is looking to form a new pool. The new rates from Primex for 2018 are not yet available. In the last 5 years have WC rates have increased 150%, although some if this is attributed to loss experience. At present time, increasing rates is a trend as there is no cost sharing any longer between towns. Mark explained that service from Primex overall has changed in regards to coverage and claims. He also adds that Property/Liability rates have also increased 23% over the 5 year period and we've no losses or claims. The board has no problem in exploring other available options regarding coverage and rates, but expressed caution when lower rates are quoted to entice customers.

8. Old Business

- **MS-1 Final Approval/Property Value Notices**

Mark reviews the new category totals after the revision of property values. The preliminary values in land went from the preliminary value of \$44M to revised value \$46M, as opposed to the 2016 value at \$47M, which is a decrease of 2% from 2016. Mark explained, after discussion with DRA officials and town counsel, that his recommendation is to leave the values unchanged from 2016 based that the new state law on assessing utility is being challenged by several towns. If the utility disagrees, they have the process of abatement. However, if we change utility values to the lower figure based upon the new state formula, and the state law is successfully challenged, there is no way for the town to recoup those tax dollars in the past as they were levied against the values in place at that time. The board was in agreement to leave the utility values unchanged from 2016.

There was a brief discussion on the single family homes ratio study, and in 2016 there were not enough SFH homes sales to calculate a ratio as a separate category, so the general ratio was used in its place, which also included the condos sales.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the 2017 MS-1 based upon the revised values at the total of \$330,708,657.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The board thanked both Phil and Vicky from DRA for their time and assistance in understanding the value changes occurring during the revaluation process.

- **Cemetery Regulation – Public Hearing**

Mike Aronson opens the Public Hearing at 3:27pm and asked for any comments from the public. Ray Kucharski had a few items to review and discussion of the following items followed:

1. The number of cremated remains per grave site; 4 to full sized lot plus one casketed remain, and 2 cremated remains to a half sized lot;
2. The orientation of markers: east-west orientation and exceptions are only allowed by request & approval;
3. The prohibition of dogs being interred in the cemetery; clarification needed as to a dog being allowed to enter (i.e.walk) versus being interred; is an exception needed?
4. Eligibility; the number of years required for residents or property owners needed for eligibility. Discussion followed (see below notes) concerning whether an exception is needed for those who leave WV to go to skilled nursing facility;
5. Common Marker material; plaques should conform to be of like material for the memorial marker.

The board asked those present for comments regarding the eligibility for the cemetery. Terry Roper offered the suggestion of having a description, but letting the board decide on a case by case basis if needed. Rich Rita offered the suggestion of eliminating future casketed remains in an attempt to increase the amount of spaces. The board replied that space was not the issue at the current time, being that it's less than 50% full. Reggie Breeckner offered the 5 years living as a requirement but also offered if someone had met that, and then left WV for a nursing facility, they should still be allowed to be buried in WV. John Recine was in agreement with remaining eligible after residing in a skilled nursing facility outside of town.

After the suggestions, it was felt best to revise the current proposed regulations and continue the public hearing on 10/25/17.

- **Well #3 Testing Update**

Jim Mayhew reports that the pump in well #3 will be re-installed this week with the new check valves. Once operational, the line between the well and the pump house will be pressure tested. A camera was previously inserted about 200' into the line and there were no cracks or evidence of leaks, and overall it was in good shape. The pressure test will be able to confirm if there is a leak.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Update**

Mark presented the draft Administrative Order by consent from DES and the town's response was discussed. The timeline for action by the town and the respective dates were reviewed. It was suggested by Russ Hilliard, that the town's correspondence response address any revisions in a low key manner, ideally by email. Fines of up \$2K per violation are noted in the letter. Funding for the work requires a town meeting vote, which would not be until March, 2018. We are looking towards the \$500K price for the repairs. Concern was expressed by the board to the action items on timeline and what would happen if this warrant article failed at town meeting. The BOS wanted to have the agreement voided if this occurred. The appropriation of dollars by

the town and the \$500K cost of repairs were seen as the two factors that were of the greatest importance. Mark will work with Russ Hilliard to change the wording to convey the BOS's message of good faith in doing the repairs with the approval of the expenditure coming from town meeting.

- **DPW Personnel Update**

This will be reviewed in non-public session.

9. Correspondence

- **Arena Expanded Use Proposal**

Mike Aronson informs the public that the Hockey Academy has a proposal in combination with Mulligan's to renovate the old visiting team locker room to a private function area in which food and beverages can be served provided by Mulligan's. The hockey academy is losing money and this proposal was presented as a way to assist the arena with generating revenues. Mike asked if there was any town policy prohibiting the use of alcohol in the arenas and Mark replied that in the Selectmen's ordinances, alcohol is unable to be served in town buildings, and the ice arena is owned by the town. Discussion and questions followed concerning the town's insurance, limiting the service to private parties only, limiting the rentals to a set time and only during hockey events, no alcohol to leave the enclosed space, and alcohol is not stored on site and must be brought in/out daily as the space is rented. Public Safety thoughts regarding the proposals, and were told there are 2 proposals. The first is what was already mentioned. The second proposal would be building out an area for a snack bar with high top tables, which would also serve beer & wine to the public, and not be only reserved for private functions. Chief Noyes comments that the first proposal is something many other arenas already have in place. The second proposal, being open to the public, is of concern to him. Based upon past experiences, problems have arisen during hockey events with parents who have consumed alcohol prior to arriving at the arena who are attending their children's games. Terry Roper comments that she could see the benefit as an amenity during public skating times for parents, or couples, who want a beverage during a skating outing. Chief Hodges has the concern that officers already deal with alcohol influenced hockey parents and worries that this will increase. Bill Larsen commented that when hearing of this proposal, his concern was that without seeking out other revenue streams that the Hockey Academy would leave WV, and that would have an impact on all WV businesses. Mike Aronson asked if the Hockey Academy would be in agreement to certain management policies for type this operation, as well as a written plan outlining the control measures for the operation. Sean Curtin of Mulligan's was present and provided information concerning the location of the enclosed area within the arena. Following the discussion, more information was clearly needed before any decision is made and the board hoped that Hockey Academy representatives could be present at the next meeting for more discussion.

- **Proposed Hiking Trail Project**

Mark informs the board of discussions of proposed hiking trails which would connect the existing trails which encircle WV to be a continuous loop, with the ability to go to and from town at different access points. It was also suggested to try to connect the trails with the Smart's Brook trail network and the Winona mountain biking trail project at the Thornton/WV town line.

10. Privilege of Floor II

None.

11. Board Concerns and Directives

None.

12. Non-public Session

- **Employee - Hiring**

The board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) along with Town Manager Mark Decoteau, Jim Mayhew and Sharon Charron. The Motion was made and seconded and with a roll call vote: Selectman Aronson – aye, Selectman Larsen – aye and the Board went into Non-Public Session at 4:30pm. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:48pm.

Mike Aronson motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:49pm.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant