

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

DATE: October 14, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Aronson and Margaret Turner.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Larsen.

OTHERS PRESENT: Reggie Breeckner, Harry Notowitz, Craig Larson, Patrick Morse, Nakita, Mark Decoteau, Jim Mayhew, Chris Hodges, Dave Noyes, Bryan Sopko and 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 9/23/2015

Margaret Turner motions to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Selectmen of 9/23/15 as amended.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Mark reports that we are currently 81% thru the year. Revenue is ahead of budget thus far, and collections for the 1st half property tax bills are at 98%. There is currently 1 remaining outstanding tax lien from 2013, and 2 from 2014. Overall this is excellent for collections. Water/sewer/trash bills for the 3rd quarter have gone out and 2nd half property tax bills will be out in the next 2 weeks. Expenses overall are currently at 69% expended for the year.

5. Department Head Updates

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that the summer ended successfully, as well as Columbus Day weekend. Pre-winter organization and prepping is currently being done by staff. The department has received good feedback regarding the 25mph speed limit. Margaret Turner comments that she has heard otherwise from some individuals stating it was too slow. Mark reminds the BOS that there will be a public hearing at the 10/28/15 Selectmen's meeting to get additional feedback of the 25mph speed limit trail period. The generator project is complete, as well as the Emergency Action Plan. The additional item needed of grounding the water systems in the building was taken out of building maintenance line item. Mike Aronson asked about the status of hiring of part-time personnel for the department. Dave Noyes responded they are looking to fill shifts from within and other local departments first, and will advertise further if still needed. Chris

responded to questions regarding fireworks, and permitting thereof. A town permit is required, and the applicant must hold a license to set off fireworks from the state.

- **Recreation Department**

Brooke is absent at a conference, so Mark reports on her behalf stating that the 5K Fall Foliage road race went well, with over 230 participants and Brooke plans on hosting it again next year. Boat rentals are now closed for the season. The swim dock will be removed in the next week and boats will be placed in storage.

- **Public Works**

Discussion items are included under Old Business agenda items.

6. Calendar

Currently no date is scheduled for the postponed WV School Board & BOS joint meeting. The next BOS meeting is scheduled for 10/28/15. Margaret may have to call into the meeting. November Planning Board date is 11/12/15.

7. New Business

- **Discussion of Tubing Operations at the Golf Course**

Craig Larson addresses the Board regarding tubing operations for the coming winter. He is planning on taking over the operations from the ski area, which had run it last season. Craig updates the BOS on the operational changes. The mountain will continue to groom the trail and snowmaking operations for tubing hill. Craig plans to start season on 12/26/15 and run daily through 3/1/2016, with dates following as an option. Operation times will be weekday's from 12-8pm, Saturday's from 10am to 9:45pm, and Sunday's from 10am to 8pm. He also wants to install light poles, opposed to the generator-powered lights used last season. The poles will be 12' in height, with the lights directed down, and he plans to use sodium bulbs which work best in cold weather. Craig expressed that snowmaking will occur up to 12/26 and the hill will be groomed daily with the XC trail groomer. He is looking to increase the size of the parking area in the maintenance area to accommodate up to 60 vehicles, in addition to 20 parking spaces at the golf course clubhouse. He is looking to utilize a bus from Robertson's Transportation to provide access from lodges in town from 4-8pm on Saturday nights, and select other dates as needed. Discussion followed regarding utilizing the shuttle bus operation from the mountain, which stops service at 5pm. The BOS encouraged Craig to speak with the mountain about extending the service hours. Access to the tubing hill will be by foot and the pathway will be plowed. He expressed a new concept and that is to have adult only hours on select Saturday nights from 6-9:45pm, and serve food & adult beverages in a tented area near the base of the tubing hill, similar to an "Ice Bar". The number of beverages per person would be limited. The liquor being served would be under the golf course license, and the location has to be identified as part of the licensing extension. He asked for a letter from the Town and Chief of Police stating no objections to complete the licensing for liquor. The BOS asked what water source will be used for snowmaking, and Craig replied that it will be 100% town water. The BOS also commented that the lighting will have to in accordance with the present lighting codes. Craig has presented his ideas o the Planning Board, who directed him to speak to the BOS. Other BOS comments were related to safety operations, and Craig stressed that the operation will be safety conscious and was unsure at this time if a certified EMT or ski patrol would be on site, but was willing to

do whatever is needed to ensure safety. In the future, he hopes to have a surface lift, such as a “magic carpet” installed. He also discussed a surface lift with sleds to haul up the tubes. This would be similar to the kiddie sled used by ski school at the mountain, and it would be pulled by a snowcat. It would operate on repeated loops to haul the tubes back to the top of the hill. A designated fire pit will also be part of the operation as a warming area. Chris Hodges commented that permitting for new infrastructure might require a Site Plan Review for a change of use of the parcel, as well as a Tent Permit, Fire Permit, liquor license, and the building permit for the installation of the poles. The proposed operation, being quite similar to last season, does have some change and overall those were viewed as improvements to the operation. Noticing to abutters would not be required, would be a neighborly gesture by informing them of these changes. Craig will get an abutters’ list from Sharon. He will complete the necessary permits as suggested, and he thanks the BOS for their suggestions and support.

- **FY2016 Budget Schedule**

Mark presents the schedule of key dates for the budgeting process. The list was reviewed briefly, and Mark confirmed that all the days listed were correct to the dates. The budget hearing will be held the 1st Wednesday of February, 2016. (2/3/2016 tentatively)

- **TY2015 Tax Rate Warrant**

Mark presents the 2015 Warrant for the balance of the tax year. The rate is set at \$14.40. Mark also presents historical data for the tax rate, in response to an earlier email from Bill Larsen. Discussion followed concerning this data. In preparing for the 2016 budget, Mark asks the BOS if they anticipate any changes in spending in order to give guidance for department heads in preparing their 2016 budgets. Mike comments that in the past few years, the town has run pretty lean by department and there has been a return to fund balance, with the exception of a few large expenses which were unanticipated. Mark states that this past year, the cash and bonded capital items were near 25% of the total operating budget, not including special warrant articles. However the cost of bonding for capital items is higher, as opposed to using cash for the same, and this proportional balance should be reviewed and understood by all. As part of the 2016 budget discussion, these factors, and projects and capital projects, should be considered. After additional discussion, the BOS suggested that they have a workshop with the CIP committee, to determine the percentage or dollar amount of CIP projects as part of the 2016 budget, and the project schedule going forward.

- **3rd Quarter 2015 Water/Sewer Bills and Warrant**

The 3rd quarter water & sewer warrant is presented to and signed by the BOS. Additionally, abatement, due to a clerical error, was presented to and signed by the BOS.

- **Possible One-Way Traffic Pattern on Town Roads**

Mark states that the Town Core Working Group (TCWG) has been working on ideas concerning one-way traffic patterns on selected streets. In order to move forward with grant requests, which are due in April 2016, we need to determine if this a direction the town want to move towards and if additional analysis will be needed utilizing grant funds, and in what dollar amount. The Pedestrian Village Study does include this concept as a part of their recommendations, along with other suggestions which have started on a trial basis; i.e. 25pmh speed limit, and bicycles off the sidewalks. BOS comments included that acceptance of a 1-way pattern by residents and

owners would be dependent upon where individuals live and how it personally affects their travel to/from their residence. Chief Hodges states that he and Chief Noyes, have started to discuss both pros/cons on 1-way patterns, and are exploring these options. They stated that they can create a traffic pattern to meet the town's needs, but need to know what people want to see. Curbs? No curbs? One-way roads? Bicycles in roads? All these need to be factored into making these decisions, as well as winter road maintenance. A ride through town with the TCWG subcommittee, along with Chief Hodges and Chief Noyes, was also suggested in order to create a traffic plan and pattern that can safely accommodate all types of transportation; cars, pedestrians, bicycles, etc.

8. Old Business

- **Updated Trash/Recycling Proposal from the Town of Thornton**

Mark reported that the Town of Thornton is considering other options, and Mark will continue to have discussions with the Thornton's Town Administrator. He has expressed to them that WV would be interested in utilizing their location, as opposed to Bethlehem, provided that they make changes to accommodate single stream recycling and will accept solid waste as well. This is an ongoing discussion that Mark will continue to have with them and report back to the BOS with updates.

- **Water/Sewer Projects Update**

Jim reports that Jennings Peak Rd project is complete, and came in \$5K under budget. Work on Beanbender Rd is ongoing to complete the heat trace and insulation. The last items to be completed include the electrical work to connect the heat trace and to finish the paving. The 3 property owners affected by last winter's frozen lines and were given the information to install heat trace on their side of the water lines to their homes. At this time it was not confirmed that any had chosen to take this suggestion, though it was believed they had not.

Mark reports that Dana White was the only bidder for the West Branch Rd project for repairs and improvements to the low-pressure sewer line with a bid of \$44,600. Rural Development has approved this expenditure. This work will create a very tight budget for completion of the well and waterline connections to the treatment systems. Not knowing what the bids will be at this time for the remaining parts of the project, Mark wanted to be sure the BOS was aware that the contingency funds for the project would be used, and that reduces the amount of contingency funds available for the remaining work. The remaining work will go out to bid likely in January 2016.

Mike Aronson motions to accept the funds from Rural Development, and also accepts Dana White's bid for \$44,600 for the repairs work to the Sewer Line on West Branch Rd.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Trash Truck Repairs**

Jim reports that he has received a quote outlining the needed repairs to the truck body. Most of the repairs involve the hydraulic systems and other parts that need replacement due to age. The additional repairs needed are body work and repainting the body, which will extend the truck's life. The repair estimate totals about \$20-25K. Most of the repairs can be done in house, while a

few of them will require that the truck be moved offsite. While the truck is being repaired, arrangements with an outside operator will be necessary to service the town for trash/recyclables removals. Mark asks the BOS if they want funds for these repairs to come out of 2015 Capital funds or to include in the 2016 Budget. The Capital accounts the BOS could utilize are reviewed. A public hearing will be required in order to use these funds. Jim will proceed with getting an estimate for the body work and painting, and a public hearing will be scheduled for the next Selectmen's meeting on 10/28/15.

9. Correspondence

Mike comments that he had discussion with Ted Torey from Glen Farms Stable, who is in negotiations with the Waterville Co., Inc. regarding the land below High Country to put a stable in and utilize the horses on trails. This is very early in the negotiations at this time. Mark also commented that Tim Smith stated the WV Resort will be coming to the Planning Board for Site Plan Review regarding the stabling of horses as well for this upcoming winter. It was not known at this time if the two plans were actually the same plans, or separate. Cleaning up after the horses was also discussed as a concern for both trail and roadway maintenance. As the trails are multi-use trails (XC skiers, hikers, bicycles, snowshoeing), the BOS felt that how the waste from the horses was going to be removed required further discussion. Currently, there is no requirement to remove animal waste from trails, though it is viewed as a courtesy to others to do so.

10. Privilege of Floor II

None.

11. Board Concerns and Directives

12. Non-Public Session

The 3 BOS members, along with Mark, go into a non-public session at 4:31 to discuss two personnel matters, and the Recreation Department stewards program. They came out of non-public at 4:45pm.

13. Adjournment

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 4:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant