

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

DATE: **October 22, 2014**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: **None.**

OTHERS PRESENT: **Jim Mayhew, Mark Decoteau, Tom Quackenbush, Sharon Charron, Mike & Tina Koppel, Monique & Rob Lowd, Craig Musselman, Tim Smith, Bob Guilbert, Chris Bierbrier, Dorothy DiBona, Sharen Tedrow, Harry Notowitz, Chris Sununu, Loli & Jim Hammond, David Britton, Andy Fitch.**

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

2. Privilege of the Floor I

None

3. Approval of Minutes of October 1, 2014

Margaret Turner motions to approve the minutes of 10/01/14 as presented.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Mark reports that the financials are on track. Expenditures are currently at 80% expended through the year. We are slightly overspent on the legal budget and general assistance budget. The formula on the budget balances to date was adjusted to now show a negative if we still need to collect additional funds. There was a brief discussion regarding budget adjustments to revenues and expenses for the Recreation Department.

5. Department Head Updates

Recreation Department

Public Works

Jim Mayhew reports that the well will be back online sometime next week. We are currently in a slow usage period, so there is very limited impact upon on water. However, adjustments have been made to the reservoir to hold more water for the time being. The well pump which failed was over 30 years old and is being replaced.

Bill Larsen asked about conduits in Snowsbrook and Jim stated that after a recent heavy rain event, some culverts were stockpiled with conduit and these were carried downstream into Corcoran's Pond. There were potentially some kids who may have assisted their traveling downstream. The conduit in question were recovered and removed.

Currently there is a open position advertised for a public works department laborer, as Josh Rhoades resigned his position to for another job.

Jim also commented that he met from North Country Council regarding a road maintenance & culvert assessment program. NCC stated that the program will be ready in spring 2015, but as of now the cost is not available.

Public Safety

Chris Hodges reports that the deposit was placed upon the ambulance. Weekends have been busy with hockey tournaments, but generally it has been quiet in town.

6. Calendar

BOS Meetings Dates:

Tax Rate setting dates discussed as 10/27-29-30, dependent upon return of paperwork from DRA.

November election 11/4/14: Margaret 10:30am-2pm, Bill 2pm-5pm, Mike 5pm-8pm

November: 11/12 BOS regular meeting

December: 12/3 & 12/17

7. New Business

- **Curious George Cottage Funding**

Chris Bierbrier speaks on behalf of the Rey Center, and presents their 2013 Annual Report. She states that the Towns funding of \$25K has been the same for almost 10 years. She anticipates that a major donor will be decreasing their donation in the next year. Grant funds, which the center does use, has restricted uses and generally do not cover the general programs. Staffing has been reduced to help defray expenses. The Rey Center is asking the Town for an increase from \$25K to \$50K for their funding and asks the BOS to include this request as a warrant article for the 2015 Town Meeting. Bob Guilbert comments to the costs of special events and that there should be discounted rates for taxpayers because of the Town funding of the Rey Center. Discussion followed as to the wording of the warrant article, and who is responsible for the writing of it (BOS or Rey Center) and whether or not it should be for \$50K or \$25K with the remaining balance in the budget to ensure at least \$25K is funded if the article does not pass. The BOS were unanimous in support of writing the article themselves, as opposed to it being an article by petition. Procedures were also discussed for amending a warrant article at Town Meeting and whether or not a presentation would be allowed.

- **WMAC Tree Cutting Request**

The tree in question is on town property, and is the last surviving tree from a series of trees which were planted along Valley Rd. alongside Packard's Field. The tree currently blocks the view from the new hot tub at the WMAC. Discussion followed briefly.

Margaret Turner motions to give the WMAC the authorization to cut the tree in question down.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

- **Water Sewer Bill Commitment – 3rd Quarter 2014**

The 3rd quarter Water/Sewer Bill commitment is presented to and signed by the BOS. Mark comments that the water/sewer billing is on track for collections for the year.

- **Tax Rate Setting**

At this time, DRA has not returned the final paperwork for the tax rate. The school rate is still unknown, as are the county and state rates. Mark anticipates that the increase will be approximately \$1.50, which will bring the tax rate to near and /or slightly over \$14.00 in 2014 from \$12.40 in 2013.

- **Tubing Hill Sign Request**

The signs will be the same as last year at the golf clubhouse venue. Color copies were available for the BOS to review.

Margaret Turner motions to approve the tubing hill sign request for WVSR.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

8. Old Business

- **WVSR Bus System Requests**

Chris Sununu presents the situation regarding the bus system and improvements to the system. Improvements include a 2 loop system which will be identified by 2 colors; one with stops at the hotels/lodges, and the second which stops at condo associations. He proposes a set schedule which will be posted on the bus stop signs to improve the consumer confidence in the system. Chris presented sample signs in the sizes of 18"x24". All of the changes proposed are intended to increase the efficiency and reliability of the bus system. Mark comments that these ideas also reflect comments from the Pedestrian Village Survey regarding the buses from SE Group. Comments from the public include sign colors, visibility of signs, suggestion to relocate the Fairpoint stop on Noon Peak Rd to the Rec Dept. parking lot, the amount of funding by the town, and the suggestion of an express bus between Town Square and the ski area. Additional discussion involved any divergence from the set stops to keep the bus on time. Traditionally, this has been one the biggest downfalls of the system. Chris Sununu will submit a sign permit request for approval of the BOS.

The bus funding and budget for 2014/15 was presented by Chris. The total net operating cost presented is \$224K and WVSR requests the amount of \$56K from the town, representing 25% of the costs. This is an increase of 17% over previous years funding of \$48K paid by the town. Bill Larsen questioned items listed in the presented whole budget including the bus depreciation & costs and items listed in the internal bus usage, which is use as a credit against the total cost. He expressed that the same method of accounting is not used in the internal usage, and requests that there are the same. In applying the same method, Bill states he comes to a \$52K amount for the 25% allocation as compared to the \$56K as presented. In this application, all costs are fully allocated in both the internal usage and the overall usage. Chris states that he will review this with John Carpenter. The objective is to have consistency and find a formula that works best for all parties involved in sharing of the costs of the bus operations. The BOS was appreciative of the extensive accounting provided by WVSR. Marilyn Clarkson asked about residents taking the bus to Plymouth when it runs to pick up employees. Andy Fitch replies that in the bus overnights in Plymouth after employees are returned, and doesn't leave from WV in the morning.

- **Solid Waste Proposal Results**

Craig Mussleman of CMA Engineers addresses the BOS regarding the RFP for the Solid Waste services in WV. It was thought that there would be a local, regional, and national hauler who might be interested. On those 3, only 1 proposal was received from the local hauler, CM Whitcher of Wentworth, NH. The issues which were raised and contributed to the others haulers not submitting proposals were that due to the level of servicing needed, they were unable to provide the same services for the lesser costs. Additional servicing issues involve the frequency of pickups and added pickups during peaks periods, and the reliability of the employees of an outside vendor. The bid received was for \$253K, and the current operation costs are at \$190K. Craig also reviewed the additional alternate bid and cited that the level of service would not be adequate for some locations for both recyclables and solid waste. Overall, it does not work with an outside vendor to provide to same, or potentially less, level of service, without a significant increase to costs. Craig offered the following suggestions for improvements;

- 1) Invest in larger equipment which would require less trips to Bethlehem landfill. This option would not generate a great deal of savings due to the capital investment and we don't have daily trips to Bethlehem now.
- 2) Invest in a storage area and compacter for compacting items which would then be transported by a larger container/trailer to Bethlehem. In essence, creating a Transfer station.
- 3) Invest for the long run by replacing the present trash & recycling containers with larger containers. Some location may have limitations on size does factor into the larger containers.

Discussion followed that the current containers are, at times of the year due to weather or effort needed to lift or open the doors for access, are troublesome for some residents. In those cases, sometimes trash is left outside of the containers leaving them looking poorly. Craig offered that some combination of all 3 suggestions might be beneficial. He also stated that a front-loading truck might be considered and only requires 1 person to operate. Other comments included that with the new DPW garage that some weekend staffing of the transfer area is a possibility, as well the suggestion to potentially a ramp area to dump items from above into the containers to make access easier. Discussion followed concerning single family home residents having to bring their trash & recyclables to dumpster versus residents in condos who have dumpsters on site.

- **Building Improvements – Wyman Property, Boulder Path Rd.**

Work is still ongoing at the location, but improvements are evident in the appearance of the residence. All of the work done thus far have been to the building itself. The surrounding grounds and landscaping are still in need of attention. Overall, the Town is pleased with the progress and will communicate this to the Wyman's in a letter.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Privilege of the Floor II

Marilyn Clarkson addressed the BOS regarding private events scheduled at the Rec Dept. Discussion followed regarding Rec Dept policies and the procedures for booking private functions (birthday parties, outside groups, etc.). Marilyn questioned why these functions are hosted, and why are they scheduled in conflict with regular programs. Mark states that private functions are booked as a revenue generating event by the Rec Dept. These functions are never

booked in place of regular programs and they are booked into the timeslot when “open gym” is scheduled. The Rec Dept schedules are updated on the Rec Dept website calendar when private functions are taking place in the open gym timeslot. In this particular instance, pickleball players wanted to extend their play into the open gym timeslot, and were upset after learning they could not due to a private group being scheduled. Discussion followed concerning how the Rec Dept books and announces its private functions during the open gym timeslot. It was advised that if more time for pickleball is needed, that it needed to be requested to the Rec Dept. All schedules are updated on the website as soon as a private function is taking place instead of open gym.

11. Board Concerns & Directive

Action Item List:

None.

13. Non-Public Session

The 3 BOS members go into non-public session to discuss 3 domicile requests, along with Mark, Tom and Sharon 5:10pm.

The BOS come out of non-public at 5:23pm.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the domicile requests of Alan Zelbow, and Bill & Susan Jones.

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 5:24pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk Assistant
Town of Waterville Valley