

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

DATE: December 22, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Aronson, Bill Larsen, and Margaret Turner (on speaker phone).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ray Kucharski, Aggie Guilbert, Mike Koppel, Tina Koppel, Cheryl Saenger, Cyndy Piekos, Reggie Breeckner, Brooke Wakefield, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Judy Rolfe , Sharon Charron.

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

2. Privilege of the Floor I

Reggie Breeckner, Town Clerk, informs the Board that the Presidential Primary Election date has been set and is Tuesday, February 9, 2016. She is proposing to have the polls open from 11am to 7pm. A brief discussion followed concerning the Selectmen's schedule to cover the hours. Reggie also states that in 2015, there were a total of 62 new residents in town.

Cyndy Piekos addresses the Board regarding the Rey Center and Curious George Cottage. She explains her personal participation in the Rey Center with her family. She explains that in recent years the programs the Rey Center offers are geared more towards adults, rather than children. She asked the board of who own the Cottage, the Rey Center or the town? The Board replies that it is owned by the town, and the costs of phone, heat, and building maintenance are paid by the Rey Center. The town gives the Rey Center \$25K annually, and these funds are used to cover some of their expenses. Other costs not covered by the Rey Center are grounds maintenance and snow shoveling, which are done by the school, and the town plows the parking lot. The town also covers the cost of the fire and alarm system. Tina Koppel comments that the Rey Center is in process of apply for grants, one of which will help support the work recommended in the Pedestrian Village Study. Cyndy expresses that popular events, such as the Curious George Festival, should be built back into their programming, as it has been missed by many. Chairman Aronson suggests a meeting between the Rey Center director, the WV Recreation Dept., director, and WVAIA to discuss programming between all three groups and how each can contribute for the benefit of all townspeople and resort guests. A pricing plan similar to the Recreation Dept.'s current Native ID for non-residents was also suggested as a means to generate revenue to offset program costs. A meeting will be scheduled after the holiday vacation period. Aggie Guilbert comments regarding earlier statements of hers in a previous Selectmen's meeting, and wanted to clarify her that her intentions in asking why the Rey Center is supported by \$25K from the Town's budget was that she felt that the Town shouldn't be funding any non-profit organization for such a large amount. She asked if the Selectmen would consider removing this amount from the budget, and to have a discussion and vote at the Town Meeting of whether or not to fund the Rey Center for any amount, though she had no intention of writing a petitioned warrant article.

She said many people in town had the same opinion. Chairman Aronson replied that if many people felt this way that they need to come forward and let the Selectmen know their opinions. He continued that the Selectmen will listen and want to do what is best for the town and the community of the Waterville Valley as a whole. Bill Larsen comments that the current budget has \$365K for items that are not essential to the town, and these include services such as the post office, the schuss bus, etc. He asks Mrs. Guilbert if she would want each of these items to be voted on separately. She replies that no, only the Rey Center. In the current draft of the proposed fiscal year 2016 budget, the Selectmen have included the \$25K for the Rey Center. Mark Decoteau explains that there is a procedure for amending the budget, and the differences between a warrant article and a line item in the budget. The proposed budget is voted on as a total in the bottom line opposed to item by item, while a separate warrant article is voted on for a specific amount and item. There process of amending the total budget can be done, but only to the bottom total number, not for a specific item, though recommendations can be made and noted. Chairman Aronson thanks Mrs. Guilbert for her willingness to initiate the discussion, and also noted that the Selectmen do have public hearings and workshops on the budget, yet rarely is any input given from voters at all. He does state it is difficult to do what the majority wants if no one is willing to speak out during these events by asking questions. He continues to state that the Ice Arena is an example of an expense that was able to be removed, as well as the Recreation Department's present restructuring of their fees to increase revenue, which have both proven successful to date in reducing the overall budget.

Additional comments regarding correspondence received to the town and the Selectmen about the Rey Center funding was discussed, and these will be made available as part of this meetings minutes.

3. Approval of Minutes of 12/09/15

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Selectmen of 12/09/15 as amended.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

- **Expenditure Report**

Mark states that at this time we are at 90% of collected revenues, with 98% collected of tax bills, which is a bit higher than normal and very good. The outstanding 10% will be filled with the 4th quarter water and sewer bills which will go out in January and are applied to the 2015 revenues.

5. Department Head Updates

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that the Coffee with a Cop event with the Silver Streaks ski group at the mountain was postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled. Planning for the Special Olympics winter games has begun, and that event is scheduled for the last weekend of February. The Lucas Device, which was purchased with donated funds, has been delivered. This piece of equipment is a chest compression system that replicates manual compressions in a safe and efficient manner and enables the attending paramedic or EMT to perform other life-saving needs.

The repairs are being scheduled for Engine 2's water pump. Staffing search is ongoing for additional part time personnel.

- **Recreation Department**

Brooke reports that there will be many activities over the Christmas vacation week. Activities will run from 9am to 9pm on most days. Due to the lack of snow she is anticipating it to be very busy. She also mentions that there are currently 3 kids registered for the after school program starting after the break, and feels confident that a decision can be made prior to the return of school of whether or not the program will run based upon registration numbers.

- **Public Works**

Jim Mayhew reports that there will be testing of the upgrades to the low pressure sewer system this week. After the test is completed, the project will be complete with the exception of the final pavement being done in the spring. Margaret commented that on her morning walk she noticed a sewer odor near the pump house, and Bill stated he noticed an odor as well. Jim had not been informed of odors from anyone else, and stated that during the installation of the new sewer manholes, the line had been cut, which could account for the odors but he will check on it. Bill Larsen offered comments regarding slick roads on Monday, 12/21 and asked if public safety reports road conditions to public works when sanding/plowing is needed. Chris Hodges stated that this is done regularly, but did not have any reports of slick roads that particular morning. Jim reported that the heat line is ready to go on Beanbender Road, but doesn't expect it will need to be used until later in January, as mild as it has been so far this winter.

- **Administration**

Mark introduces new employee Judy Rolfe in the position of HR Coordinator/Bookkeeper in the administrative office of the town. Judy comes from the Waterville Valley Resort where she was working in their HR department. She began work with the town on December 21st of this year.

6. Calendar

Next Selectmen's meeting is January 13th, 2016. Bill may have to call in possibly.

Budget Workshop will be January 11th, 2016 at 2:00pm. All revisions to date will be included.

Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The time for the meeting and voting hours was discussed, but not yet set.

The School District meeting is on Monday, March 7th, 2016.

The Presidential Primary is on February 9th, 2016.

7. New Business

- **Set Polling Hours for Primary on February 9, 2016**

Polling hours for the Presidential Primary are from 11am to 7pm. Voting will take place in the Multi-purpose room of the Recreation Department.

- **Assessing Plan for Tax Year 2016**

Mark informs the board of communications between himself and the town's assessing firm, CNP. He informs the board that the draft ratio study of this past year's property sales indicate a median ration of 93%, which is down from the previous year which was 90.5%. This 93%

means that properties in WV according to DRA are still 7% under assessed. DRA will likely require a statistical update in the year 2017 and this should be kept in mind for FY2017 budgeting purposes in December 2016.

8. Old Business

- **Health Insurance – Domestic Partner Coverage**

Mark provided the BOS with a list of towns, supplied by our healthcare provider HealthTrust, who do provide domestic partner health insurance coverage. Many towns in the area, though not all, do offer this coverage to their employees. Discussion followed and led to the motion made to offer this coverage to town employees.

Bill Larsen motions to extend all Health/Dental Insurance coverage to include domestic partner coverage, per the NHMA HealthTrust definition of a domestic partner.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Letter to NH- DES**

The BOS discuss the draft letter to NH-DES requesting a 5-year extension for Corcoran Pond dam improvements. Of particular concern are the costs involved and the time to accumulate the funds. At present time there is approximately \$78K in funds set aside in the Corcoran Pond Dam Repairs Capital Fund. A 5-year extension with continued yearly funding of \$20K would bring the balance to near \$180K by 2021. Mark states we are continuing to work with our engineers and DES to develop a low cost plan, and this needs to be communicated as well. Mark stated that DES wants a start date of the project, which has been a reason that other extensions have been granted. Discussion followed and Mark will redraft the letter and to the board. He will also contact DES and the town engineer and schedule a meeting with the selectmen and clarify DES requirements.

- **Cemetery Regulation Update**

This item is tabled until the next Selectmen's meeting so more information can be acquired on the costs of the memorial wall.

- **WV Water Department Conservation Plan**

The plan was reviewed and it received positive feedback from the selectmen.

9. Correspondence

- **Rey Center**

The board reviews the correspondence concerning letters of support for the Rey Center.

10. Privilege of Floor II

11. Board Concerns and Directives

Mark updates the selectmen with the positions which will be open for the town election in March. The filing period for anyone wishing to run for any of these positions is Wednesday, January 20th to Friday, January 29th, 2016. Those positions include Selectman (3yr term), Moderator (2yr term), Supervisor of the Checklist (6yr term), Trustee of the Trust Funds (3yr

term), and Library Trustee (3yr term). In addition the School District positions open for election are School Board Member (3yr term), School Board Clerk/Treasurer (1yr term), and School Board Moderator (1yr term).

Mark presents to the selectmen the assessing contract for 2016 for review and signatures.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the 1 year contract with CNP for assessing services.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mark reminds the Selectmen about the Christmas Lunch for employees on Thursday, 12/24/15 at 12noon at the town offices.

12. Non-Public Session

The Board members, Mark and Jim go into non-public session to discuss a personnel issue at 4:08pm.

13. Adjournment

Bill Larsen motions to adjourn the meeting.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous voice vote at 4:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant