

**WATERVILLE VALLEY, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: June 4, 2014

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendy Rathgeber, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Mike Somma, Jim Mayhew, Dave Noyes, Tom Quackenbush, Rachel Gasowski, Bill Cantlin, Sharon Charron, Irit Levy

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Bill Larsen

2. Privilege of the Floor I

Wendy reported that they were mostly on track with this first survey. There will be another in August. Currently 95% of the stake holder's surveys are done. They should be all be done by June 20th. To date, we have 300 responses from owners. Out of 250 surveys, 217 are property owners and over 50% were from non-resident property owners. During Chowderfest, Mark Kane felt that due to the impressive showing of guests, he was able to get a good response. Each member of the household may submit a survey. The Board asked that another reminder be posted in order to get more respondents. Some key words that kept popping up were: lighting, parking.

Christine Sterner was introduced as the new Assistant Recreation Director. The rest of the staff is coming in later this month.

3. Approval of Minutes May 14, 2014

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of 5/14/2014 as amended.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Passed

4. Financial Update

A financial update was included as part of the memo packet though not reviewed at the meeting due to time constraints and other agenda items taking precedence. At this point there are no departments that are unexpectedly over spent. Memorial Day weekend was busy for the Rec Dept and the waterfront/boat rentals. The rec dept continues to have a lot of activity for non-revenue producing adult programs.

5. Department Head Updates

Public Works The Board asked Jim Mayhew about the flashboards that were lost and what caused them to fail? It was heavy rain which is supposed to cause it to fail. The board asked how long it takes to refill the pond and Jim responded it takes about 1.5 days to fill it to 3 feet.

- **Recreation Department** Summer camp starts June 23 and runs through Aug 22.

6. Calendar Review

The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 3pm. June 25 is cancelled. July 9, 2014 follows next month.

7. New Business

a) Discussion of Transportation System - Chris Sununu

The Board asked how depreciation is determined: it is a function of the acquisition cost of the busses - over 7 years; the actual life of the busses is between 5-7 years. There are 5 big blues, one trolley - 8 total vehicles. 82K is the cost of one new bus. Two used buses were bought for 8K each. Only 4 busses are run at once.

Chris was asked about the transportation revenue: possibly a cost of the weddings; Sununu is unsure if the bus passes (30 sold) are included. Operating cost includes 20% of management pay; the cost of operating is approximately \$250,000: 25% is paid by the lodges (The Snowy Owl pays them directly), 25% by the town and 50% by the ski area. The town pays \$48,000.

The cost of running the busses to pick up employees is included in the costs. The Board examined the schedule of operating costs. Some of the costs came from the Rec Dept budget. (\$1800 bus bill from Halloween & other activities)

There was a 1996 and a 2006 agreement between everyone in town and the mountain (Tom Day). After results of our survey, perhaps the transportation agreement can be revisited.

When run well, the bus service is indispensable and mostly used by our guests on the weekends. The survey will hopefully help us make it more efficient. Mark says we might be able to use Robertson to serve us. Sununu says that when this question came up 7 years ago, the conclusion was that it was not feasible. But they will pursue it again. Weekend only service was discussed. Bill Cantlin says it's a dilemma if we're trying to develop midweek business. Sununu also says that with the expansion plans, we should maintain the full bus service. BBTS students also use the bus during the weekdays.

The Board wanted to know what our taxes cover: should we not also bus our students into Plymouth if we're bussing employees into WV? Perhaps this issue can be revisited as to how to provide better transportation for all and at what cost.

There are several ways to improve the bus service: such as different loops, better signage at the bus stops, and better lighting. A call system using WIFI might be more effective to cut down the wait time and avoid stops with no passengers. Sununu is pursuing more efficient methods. Better management is important.

The Board asked if we really want to run a bus system at all. Chris says we can market the bus system if we have a reliable one. If midweek business is to be developed, a full time bus service is important. Bill asked what is the bus system "worth" to the town. Why are people not using the busses? Poor lighting at bus stops is one factor.

The Board wanted to know if the ski mountain is healthy. Chris says we're in the black. Nearly \$5m has been sunk in the past 2 years into maintenance. The 8 year expansion permit is in place but we must be patient. The Forest Service must know all the details before one tree is cut. The plan is to start cutting this Fall. There may be an issue with an endangered species

The Board asked if there was anything the town can do to help the mountain. Chris says that after 3 1/2 years, the mountain is doing well. This year, Chris didn't need to access the company line of credit. He would love to see a gondola in use. Bus signs and maps would be helpful.

Margaret Turner suggested that Chris communicate regularly with residents and property owners. Suggestions included posting mountain news in the Wigwag and coffee events similar to the WVDPS's "Coffee with a Cop" program, which has been very successful.

The Board asked about Snows Mt lift; it should be up and running in 2 weeks.

b) Bid Results \$800K Bond DPW Garage

We received 3 bids and the low bidder was Northway Bank at 2.91% for 10 years with bank fees of \$500. This would bring our long term debt to \$3,260,000 as of 12/31/14. The other 2 bids were at or above 3.25% for 10 years.

Bill motions to accept the bid for Northway bonds for \$800K at 2.91%.

Margaret 2nds
unanimous approval.

There was some contaminated soil at garage construction which will be disposed of however no water is contaminated and this will not hold up the project. Footings will be poured tomorrow. Dana will remove contaminated soil at Village Condo. The Board was concerned that there might be a hold up. This problem will not hold up the whole project.

c) Bid Results - new well transmission line project

There were 7 bids; the lowest was Jeremy Hiltz, Excavator @ \$ 437,500 - a very reliable, award winning contractor and they can begin after July 4. The Connector Trail (towns) and the Greeley Pond portion (NF) will be closed during construction during the workday, but there will be detours. The trails will re- open on weekends. Contract #5 is within budget with 125K available for contingencies.

Motion is made to select Hiltz to install water main #4 @ \$437,500.

Margaret 2nds
passed

d) Town Ordinance/ Regulations Review - Chris Hodges

Chris Hodges showed a presentation of many unaesthetic sightings around town. How does this appear to our guests? For example, our dumpsters look awful, fences are falling apart, and electric boxes look decrepit. The old red house on Boulder Path Rd is unsightly. This is not the way a resort should look and some are violations of our existing ordinances. Signs must be "in character" with the town - very ambiguous wording. The Board will personally view the signs to see if they are in violation of town ordinance. The Board might meet an hour early and tour the town looking for unkempt signs. The Board is allowed to fine the owner to remedy the situation

if not fixed within 30 days. Chris needs direction from the Board. The ski area sign needs updating. There are many unsightly looking electric boxes all over town which need to be addressed. The conclusion is that we should not allow our town infrastructure to go into disrepair. The Board might take a tour of the 5 most egregious sights in town and determine if they are in violation of the town ordinance. If we allow all these things to get run-down, we do a disservice to the town. Additional items around town were shown that need to be addressed. Parking lots are in disrepair.

Motion made to send a letter to the Wyman's regarding non compliance of their red house. (They had agreed to remedy the situation in the past; to date, nothing has been done.) The Board discussed at length details of the amounts of the fines that can be imposed. An immediate response is in order.

seconded and passed

The Board wanted to know when it is permissible to cut down trees: Mark Decoteau said there was a difference between site plan approval with a landscape plan & private property. Trees on islands in the parking lots must stay; if islands are removed, then trees are removed. The Board might ask the Planning Board about site plans originally shown as "wooded"; is it allowable to cut trees there? It is unclear what needs to be enforced. Commercial properties go through "site plan approvals" where it is not permissible to cut down trees. Town council might need to be consulted. The PB sets the rules for the commercial properties.

e) Possible Lot Line Adjustment - Town/WCI

Bill Cantlin wants to do a land swap; in the interests of the town, it seems fair. He needs an OK from the BOS before he goes before the PB. This is about setbacks: it will give him the footage enabling him to build. Cantlin will be at the next BOS meeting for further discussion.

8. Old Business

a) Water & Sewer Project

We have received approval from Rural Development to amend Dana White's existing contract and have him act as the General Contractor (GC) for the interior water meter installations.

Motion is made to extend contract of \$344,399 for interior meter installations.

Mike 2nds

Motion is passed.

One additional bid is still needed for the construction of the well site #2 and it will go out to bid in a few weeks.

b) Sign permit requests

The sign ordinance was reviewed as it pertains to the current sign applications. No "for sale" signs are allowed, though in new developments, a "new development sign" is allowable, after approval from the BOS, from the time of the start of construction to when the first certificate occupancy is issued. Currently signs are in violation and signs need to be removed at both Green Peak and at Abode property sign above BBTS. Green Peak Phase II is not approved, so that sign should be removed. A letter to Cantlin should be sent regarding removal of the signs at 7th hole. A discussion continued regarding signage for a developer

with a subdivision versus an individual lot owner. Perhaps the PB should be more flexible about signage if we are to encourage building in town. While construction is going on, the builder may share that small sign with the realtor.

c) Town Website Update

The target date is for mid August. Mark recommends that each board member keep a town email address. This will be a way to contact members, see the calendar, etc rather than through personal email accounts.

9. Correspondence

Mr. Brox is interested in exploring a potential land swap with the USFS. The Board suggests contacting the Forest Service to see if there is any interest from them in exploring this idea.

On August 23rd, there is an event scheduled, which is the Craft Beer 5K Festival on Packard's Field, coordinated by the Ski Area. They will indemnify the town. The same in even in other locations has done well; 800 people coming to Portland, and 800 coming to Stowe, VT, so this will be a popular event. Ask the resort association if this is a good idea. Parking may be an issue. Should we subsidize them & how much if we do? The Board suggests talking to the resort association and make sure it's a good idea.

10. Privilege of the Floor II

None.

11. Board Concerns & Directives

12. Non-Public Session

The 3 BOS members and Mark go into non-public session at 5:23pm to review a domicile request.

Those present come out of non-public at 5:33pm.

Bill Larsen motions to the domicile request of Kelly Peckham.

Margaret 2nds.

Motion is passed unanimously.

Bill Larsen motions to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Irit Levy

Town of Waterville Valley