

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

DATE: May 14, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Larsen, Mike Aronson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Turner

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Decoteau, Jim Mayhew, Cheryl Saenger, Tom Quackenbush, Sharon Charron, Irit Levy

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

2. Privilege of the Floor I

3. Review and Acceptance of Minutes

Bill Larsen motioned to approve the minutes of April 22, 2014 as amended. Change to “snow groomer” instead of “machine”.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Financial Update – The spreadsheet shows all departments are doing well. Planning & Zoning is showing 50% due to the ongoing project. Insurance is also showing 54.5%. Medical is slightly ahead of budget -but nothing to be concerned about. There are no concerns right now. Bond anticipation notes at 82% - annual premiums were paid. Waste water fees are on track, but the town is a little behind in recycling; an adjustment may be necessary. The honor system is not working well. A problem exists with the use of the camera: there were 10 TVs dropped off and only \$3 collected; the cost of staffing would not be cost effective. Jim Mayhew believes most of the recycling is from residents, not outsiders. The Board asked what the cost is to recycle a TV in Campton. It is \$10 but availability is limited. Once the town garage is built, recycling may become more effective as staff will be closer to the Transfer Station.

Revenues – Vehicle registrations are on schedule. Interest payments are coming in and so are past due water and sewer payments. The Board asked about the accounting for past due bills that are then paid at once: they become realized in the year they are paid. When someone does not pay taxes, the unpaid amounts are carried as a receivable until they are converted into liens. We are 100% collected for taxes through 2009. The \$90,000 reserve on our balance sheet is for taxes the auditor considers uncollectible.

5. Department Head Updates

Public Works

- The Board noted that it seems that dumpsters are constantly full during the weekends. The Public Works Director pointed out that two dumpsters are in for repair and there are 13 unserviceable dumpsters. The Board asked if those could be traded in for newer dumpsters. Jim

does not think this is feasible at this time. They are worth about \$200 apiece for scrap metal. A dumpster lasts approximately 20 years and many of the unserviceable dumpsters have already been repaired at least once.

- The Board wants to resolve the recycling challenge. The town requires a particular cover and doors to ensure they are bear-proof. Plastic covers do not hold up to bears. The residents have a tough time accessing these dumpsters. Perhaps a sliding top could be used. The National Forest has the metal sliders that we can consider using. There was a mention of some residents smearing peanut butter on the dumpsters to attract bears for photo ops! For recycling, the town should look at what Holderness does for recycling & accessibility to the dumpsters. The discussion continued as to better accessibility for residents to bring recyclables to the dumpsters. Once the garage is built, Jim Mayhew wants us to consider compactors in our near future. Compactors would cut expenses in the future. All residents would have to bring trash to a central station at that point. The town is still waiting for proposals from private haulers.
- Today was the first day of mowing.
- Flashboards are back up at Corcoran's Pond. During the heavy rains last week, the flashboards on one side of the dam activated and those had to be repaired. This will allow the pond to re-fill in time to get the boats ready for the holiday week.

Recreation Department

- The boats are ready; the beach is almost ready. The summer staff has been selected for the waterfront and the camps. All but three staff members are returning from last year. The assistant director will start in about 10 days. Community Clean-up day was today. The fishing derby is scheduled on Saturday May 24th.

Public Safety

- Citizens Academy is up and running.
- The ladder truck is still being repaired.
- Jim will get back to the Board concerning an exhaust leak.

6. Calendar Review

- There is a conflict on May 28 so the next meeting will be held on June 4 at 3pm.
- Chris Sununu is needed to come discuss the issue concerning the busses.

7. New Business

- Trustees of the Trust Funds
The Chairperson of the Trustees was in to inform the Board that the Trustees made a decision to move the funds currently invested with the NH Public Depositors' Investment Pool (NHPDIP) to a Northway CD @ .45% for a term of twelve months. Last year, the town funds in the NHPDIP earned \$37.42 @.001%. \$100,000 is being invested and will earn \$450 in interest at Northway Bank. The Board responds that the Trustees' work is appreciated.

- IT news
Tom says the new website is almost ready to go on line next week for testing; the final rollout of fully updated pages is still weeks away as each of the department pages still need to be built.
- Tax Warrant
TY2014 1st Half Tax Bills - sign warrant. The total warrant is \$2,053,175 which is exactly half of last year's total amount. The Town Manager pointed out that the town has an excellent collection rate of 99.5%, 99.17%, and 98.7% for years 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. Our top 5 taxpayers are all current (which is another factor that the bank considers when establishing our interest rates on loans).
- Historical Files and Memorabilia
There are maps, photos, documents in 2 wall size cabinets with the memorabilia and two 4 drawer file cabinets with financial information. The documents must be kept. This material has been gone through and needs a new space. This meeting room may be the place to move it to temporarily. A discussion continued regarding saving documents on disks but the costs are prohibitive at this point. A suggestion was made to add an annex to the library and create a museum. The Town and the Library Trustees will have to have an initial meeting and look into possible options for this kind of an addition to the existing library.

Sign Permit Application, D & M Fortin

Permits for signs have a time limit if the town specifies one. The Fortins want to put up a sign that faces Lost Pass Road. In the past, the Board only approved signs once construction began and the sign had to be removed once construction was completed. Signs were not left on a property indefinitely. "Offered for Sale" signs are not allowed at any time. Signs that advertise "lots for sale" are not allowed at any time. The Board discussed that perhaps once a building permit has been pulled, only then can a sign be allowed. The Board notes that "Open house" signs are allowed. This subject needs further discussion. Blanchard & Roper can perhaps join in the discussion at the June meeting. Discussion is tabled until June meeting.

- Request for Sign: "Private Way" for Garages Association located on Garage Way & Tecumseh Rds. It is a private way but is currently used as a thru way. A sign placed there would minimize traffic. Green Peak can also benefit from a sign that says "Not a Thru Way".
- Motion to approve the sign for Garage Way made by M. Aronson, seconded by B. Larsen. Motion is approved by unanimous voice vote.

WVRA Request for Payment

- This amount finishes all of the available funding for this fiscal year. Motion by M. Aronson to approve payment of \$1,680, seconded by B. Larsen seconds. Motion is approved.

US Forest Service 30 day comment period on ski area project

- The Board wants to make sure that the Academy is aware of the decision to take out the half pipe. The Board has no other comment.

8. Old Business

- Land Issues: Let's contact the Forest Service: waiting for Brox and the dialog is beginning.

- Request for BAN disbursement of 200,000 bearing interest @ 1.97% interest. The total borrowed to date including the 200K is \$1,575,000 for our water meter loan.
- Water & Sewer Bid Request for Meter Installations: There are 4 non-mandatory pre-bids for the water meter installations: Lyman, Andrews, White and Jamco. Water meter pit installations are going well. Mountain Brook is next in line, starting tomorrow. We have not heard from DES regarding Village Condos yet. Regarding the internal meters: there are no bids as of yet; Rural Development is fine with Dana White working as the gc with plumbers working for him. Mark asked the Board if a contract amendment would be agreeable. 2 budgets have been approved so far (externals are under budget; internals are unclear just yet). If Dana's number is not over budget, an amendment can simply be made to the existing contract. The Board is concerned about Dana's numbers possibly exceeding the budgeted numbers; if that happens, Mark will address the Board.

9. Correspondence

- There is a letter from Peter Bragdon who is leaving the NH Senate and remaining as executive director of the Health Trust.
- A PSU letter regarding Cheif Dave Noyes' excellent job in a recent class on campus helping seniors on a voluntary basis.
- The Town Manager informed the Board that the annual request for funding for Theatre Under the Stars was \$3,000 this year. The Town has historically done between \$1,500 and \$2,000. The Board is okay with a donation of \$2,000 for the year. In addition the Town will supply volunteers to help over the Memorial Day weekend with the tent set up and other work.
- The Town Manager showed the Board response letters from the state and federal legislative delegation members regarding the Town Meeting resolutions on voting issues that came out of a petitioned warrant article.

10. Other Issues

Bus Service Invoices

Chris Sununu is putting the numbers together and will have better information for us in June. The Board asked about payment for services. We can pay \$20,000 which means \$8000 will be remaining to be paid on the \$48,000 annual amount budgeted.

The Board unanimously approved the payment of the requested \$20,000, but no other payment can be made until the Board has had an opportunity to talk with Chris Sununu regarding the overall transportation system.

Curious George Cottage

Chris Bierbrier contacted Mark regarding the history of the maintenance of the Rey Center Cottage. When the Curious George was part of the recreation budget, the town ran programs out of the cottage, paid staff to provide those programs and maintained the building. When the Rey Center became a non profit, the town continued to own the building but chose to grant \$25,000 per year for them to use for building maintenance, staffing, etc. and all programs were turned over to the Margaret and HA Rey Center non-profit. The Town Manager reminded the Board that if the Town does not continue to own the cottage, the affiliation with naming rights to "Curious George" ends.

11. Privilege of the Floor II

None

12. Board Concerns & Directive

There have been suggestions asking Chris Sununu to share information regarding the general status of the mountain. Even though it's private, it directly affects our town. Mark should prepare Chris for this discussion. The Ski Resort is the second largest taxpayer in town. The success of the ski area and the resort is in the Town's best interest.

The Board adjourned the meeting to go into non-public at 4:20 pm.

13. Non-Public Session

The Board went into non-public session at 4:20 pm for the purposes of discussing a Domicile Application and to discuss pending legal issues.

The Selectmen came out of non-public session at 4:35 pm. When they came out of non-public they took the following action:

Motion by Mike, 2nd by Bill to, "Grant the Domicile Application of Allison and Kevin Dill." The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimous vote at 4:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Irit Levy
Town of Waterville Valley