

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

DATE: November 14, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Aronson, Chairman, Margaret Turner, Vice-Chair, and Richard Rita.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield, Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chair Mike Aronson.

2. Privilege of Floor I

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 10/24/18 Regular Meeting & 11/7/18 Special Meeting

Margaret Turner motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 24, 2018 as amended.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Rich Rita motions to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on November 7, 2018 as amended.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Report

Mark reports that we are currently 88% thru the yearly budget and 85% expended of said budget. No departments are exceeded beyond 88% of their respective budgets. All health, hospitals and community support payments and insurances are paid thru the year. The overage in the IT budget is due to unplanned equipment replacement. The board had no additional questions.

5. Calendar Review

- The next Selectmen's meeting is Wed., November 28th at 3pm.
- The next Planning Board meeting is Thurs., December 13th at 8am. There is a possible public hearing on the proposed zoning changes.
- Departmental budget review with the Selectmen is the week of December 10th. The BOS will have a draft version of budget by 11/30/18 for review prior to meetings with department heads.

6. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reports that the WVES Harvest dinner is 11/15/18 from 5-7pm and it is a fundraiser offered by the PTA and to-go boxes are available. The cost is \$10/dinner. She has activities planned for Thanksgiving break. Christmas and February vacation weeks schedules are almost all set. Revenues from the boats met the projected budget numbers, but the final number was not reported, as another payment is expected. The Recreation Dept bus had a minor mechanical problem, but it seems to have corrected itself after being warmed up and driven. Discussion followed with concern to the safety of the bus, the nature of the issue, and the bus' eventual replacement in 2019 within the current CIP Plan.

- **Public Works/Municipal Services**

Jim Mayhew reports that the new plow truck is expected on Dec 1st. Bill Cheney's last day with the town is Friday, 11/16. Jim is pleased with his staff stepping up to fill Bill's shoes, though his personal knowledge of the town's infrastructure and equipment will be hard to replace.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that he is still looking at options for a used or new ladder truck during the present lease to ensure a better deal does not exist. Building permits have been issued for a new detached garage (Demaso on Boulder Path Rd.) and another single family home (Roberts on River Rd.). He is catching up on no parking signs for winter parking. He also reports there will be an EMT class being offered which will be taught by Jeff Dropkin starting on 12/6 for 8 weeks. The course will cost \$800 and no charge for current full-time town employees.

7. New Business

- **Veteran's Tax Credit Application – P. Mercier**

The board reviewed the Veteran's Tax Credit application from Paul Mercier and the recommendation from Mark Decoteau. The board was in agreement to deny the application based upon the facts that the property is owned by a trust and he is a 14% owner of that trust, per his application.

Mike Aronson motions to deny the request for a Veteran's Tax Credit from Paul Mercier.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

8. Old Business

- **Ladder Truck Disposal Recommendations**

Chief Chris Hodges provided information on scrap dealers and recommends dealer in Bristol as the best choice at the rate of \$150/ton for a price of \$4,392. Anything that is worth saving on the truck has been removed already. The tires were removed and switched with the garbage truck tires which saved the town from purchasing new tires for the garbage truck, approximately a \$3500 cost. There is a separate cost to dispose of the older tires on the truck at \$100 each.

Margaret Turner motions to dispose of the 1987 Ladder Truck to a Bristol, NH scrap dealer stating sold as scrap.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Town Water & Sewer Regulation Changes**

A discussion ensued regarding point based billing rate versus usage rate system. The point system has historically been used because of the low number of year round residents in town. If a usage system was used, the rate would be exceptionally high and the year round residents would carry the majority of the burden of the cost for maintaining the infrastructure. By using a flat rate point system based upon access points to water, the infrastructure is able to be funded in a manner which is more consistent for all property owners. Every property in town is not currently individually metered, but all buildings are metered for usage. When the water meters were installed, meters were installed in all of the condo units which were able to be individually metered. There were some condos, that due to construction, were not able to be metered individually, and in those cases the entire building was metered. Further discussion followed regarding the process to update the assessment form to match the existing regulations and the steps needed to get re-assessments done. Certain features discussed included whirlpool tubs, lofts/apartments, and water coolers/fountains/refrigerator door access. Some of the features on the form were viewed as dated and in need of updating. The assessment form is also used to determine the Tap Fees for new construction. Due to potentially inaccurate or missing original tap assessment forms, it was suggested to update all properties in town. The process to do this includes sending letters to residential property owners requesting they voluntarily allow the town access to their property to redo the tap fee assessment. When ownership is transferred, request this of the new owner, when a new building is constructed, or when a building permit is issued which involves plumbing renovations. Additionally, when the next revaluation project takes place, the assessing agent will complete a new score sheet for any property they enter. Once the revisions are complete, there will be a public hearing in December at a Selectmen's meeting.

- **Town Entrance Project**

Mark Decoteau received information, via NH-DOT, about the land upon the new town entrance sign now is placed. Per DOT, the area is shown to be town ROW by the NH State Legislature when the road changed its classification and became a class 5 town road from a class 2 state road. Mike Aronson added the background information that the Forest Service has claimed that the new sign sits upon their land. They have stated that the Town will need a \$200 yearly Special Use Permit for the sign, as well as a sign-off from WVSR to use their iconic WV bug logo on the sign, and a sign-off from NH-DOT to use their ROW. WVSR has agreed to use of the WV bug logo. NH-DOT has taken a neutral position and has said the land belongs to the town, not the state or the USFS. Mark added that per the DOT engineer, the DOT ROW on route 49 establishes property boundaries and if that road is discontinued, the property owner then owns to the center of the road. However as long as that road is there, the ROW is the property boundary and the only entity that can do anything within it is DOT. The same principal applies to the town ROW on town roads. When the town acquired ownership of the road, the state gave the town the 132' ROW, which has been on our tax maps as establishing the property boundary with the USFS. The USFS has deeds dating back to 1966 which state only 49.5' was actually deeded and the remaining was an easement over USFS land. USFS contends the easement means that the USFS has the ownership of the land and they don't recognize the property boundary, as listed on the tax maps, only the 49.5', which in their opinion means that the entire new sign is on USFS property. At this point, DOT and the USFS have to come to an agreement, and then the Town can react to that outcome, whatever it may be. Aside from the ownership of the land, the structure for the sign is complete. The sign is being constructed and is expected to be in place soon.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Project**

The project is currently on hold due to the extreme cold weather. Equipment is on site. No changes have been made to the schedule but there is a meeting next week which will provide more information. The weather pattern needs to change for the work to be done. Mark expressed a concern that to do more work this year than what has been done thus far. Additionally, the saturation of the ground, and the thawing in the springtime, will have an effect on when work is able to begin in the spring.

- **Well #3 Update**

There has been no work done since last meeting due to the weather. In the last discussion with EGGI, it has been recommended by EGGI to wait until springtime to continue with the work. Mike Aronson expressed concern about a potential well failure over the winter and the town providing ample water the property owners. Mark stated with just one well in operation, the town would be able to meet the water demands, but would be in violation of our gallons allowed by permit, which is what occurred in a previous winter. However the state will allow the town to do this, knowing it is in violation. EGGI has proposed to DES to remove the galleries from the well, either by closing them off or removing them entirely. EGGI is in favor of removing the galleries entirely for the reason that they may be the sources of the contamination as it appears that the well is recharging from below the galleries, as opposed to through the galleries themselves. The removal of the galleries could cause DES to either lower the yield of the well or require the town to re-permit the well and meet current regulations. We are waiting for an answer from DES before any work to the galleries begins and thus it is best to delay any further work until next spring.

9. Board Concerns and Directives

Margaret Turner informs the board that the 2019 July 4th Concert with the NH Music Festival has been cancelled. The Rey Center was not comfortable in signing a contract with the NH Music Festival for a variety of reasons and is now in process of refunding the donors. The board appreciated both Margaret's and the Rey Center's efforts for their work in trying to host the event.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Privilege of Floor II

None.

12. Non-public Session

The board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (e) for consideration or negotiation of pending claims, and under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) for a discussion that could adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board, and under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) for a personnel matter. The Motion was made by Rich Rita and seconded by Mike Aronson, followed by a roll call vote as follows: Selectman Aronson – aye, Selectman Turner – aye, Selectmen Rita – aye and the Board went into Non-Public Session at 4:16pm. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:46pm.

Upon return to the public session a motion was made to seal the minutes by Mike Aronson and seconded by Margaret Turner because it is determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this board. The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting 4:47pm.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant