

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

DATE: June 26, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Aronson, Chairman (arrived @3:24pm after first non-public session), Margaret Turner, Vice-Chair and Richard Rita.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry Stringham (local State Rep), Mike Koppel, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Brooke Wakefield Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Margaret Turner.

2. Non-public Session

The Board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even when legal counsel is not present. The Motion was made by Margaret Turner and seconded by Rich Rita, followed by a roll call vote as follows: Selectman Aronson – not present, Selectman Turner – aye, Selectmen Rita – aye and the Board went into Non-Public Session at 3:01pm. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 3:23pm.

Upon return to the public session a motion was made to seal the minutes by Margaret Turner and seconded by Rich Rita 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.

3. Privilege of the Floor I

Mike Koppel informs the Board of support from the North Country Council to reiterate and publicize that Route 49 is a NH Scenic Byway. During his discussion with NCC, Mike and the Council members proposed that signage to indicate the roadway as a scenic byway would be most helpful in re-establishing the Scenic Byway designation.. The Board is supportive of Mike proceeding to establish NH Scenic Byway signage for Route 49.

Jerry Stringham, WV's NH District State Representative, informs the board of his activities in recent legislative sessions. He is a Ways and Means Committee member. Relevant items include the 3% from Meals/Rooms taxes for funding promotion of tourism. He provided an educational funding update regarding adequacy funding formulas and donor towns versus underfunded towns. It is possible that new formulas will be proposed based upon recent court decisions. His concern for the donor towns is if a new formula is proposed and accepted by the courts, it will be out of legislative control. The State Biennial budget has \$130 million in increased education funding, though none of that comes to Waterville Valley, as a more affluent property town. This funding is still of value to WV as it takes pressure off of the court system as a whole. Jerry stated the formula he's seen is almost flat for WV for the next Biennium operation of the Elementary

School. The Governor has threatened to veto the proposed budget because it raises business taxes to 7.9%. The Governor did formerly pledge to keep business taxes at the 7.7% rate this year and down to 7.4% the following year. M. Decoteau asked if the Governor veto's the budget, what would be the legislature's response and Jerry stated that there would be a continuing resolution already in effect until a compromise budget is reached. The Board's concern was this timing for tax bill and the possible reinstatement of donor towns prior to the tax rate setting in 2019. . Jerry felt confident that a continuing resolution would be in effect already so that the town would be able to retain the same amount of the statewide Education Property Tax as last year. Jerry then announced that he was recently contacted by Chris Hodges regarding a legislative proposal to rename route 49 in honor of Spf Marc Paul Decoteau. He asked permission from the Town, and subsequently M. Decoteau, to sponsor this bill this fall. The Selectmen were supportive of the proposal and M. Decoteau thanked Jerry as well.

4. Approval of Minutes 6/12/19 Regular Meeting

The minutes were reviewed and tabled for approval until the next meeting on 6/26/19.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of 5/8/19 as amended.

5. Financial Update

We are currently 48.1 % through the year and there are no anticipated budget issues at this time. The Board is already aware of departments that are tracking ahead of budget.

6. Calendar Review

- a. Planning Board Special Meeting – 8am on June 27th
- b. Next Regular Selectmen's Meeting – 3pm on July 17th
- c. Planning Board Regular Meeting – 8am July 11th

7. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reports that things are busy and camps are in session. There are 2 campfires this week on the beach, scheduled through the Recreation Department, that are being affected by the Dam construction delays. Customers pay \$200 in total for the campfire as an activity for their group. The Thursday night (6/27) campfire will not be on the beach, but instead near the arbor on the pond. The resort has asked for the fee to be waived on behalf of the wedding party in lieu of the relocation. Brooke adds that a campfire require 2 staff members be present and there isn't much of any profit after employee wages are paid. The Friday (6/28) campfire should be able to be on the beach after the contractor has cleared from the area on Friday as planned. There are additional beach campfires schedule for the following week as well and M. Decoteau assured Brooke that these will be unaffected. The Selectmen concur with waiving the fees for the campfire. Brooke adds that information is being circulated about the Redliner 125 Program and the new hiking programs via social media and the Recreation Department's website. The POS software used by the Recreation Department and on the website has presented some challenges with registering for activities. Brooke offered that a "landing page" for the Redliner 125 be created and is working with the marketing company to implement this with the existing website for an improved customer experience. Brooke is also working on quicker delivery of account creation confirmation to customers. She explained that the features/services in the Rec Desk software offers outweigh the required staff time needed for website maintenance from the Rec

Desk process.. Brooke also explained that the Redliner 125 Patch program can be completed independently as long the hikes are documented and the fee for the patch is paid. M. Decoteau added that the Town's website has been updated a more prominent Recreation Department logo and a link for more direct access to the Recreation pages and programs. Brooke is continuing to work with the WVRA, The Rey Center and WVAIA to promote the hiking programs. Rich Rita asked about efforts to market WV as the "*1st Integrated Trail Network in the US*" and Brooke stated she is working with the marketing company and the Town's trail consultant, Steve Smith, to promote both simultaneously. Rich suggested that the phrase is prominently placed on the Town's website as well for exposure. Staff will look into making appropriate changes to the website.

- **Public Works/Municipal Services**

Jim Mayhew is not in attendance. M. Decoteau will update the Public Works Projects later in the meeting.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges updates the Board on July 4th plans. The parade will begin at 11am with lineup beginning at 10am in the conference center parking lot. Brooke adds that there is a \$10 fee for a vehicle to enter the decoration contest. The competition is getting more participation each year. There will be a road closure of Valley Rd from Village Rd to Packard's Rd beginning at 12:00 noon to prepare for the fireworks display. Chris adds that Chief Noyes is on vacation this week and all equipment is working well.

8. New Business

- **Application for PILT Payment for National Forest**

The annual application from NH-DRA for Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for the National Forest lands in Waterville Valley was presented to and signed by the Selectmen.

Margaret Turner motions to approve signing of the PILT Application.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Library Repairs Bids**

The Board discussed the single bid that was received for the repair work at the Library. Rick Stachecki bid \$28,795 lump sum for the work. There was unknown as to why only one bid received, but the contractor is currently working on another project in town. The bid noted that the extent of foundation repairs was unknown and not quoted until excavation and inspection of the foundation took place. Mr. Stachecki noted additional work on the foundation would be charged on a materials plus labor basis. M. Decoteau suggested allotting an additional \$5K as an allowance for foundation repairs and any further costs would be presented to the Board for approval prior to construction.

Mike Aronson motions to accept the Library repairs bid from Rick Stachecki for \$28,795 with a \$5,000 allowance for foundation repairs amendment for a total amount of \$33,795.

Margaret Turner 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

9. Old Business

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Project Update**

M. Decoteau informs the Board that there is a 14 item punch list as of today. The contractor also requested the engineer to approve the substantial completion of the project and the request was denied. Incomplete items include railings for the bridge, the stairway and electrical work. There is an issue with the stairway and the ACB's touching the stairs, which was not to plan specifications and the engineers need to approve the modifications prior to any modifications. The modification means removing 2 stair treads and replacing them with concrete pad. M. Decoteau reminded the Board that the bridge will be open by Friday afternoon. The following week the stairway, bridge decking and the railings are scheduled to be completed. Tuesday is planned as a day to clear the site. Everything will be open on Tuesday so that preparations for the movie on the beach and July 4th events can take place. There will be fencing in place to protect areas that have been hydro-seeded. M. Decoteau has been talking with the engineer about liquidated damages, as the contractor is 10 days beyond the agreed upon substantial completion date of 6/14/19, and he will have a recommendation sometime next week. A special Selectmen's meeting might be necessary to discuss the matter further as the engineer is still talking to the contractor about a resolution.

- **Well #3 Project Update**

M. Decoteau informs the Board that everything at the well is complete, except for the fencing. They are looking to return in August, when the water table is lower, to do the 100' extension of the water line in preparation for the future connection to the treatment building. The transmission line still needs to be engineered and a cost estimate or bid secured for presentation to the 2020 Town Meeting. The pump house #1 building will only house the electrical control for the heat tape for the sewer pipe attached to the West Branch Rd Bridge. Testing on well #3 is estimated to be a month or two away still and M. Decoteau was anxious to see the recharge rate on the well once it is pumped down. The remaining budget for the project will be \$52,207 once contract is submitted to PRIMEX for the additional insurance claim of \$15,600 from the Well#1 claim.

- **Arena Update**

- **Recycling Options**

M. Decoteau states there is no report yet from the NRRA site visit with suggestions for recycling options. Verbal comments from their visit included controlled access to the transfer station and the recycling options for aluminum cans/bottles. M. Decoteau is waiting for CCS to install wifi for security cameras at the transfer station area and signage will follow indicating their presence. The attendant at the transfer station has been effective and increases in both revenues and billings as a result. The present attendant will return to school at the end of August and efforts are underway to have someone else in place at that time to ensure a good transition.

10. Board Concerns and Directives

Rich Rita motions that the Town Manager and Town Counsel follow up on the matter discussed earlier in the Non-public session at the beginning of the meeting.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a voice vote, with one member abstaining who was not present at the Non-public session.

Rich Rita asks about the kiosk by the Library that contains an old outdated hiking map. M. Decoteau states he believed the kiosk belongs to WVAIA and will speak to them about updating or removing the map.

A brief conversation followed about enforcement of the transfer station after the video cameras are installed. M. Decoteau will speak with Chief Noyes and come back to the Board with a plan once the area is monitored. Jim Mayhew has been taking inventory of items left each day and funds left in the “honor system” payment box. There are normally less funds in the box than there should be which indicates that some individuals are leaving items without making payment.

11. Correspondence

None.

12. Privilege of the Floor II

None.

13. Non-public Session

The Board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant, and RSA 91-A: 3, II (l) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even when legal counsel is not present. The Motion was made by Mike Aronson and seconded by Rich Rita, 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 4:27pm. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:47pm.

Upon return to the public session a motion was made to seal the minutes by Margaret Turner and seconded by Rich Rita 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.

13. Adjourn

Mike Aronson motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:47pm.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant