

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

**DATE:** December 18, 2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Aronson, Chairman, Margaret Turner, Vice-Chair and Richard Rita (speaker phone).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tom Gross, Reggie Breeckner, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield, Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron

**1. The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chair Mike Aronson.**

**2. Privilege of the Floor I**

Tom Gross addresses the Board regarding the Memorial Chapel. In an effort to keep the Board informed he distributes maps with the approximate location of the Chapel. Tom stated an architect is close to being selected. The dimensions of the Chapel were not yet known until after a completed survey of the parcel is done, taking into consideration the topography and proximity to the beach and the proposed Town pavilion/bathhouse. Tom expected to have more information for the Board prior to Town Meeting so the Board can inform the voters. There will not be a Warrant Article for 2020, but more likely looking towards 2021. There are a number of considerations that need to be addressed before that time which involve trails, site access and abutting property owners. The Board thanked Tom for the information he provided.

**3. Approval of Minutes of November 6, 2019 and December 4, 2019**

- **11/06/19 Regular Meeting**

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of 11/06/19 Regular Meeting as amended.

Rich Rita: 2nds. Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote, with 1 abstention as M. Turner was not present at the meeting.

- **12/04/19 Regular Meeting**

The minutes of 12/04/19 Regular Meeting were tabled until the next meeting on 1/08/2020.

**4. Financial Update**

Mark informed the Board that the Town is doing very well and is 98% through the year and 96% spent at this time. Line items were reviewed for projecting to being overspent or over collected. There are no surprises as these have been discussed at prior meetings. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter water/sewer billings are not reflected in the report but will be in the next report after the warrants are generated. Mark projects that the overall budget will be underspent at year end 2019.

A brief discussion followed regarding the point scoring of the water/sewer billings. Concern was expressed that older properties are scored under an older tabulation sheet and the newer properties are scored under a newer tabulation sheet creating discrepancies between like properties. Budgetary impacts for staff time to inspect properties has not been included in the

2020 Budget. Town Counsel will be contacted for an opinion on how best to roll out changes; either within the rate structure or the point scoring system. This will be further discussed as an agenda item for the 1/08/2020 Board meeting.

## **5. Calendar Review**

- Upcoming Regular Selectmen's Meetings –
  1. BOS Regular meetings January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- The next regular meeting of the Planning Board is January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **6. Department Heads Updates**

### **• Public Works/Municipal Services**

Jim Mayhew reports that cleanup of roads continues as needed. Well #3 received another clean in-house water test to make a total of 4 clean tests in a row. The clean tests indicate that the infiltration of ground water into the well is no longer taking place and the repairs made thus far have been effective. After the holidays, a discussion with Jamie Emery of EGGI will take place to determine what the next action for the Town will be for Well #3.

### **• Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that the staff is ready for the upcoming holiday week. Staff and equipment are both in good shape.

### **• Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reports she is gearing up for the vacation week with many activities being offered. Zumba has started on Thursdays at 3pm and has been well attended. Candy Cottages are being offered this upcoming weekend, 12/21/19. There are also several guided hikes being offered over the 2-week vacation period. Brooke noted that NH schools return to the classroom on 1/02/2020 and most of the MA schools return the following Monday, 1/06/2020. She is working with the WVES school to coordinate with the school schedules. There is an increase in the occupancy rate to near 80% for the weekend after New Year's.

## **7. New Business**

### **• Town Engineering Services RFQ's**

Mark reports that the Town is still getting inquiries and expect to have a number (4-5 potentially) of submissions by the deadline of Friday, 12/20/19.

### **• Sign Permit Application – WVSR Welcome Center**

The application was reviewed and a motion was made by Mike Aronson to approve the sign application for the WVSR new Welcome Center located at the former site of Waterville Valley Realty on Valley Road.

Margaret Turner: 2nds. Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **• Legal Services Change**

The Board reviews the letter from Steven Whitley regarding his leaving the Mitchell Group Law firm. Mr. Whitley has reached out to the Town to see if the Town wanted to follow him to another firm, or not. The Board saw no reason to leave the Mitchell Group.

A motion was made by Rich Rita to continue with the Mitchell Group, P.A. for the Town's legal services.

Margaret Turner: 2nds. Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

## **8. Old Business**

- **Assessing Services Bids**

The Board discussed the bids received and the option to go with a new company or remain with the current assessing firm. Mike Aronson expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of communications with local realty offices when the Town last went through a full reassessment and the resulting devaluation of properties in town. Margaret added that it is better to go with a new firm prior to a reassessment year so that they can gain familiarity with the town in preparation for a reassessment year. The full Board was in agreement that now is a better time to make a change as we are not in a revaluation year. The Board also wanted it noted that an RFP was issued in 2018 and the only response returned was from the Town's current firm, CNP. Margaret Turner's motion for the Town to move to the Whitney Consulting Group for the Town's assessing services for a 2-year contract.

Rich Rita: 2nds. Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Marks adds that this 2-year contract with Whitney Consulting Group will take the Town through the next Town-wide revaluation.

- **Dam Project Update**

Mark informs the Board that the Town has an email from DES stating they have received all of the as-built drawings for the Dam Project. DES stated that are satisfied with the walk-through done at the completion of the project and the Administrative Order has been complied with to their satisfaction. The DES legal department still needs to review the project documents and if that review goes past the 12/31/2019 deadline, the Town has still fulfilled its obligations.

- **Ice Arena Update**

Discussion will take place in non-public session.

## **9. Board Concerns and Directives**

None.

## **10. Correspondence**

Mark informs the Board that recent monthly bacteria water system test, performed by Eastern Analytical, had clean results. The sites tested included the WV Elementary School, WV Academy and the Black Bear Lodge.

Sharon informs the Board of NH-Dept of Revenue informed the Town of the 2019 Equalized Sales Ratio is at 99.9% and the Medium Ratio is at 98.3%.

## **11. Privilege of the Floor II**

## **12. 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 this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include 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. The Motion was made by Mike Aronson and seconded by Margaret Turner, 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 3:40pm. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 3:50pm.

Upon return to the public session a motion was made to seal the minutes by Mike Aronson 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**

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting at 3:50pm.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant