

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

DATE: August 24, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Aronson and Bill Larsen. Margaret Turner (via speaker phone).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Reggie Breeckner, Rich Rita, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, and Sharon Charron.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Privilege of Floor 1
None.

3. Approval of Minutes 8/5/16 & 8/10/16 Regular Meetings

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of the Selectmen of 8/5/16 as presented.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Selectmen of 8/10/16 as presented.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Mike Aronson questioned the expenditures of \$29,000 on line item of *Other General Government*, and it was answered that \$4,000 was for the busses and \$25,000 for the Rey Center Support. There were no other questions by the Board.

5. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield is absent due to staffing for the camp “trips” week and Mark report on her behalf. There are 40-50 camper expected for week 10, which is down slightly for the week. Overall for the year the camp numbers are up over 330 camper days. There are many events planned for Labor Day Weekend; dodge ball tournament, ice cream social and road race.

- **Public Safety**

Chief Chris Hodges stated that his monthly activity report for August shows a few weeks of increased activity, but has since declined. The Public Safety Citizens Academy is scheduled to begin on September 14, and it will run for 5 weeks. There have been no issues with wedding

guests and it was commented that Legend's closing earlier (midnight) has helped in this regard. When asked if any new trends of resort guests he reported that bicycle accidents occur almost daily with minor injuries such as surface wounds (scrapes & bruises), and this has been the pattern for the last few years. The injuries are the results of minor falls off the bikes on the trails mostly by inexperienced riders. It was commented that many people descending Snow's Mountain by the Livermore Trail are sometimes going very fast due to their inexperience as trail bicyclists. The cruiser will be delivered tomorrow on 8/25. The new truck is being detailed with department decals as well.

- **Public Works**

Jim Mayhew reports that other than old business agenda items he had no further items at this time, unless the Board had any questions for him.

6. Calendar Review

The next regular Selectmen's meeting is Wed., 9/14/16 at 3pm.

The following meeting is Wed., 9/28/16 at 3pm.

Bill Larsen will be gone October 14th thru the end of the month.

The State Primary Election is Tuesday, September 13, 2016 from 11am to 7pm at the Multipurpose Room of the Recreation Department.

7. New Business

- **MS-343 Revenue report**

Mark Decoteau reviews the adjusted revenue recommendations for the departments. The total of all adjustments is \$92,325. This is broken down to the following: \$60K is because the Our Town Grant was not awarded to the town; \$20K is from Water/Sewer Revenues that are not believed to be made in the 3rd & 4th quarters of 2016, \$8,800 in building permits, and \$10K in miscellaneous revenues for Primex insurance return on premium. The Primex premium return may still happen, but at this time we have not heard so it was felt best to adjust revenues assuming it would not occur. These reductions are offset by a combined increase of \$11K for Payments in Lieu of Taxes and Interest paid year to date. In the Recreation Department a reduction of \$11K is estimated due to waterfront revenue (boat rentals) and Pay-As-You-Go Programs. Mark additionally noted that Brooke will work to reduce expenditures to offset the revenue reductions so the tax payer's support of the Recreation Department will remain at \$131K. Further adjustments can be at tax rate setting time if warranted, but it was thought that it wouldn't be necessary. Discussion followed concerning the water/sewer adjustment and it was explained that the reduced amount of guests at the lodges in 2016 had a direct effect upon the lesser amount being billed out to commercial properties who are billed by water usage and trash pickups. The bad weather of the winter of 2016 contributed to the reduced demand overall.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the revenues changes made by the Board of Selectmen reflected upon the MS-434 by \$92,324.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **MS-1 Report**

Mark reports that the MS-1, which is the total valuation report to DRA for property assessment in town. The town's assessing firm has completed their work for 2016 and results in an increase of about 1%, or just over 3 million dollars. The total assessment for the town will be \$335,895,878 for 2016. The increase is a result of several new homes being completed and thus now able to be fully taxed upon their value as opposed to partial value for being incomplete construction. Veterans Credits, Elderly Exemptions, and how the Equalization ratio impacts the assessment value were also briefly discussed.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the numbers as presented upon the MS-1 form to DRA.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **School Playground Project**

Mark updated the Board regarding the school's desire to build a basketball court near the Curious George Cottage, where the observatory is located. Their intention was to ask the town to relocate or remove the observatory. The board expressed concerns about the move in general as well as how it would be funded. It was thought that one of the classes had gifted money to the school for this purpose. Mark has approached the WMAC and asked if they would be willing to donate a small portion of land and use the Land Conservation Grant process for the costs. The WMAC board previously decided not to donate the entire parcel to the town, and they have not yet met to discuss this new idea, but are planning to at their upcoming meeting on September 11th. Mark has been informed by the State that the grant application amount for the Land Conservation Fund can be reduced. Discussion followed concerning the need for an outside basketball court for the school and the limited area of the school parking currently used for recess lot that is currently used for recess. Other ideas for outside courts were for Pickleball courts, which many residents would also utilize. Mark stated that he will move forward with the Land & Conservation Fund grant application on behalf of the town, in conjunction with the school, for the funding for the basketball court, contingent upon WMAC donating the land. The land that the observatory is on would remain unchanged.

8. Old Business

- **Town Road Repairs Work Plan**

Jim Mayhew reviewed the proposal for work on road shoulders and ditches. The costs for materials total \$2,000 and are within the current budget for the Public Works-Highway Dept. Jim also noted that there is additional work that would require the use of outside contractors and equipment that he would like to include for the 2017 budget. The costs for this work are estimated to be \$10,000 and cover approximately 2 miles of shoulders on both sides of road. The work to be performed this year will begin just after Labor Day weekend.

There are also 3 sewer manholes located in front of the school which require repairs prior to winter. These have sunken over the time due to the mortar deteriorating from the seepage of road salt. When this occurs the bricks begin to fall in and the cover frame sinks as a result. Other manholes in town also experience this as well and Jim is watching them closely. The 3 covers in front of the school do require repairs now as that Noon Peak Rd is heavily traveled.

- **Water & Sewer Project Update**

Mark comments that the project will begin construction on Thursday, 8/25/16, and that we have a signed contract with the chosen bidder, ICC using Dana White as a subcontractor. Tree cutting will be first thing done in the area of the treatment center on West Branch Rd, followed by the well #4 site and work will continue through the end of October.

Notices have been placed on homeowner's doors of the properties most likely affected by the construction traffic and sounds. Bill Larsen asked about if there would be any interruptions in water service and if so asked that notification be given to those who would be affected. Jim stated that there would be several short periods of time when water will be shut off to the reservoir. This would not affect any residence's access to water, as it would only affect water being pumped into the reservoir. Jim also said he planned to make sure the reservoir was full and would look towards slower periods of usage when this occurred. Homeowners nearest to the construction sites on West Branch Rd, River Rd. and Boulder Path Rd were all given notices placed upon their doors alerting them to the onset of construction. Additional information is posted upon the website, and a NIXLE message was also sent out by Public Safety.

- **Sign Permit – Green Peak Condominium Phase 2 by Waterville Company Inc.**

Mike Aronson recuses himself from the discussion. Bill Larsen comments there is additional information that has impact upon this discussion and signage, but did not elaborate at this time as this should be first discussed by the Planning Board. Bill asked if the Selectmen can overrule a zoning ordinance as currently written, and Mark replied that they cannot. He further stated that if there is information discovered that is found to be inconsistent with the ZO, then not enforcing that particular portion of the ZO could be argued in defense. Regardless, the Planning Board discussion needs to occur first before the Selectmen can make any decision on the sign permit. The Board agreed to table the item to their next meeting on 9/14/16, thus allowing the Planning Board time to discuss at their meeting on 9/8/16.

A brief discussion followed regarding signs which had been posted earlier in the summer in various spots in town for a wedding and their guest. Chief Hodges reported that usually when this occurs the people are unaware of a sign ordinance and once informed they take the signs down.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Privilege of Floor II

None.

11. Board Concerns and Directives

It was mentioned that the Cascade Path Trail is presently closed due to ground hornets, and the closure was initiated by the Forest Service. It was also mentioned that Tripoli Rd. is closed thru to Woodstock due to the road work on Russell Pond access road. The Osceola Trailhead is assessable still from the Waterville Valley side.

The board also reviewed skier visit numbers as provided by the Forest Service for Waterville Valley Ski area, as well as the other areas within the White Mountain National Forest which includes Loon, Attitash and Wildcat ski areas.

Chief Hodges also mentions that there is a half marathon being run on this Saturday, 8/27/16, and most of the course is on trails a in the woods and street traffic will be minimally impacted at the start of the race.

An Intent To Cut from Donald Winsor of Rumney is presented to and signed by the Selectmen. The area to be cut is on the Green Peak expansion area of the ski resort.

12. Non-public Session

None.

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:00pm.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant