

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

DATE: September 13, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Aronson and Bill Larsen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Turner.

OTHERS PRESENT: Wendi Rathgeber, Loretta Collins, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Privilege of Floor

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of 7/19/16 Special Meeting, 8/16/17 Regular Meeting, and 8/30/17 Special Meeting.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Selectmen of 7/19/17 with minor changes.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Selectmen of 8/16/17 as presented.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Bill Larsen motions to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Selectmen of 8/30/17 as presented.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Update

Mark reports that the revenue numbers have adjusted for the MS-434 report to NH-DRA. Quarterly Water and Sewer bills will go out next month, and those numbers will be added to the next financial report. Everything else looks to be in line for all departments for this time of year. Questions from the board included the Planning and Zoning line and if this was going to be expended or not this year. Mark states that the 1st phase of the town entrance signage engineering (\$5K) will come out of this line, as well as additional work being done by the North Country Council for the Planning Board. The Information Technology line expenses are not anticipated to be fully expended, but there will be additional expenses before year end. Wastewater expenses are lower, but there are additional purchases of chemicals not yet reflected.

5. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke is not present but Mark reports that at the next meeting the boat revenues will be updated.

- **Public Works**

All items were discussed under the new or old business.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that all equipment (except Engine 2) is in good shape. The REI Outessa event is scheduled for next weekend (9/22-24) and set will begin next week on the 19th. The event is hosted by REI and is expecting 400-800 campers for the outdoors women's retreat. This is the only east coast event of their 4 events for this year. They will be camping on the old golf course hole and have sanitary facilities onsite for the participants. There will also be vendor tents located near the town square. The Public Safety Academy is scheduled to begin on 9/20 for 5 weeks.

6. Calendar Review

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th, 2017 at 3pm. There will not be a meeting on 9/27/17. The MS-1 extension date will need to be adjusted, as the assessing numbers are not yet final. Mark will call DRA to discuss changing the date to 10/4, for the next meeting. After board discussion, it was suggested to have Joan Sweeney (former Selectboard member) sworn in as a temporary board member if necessary.

The date(s) of board members availability was briefly discussed, and the 2nd meeting in October was not yet determined.

7. New Business

- **REI Sign Permit Application**

The permit application was very detailed for the upcoming event. The signs are almost all on private property, along with directional signs along Valley Rd, and many on trails and paths within the town core area. These are all temporary signs for their event. Motion was made by Bill Larsen to approve the permit, and Mike Aronson seconded, and the motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Veteran's Tax Credit Application**

The application was reviewed and approved by the motion initiated by Mike Aronson and seconded by Bill Larsen. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

The board also signed the application of Deanne Jennings, which was approved at the last meeting.

- **Water and Sewer Billing Abatement – B. Lash**

This was a billing error, as the home was destroyed by fire in February 2016. The abatement was presented, approved, and signed by the board. The motion was made by Bill Larsen, and seconded by Mike Aronson. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

8. Old Business

- **Cemetery Regulations**

Mark reviews the changes with the board as proposed at the last meeting. During review of cemetery RSA's there was no mention of pets being allowed in the same cemetery. There are regulations pertaining to animal cemeteries as a separate cemetery. No pets are allowed to be interred in the Waterville Valley Cemetery. It was also found that there are regulations relating to prohibit the activity of grave rubbings. The board briefly discussed and felt there was not any reason to prohibit the activity and suggested a blanket statement to be added to the regulations to allow the activity as opposed to being permitted on a case by case basis. A public hearing on the proposed regulations will take place at the 10/4/17 meeting.

- **Well #3 Testing Update**

Jim Mayhew reports that exploration work of the well continues. At present time they are assessing if 2 check valves can be placed into the well, in the event of failure. Through their observations, the current valve does not function properly as water is leaking back into the well. When the camera is inserted, it was hoped it will provide more information on where the water is entering the well. It assumed it is the pipe at this time. The action of "sleeving" the pipe was mentioned as a possible remedy. Once the new check valves are in place, a pressure test will be conducted to locate the leak or problem area.

- **Road Repair Projects**

Lower Greeley Hill Rd is currently scheduled for work the week of Oct 16th with the pavement in place by Oct 31st. It was mentioned Northface Condo's and Village Condo's are doing paving jobs presently as well.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Update**

Mark has spoken with Steve Donyon of the Dam Bureau and there is a meeting scheduled for 9/28/17 to present the proposed plans and budget for the dam repairs. Results will be reported at the 10/14/17 Selectmen's meeting.

9. Correspondence

Loretta Collins of 6 Avalanche Way addresses the board regarding her written letter about a recent performance of Shakespeare in the Valley and her displeasure with the event which she deemed to be homophobic, anti-Semitic and racist. The board commented that this particular play is a long running comedy and a well known performance. Wendi Rathgeber speaks in support of the program, as the parent of child who has performed in the summer Shakespeare productions, and this particular performance was presented as a satire comedy and has been performed in schools and theatres throughout the country. Ms. Collins main objection, in addition to the content, was that WV tax dollars support the Shakespeare in the Valley productions. The board commented that the town could take actions regarding the funding, if feedback was not good for a large number of people, and suggested that Ms. Collins address the funding issue at the budget hearings or town meeting. The board expressed that there have no other complaints. Ms. Collins stated that when a complaint is received about a performance, it should be responded to with an apology. Will Hammond, the director, was not present to answer questions much to the boards disappointment and Mark will consult with him and will respond in

writing to Ms. Collins addressing her displeasure of the script and the performance. A letter to the Wig Wag editor was also suggested as being another means available to Ms. Collins to express her displeasure. The board thanked Ms. Collins for her letter and her concern for the well being of the town.

10. Privilege of Floor II

Mark comments that he has received an unsolicited bid for a town vehicle, an older pickup truck which is being replaced. The bid had not yet been opened and Mark asked to openly solicit bids from others prior to this bid being opened. A brief discussion following that the vehicle will be sold as scrap with no warranties as the vehicle is not worth being repaired and is not in operable condition. The board felt that there was no reason to solicit other bids if someone was offering to purchase it, since it would have been scraped otherwise. The bid was opened, and discovered that it was from a town employee, and the bid was not accepted and the amount was not disclosed.

11. Board Concerns and Directives

Bill Larsen inquired about the status of the Rey Center parking and the basketball hoop at the elementary school. Mark replied that there is a Safety Committee meeting next week with the school board to discuss the location of the outdoor play area and the BB hoop. Concern was expressed regarding who has the authority to make decisions for the shared property and it needs to be clarified between all parties, especially when a decision of one impacts all three entities operating on the property (WVES school, WV rec dept, and Rey Center). Mark will attend the school safety meeting, and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Mark updated the board regarding the town wide assessing project. Recent vacant land and home sales were discussed and it was believed that some of these shouldn't be considered as qualified sales, as they were purchased by abutting owners or at very low prices if the homes were in need of major repairs and are presently under renovation. If these sales were disqualified, the board didn't have further questions as of now.

The utility values are discussed. There is a new state formula for calculating utility values, which hasn't yet been finalized with DRA although the law was signed by Gov. Sununu this past summer. If this formula is applied by the assessors to the current utilities in town, the assessment of the utilities drops from \$850K to \$129K for each for a combined loss of 1.4 million. Mark explained that a decision needs to be made to accept the utility values using the new formula or by using the old formula, which is what has been used in the past. A third option also exists and Mark explained that an independent assessor claims to have found an error in the new formula and has developed a revised formula. Some towns are using this revised formula for their calculations. This revised formula is not approved by the state, and this scenario will end up playing out in the courts in the year(s) ahead. Town counsel has been consulted and stated that the application of the new values can be deferred and the town could wait and see what happens if the new formula is challenged in court. The board decided it was best to include absent board member Margaret Turner in the discussion and the decision. Mike asked to table the decision for the time being. It will to be decided at the 10/4/17 meeting in order to finalize all of the assessed values in town.

12. Non-public Session

None.

Bill Larsen motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:06pm.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant