

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

**DATE:**           **October 25, 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**   **Chairman Mike Aronson, Margaret Turner and Bill Larsen.**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** **None.**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** **Fred Gendron, Rory Coughlin, Cyndy Piekos, Tom Gross, Wendi Rathgeber, Rich Rita, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield and Sharon Charron.**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.**

**2. Privilege of Floor**

None.

**3. Public Hearing – Cemetery Regulation Changes**

The Public Hearing is opened at 3:26pm and there are no comments from the public. All of the edits were made as noted at the last hearing. Mike Aronson comments the he believes all of the items are completed. The Hearing s closed at 3:27pm

Bill Larsen motions to accept the new Cemetery Regulations.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Public Hearing – Fire Lane Classification at End of Lost Pass Rd.**

The Public Hearing is opened at 3:27pm and Mike Aronson provides an explanation of the classification as a fire lane for public safety and welfare of those residents in that area. A cost of \$4/foot was established as a linear foot cost for plowing the area, and the residents have agreed to reimburse the town for these costs. Those linear measurements are 685 feet (Lost Pass Rd.) and 290 (Flat Mountain Rd). In order for the town to accept the reimbursement, the end of the road needs to be classified as an emergency lane. The residents who owned the road tried for several years to plow is using private contractors but were unable to do so satisfactorily. There are 8 properties affected. There are able to maintain the roadway during the spring, summer and fall months. Margaret Turner states that the town in the past has been approached to take over these roads fully, but the problem with that are the owners along this road actually own privately to the middle of the road. The costs will be recalculated annually the actual per foot cost for the prior winter season from November 1<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> and will be paid on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mark Decoteau states other property owners have expressed interest in similar arrangements and he asks the board for direction on how to handle. The board stated they will review on a case by case basis and it needs to be in the interest of public safety. No further comments and the public hearing is closed at 3:37pm.

Bill Larsen motions to classify Lost Pass Rd. and Flat Mountain Rd. as emergency access lanes.

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

### **5. Approval of Minutes of 9/11/17 Special Meeting and 10/4/17 Regular Meeting**

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of the special meeting on September 11, 2017 with changes.

Bill Larsen: 2nds.  
Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 4, 2017 with changes.

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

### **6. Financial Update**

Mark reports that all departments are doing well. At this point, we are 83% through the year with 77% spent of the budget and 72% collected in revenues. Minor corrections were made to department budget revenues to decrease it approximately by \$3K. These will be shown on the next budget report presented. The board questioned general overhead which Mark explained were 2016 bonus' which are reflected in 2017. The cemetery expenses for the memorial wall are currently being shown under cemetery line, but will be moved to general overhead.

### **7. Department Heads Updates**

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reports that the Halloween party is scheduled for Saturday, 10/28 from 3:30-5pm. Following the party, there will be trick or treating to the participating lodges in town 5-6pm, concluding with Trunk or Treat in Town Square from 6-7pm. Friday night there is also pumpkin carving at the Rec Dept.

- **Public Works**

Chris Hodges reports that the WVES School had the Chili cook-off last Friday, and Public Safety finished took last place, and the Rec Dept took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. It wasn't as well advertised as past years. The WVES PTA won this year. Public Safety also did a fire prevention program at the school in the morning. Other department activities include the annual fire inspections of public buildings, lodges, ski resort and field training for the 2 new part time officers. The repair schedule for engine 2's pump to be rebuilt is expected within two weeks.

- **Public Safety**

Jim Mayhew reports that the WWTP generator was delivered today and is in place. It is scheduled to be installed in 2 weeks. Lower Greely Hill Rd. work is underway and paving is planned for 10/31, subject to weather changes.

### **8. Calendar Review**

- **Town Meeting Key Date Memo**

The calendar of important dates for 2018 Town Meeting is distributed to the board.

## **9. New Business**

- **Sign Permit Application – Ice Arena**

The sign permit application for the Ice Arena was reviewed by the board. The size is 288 square feet, and regulations allow for only 10 square feet. It was determined to be larger than the regulations allowed and the permit was denied by motion by Bill Larsen and seconded by Margaret Turner. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The banner will be displayed on the inside of the Ice Arena.

- **Rewire Network Cable at Town Hall**

Mark describes the needs for the rewiring the network cable for the Town Offices. These will be coming out the current 2017 budget.

## **10. Old Business**

- **MS-1 Changes and Final Form**

The final MS-1 form is presented for the board signatures. This includes changes to the utility values, which are assessed by the NH-DRA. These utility values being used are only applicable to the 2017 tax year. Concern was expressed by the BOS that WV will be used as an example of accepting the new state formula if other towns pursue legal action against NH-DRA. The Board of Selectmen fundamentally disagrees with NH-DRA's assessed utility values being used and the new formula to determine these values, for 2017 and understands there is no other alternative being in a revaluation year. Discussion followed concerning drafting a letter to NH-DRA Municipal & Property Division Director Steve Hamilton explaining the board's reluctance and position on the values as only being used for the 2017 year.

Mark asked if the board wanted the summary posted the website and it was thoughts best not to, as it can easily misunderstood. It was suggested to have this available with more explanation for the budget hearings for Town Meeting 2018.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Update**

There is no update at this time. Due to the storm, the town offices are presently without phone and internet. If something is received when services are restored, Mark will forward to the board.

- **Well #3 Testing Update**

Jim Mayhew reports that well #3 still test positive at this time. EGGI has been contracted and the plan is to draw well down, shock it, and refilled with chlorinated water under pressure in order for the water to reach back into the galleries of the well. The galleries are the radial arms of the well which collect the ground water. Bill Larsen comments that the EGGI states that the treatment center can treat this water he will accept that as a solution, as long as DES is in agreement. Confirmation of this is needed from EGGI and DES.

- **Bids for F-150 Pick-up Truck**

The bids were reviewed by the board for the 2006 Ford F-150 and the Bid of \$1,001 from Bill Cheney of Campton was accepted. There were a total of 4 bids received. Bill Larsen motions to accept the bid from Bill Cheney, and seconded by Mike Aronson and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

## **11. Correspondence**

- **Letter From Tom Gross – Ice Arena**

The letter from Tom Gross, dated 10/19/17, was read into the record by Mike Aronson.

**Legends 1291, Inc.  
PO Box 501  
Waterville Valley, NH 03215**

October 19, 2017

Mr. Mark Decoteau  
Town Manager  
Waterville Valley, NH 03215

Dear Mark,

I was extremely disappointed when I heard the news that the selectman recently granted Mulligans the right to provide food, beer and wine in the ice arena during hockey tournaments for the coming season.

We have always had a gentleman's agreement that no food, coffee or beverages would be served inside the arena during games. The reasoning was always quite logical. It would be unfair to the food establishments in the Town Square.

The fact none of the businesses were even made aware of the Mulligan's request, nor approached as abutters for discussion further upsets me, as I'm sure it would La Tasse and La Hacienda.

As you may or may not know, hockey is the pulse, the lifeblood of the resort, especially for the businesses in the Town Square.

We are all located a minute from the rink, so it is not like we are making it inconvenient for the families to trek a mile to purchase food and beverage. Not to mention serving alcohol within a youth hockey environment isn't the image we want to project.

The granting of this proposal will adversely affect the businesses in the Town Square and I am hoping the decision by the Selectman will be reconsidered.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Gross, Jr.  
President Legends 1291, Inc.

Mike asks for any comments from the public and Wendy Rathgeber comments that she felt that with the added use to a property, the abutters should have been made aware of the changes as a courtesy. She also had a concern of alcohol being served at youth events as WV is a family resort, how the town's lease of the arena if affected as well as insurances of the property. Chris Hodges was asked to comment regarding the proposal and states that the initial proposal was to have a bar in the ice arena. The follow up proposal was a private function room catered with food and beverage which is rented in 2 hour time blocks and not open to the public. Mike then asks Fred Gendron, of the Waterville Valley Ice Arena, for more information on the current proposal. Fred explains that the WVIA has been trying to develop new ideas for generating revenues over the past year and mentions the lodging arrangements with local inns and the clothing sales as examples. Sean Curtin proposed the idea of food and beverages to Fred this fall. Prior to this occurring Rory Coughlin, the arena manager has spoken to Mike O'Brien of Legend's to see if he had any interest in partnering up with WVIA and he had no interest in the venture. Fred added that Legend's, and operator Mike O'Brien and owner Tom Gross, has always been strong supporters of hockey in WV. Soon afterwards, Sean Curtin of Mulligan's spoke to Rory and expressed interest in the venture and discussion began between them to develop the plan as proposed currently. Fred was adamant about not creating any problems with customers or other businesses and expressed concern, and the added responsibility that comes with the sale of alcohol. His overall priority is to create revenue for the WVIA. Margaret Turner adds that many people were not aware that this would be a private space and not open to the public and all products will be removed daily. Wendi Rathgeber asks how it will be regulated during the transition between games and groups. Mark Decoteau states that there will be physical walls separating the space from the public, and they will need to be controlled by the

staff servicing the private area. Tom Gross comments that from his years as an owner/operator, that if people want to find a way to sneak alcohol out of a bar, they will do it. Obviously this is discouraged by everyone. Tom adds that his first reaction to the idea was no because of the “gentlemen’s agreement” that that was always in place. Discussion followed concerning potential affects to area businesses. The lease between the WVAI and the town, as the owners of the arena, gives WVIA the right to operate the arena as they see best. Cyndy Piekos asks what the per person capacity of the private arena will be, and was answered about 25-30 people. She adds the concept of a rotating menu featuring the town’s restaurants, with no liquor sales, thus giving all operators in town equal exposure. Fred adds that his business is not in preparing food and that he isn’t staffed for that type of operation. Tom Gross withdraws his complaints. Rich Rita comments that the discussion is has veered away from a Selectmen’s meeting and has become one between business people and should be conducted in another venue. Mike Aronson thanks Cyndy for her suggestions but believes it they wouldn’t work in this situation. Mike asks Chris Hodges for his thoughts about the proposal, and Chris reiterates his comments from the last meeting, stating Public Safety’s concerns were of serving of alcohol to the general public as a concession stand, but had fewer concerns with the plan as presented. There is no building permit yet submitted or issued for the project. The Public Safety Dept. will be sure that the agreement is being adhered to and the control measures for containing the alcohol are enforced by the ice arena and Mulligan’s employees. The BOS thanked everyone for coming and commenting on the matter.

- **Notice of Decision – Abatement Request to BTLA**

The letter of decision was received from BTLA denying the request for an abatement from the Fortin’s due to the application being received after March 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the deadline.

## **12. Privilege of Floor II**

None.

## **13. Board Concerns and Directives**

Mark informed to board that there will be a draft tax rate available for review next week and would the board to gather to discuss. The only way to alter the rate would be to change the amount used of the fund balance. Mark comments that currently there is over \$800K of fund balance.

## **14. Non-public Session**

None.

Mike Aronson motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:07pm.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant