

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

**DATE:**       **October 24, 2018**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rob Wilson, Jerry Stringham, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield, Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron.

**1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Mike Aronson.**

**2. Privilege of Floor I**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes of the 10/10/18 Regular Meeting**

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 10, 2018 as amended.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

**4. Financial Report**

The line item of Public Assistance was reviewed and a one-time payment was made. This will be reviewed further for FY2019 Budget.

**5. Calendar Review**

- The retirement dinner for Capt. Katsirebas is set for 11/2/18 at 6pm at the Coyote Grill.
- The next regular Selectmen's meeting is Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 3pm.
- The General Election is on Tuesday, 11/6/18, and the Selectmen's coverage will be Mike (11am-2pm), Rich (2-5pm), and Margaret (5pm – close).
- The next Planning Board meeting is Thurs., 11/8/18 at 8am.
- The 2019 Town Meeting calendar of important dates will be sent to the board by Mark.

**6. Department Heads Updates**

• **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reported that the Halloween party is coming up on Sat., 10/27 from 3-5pm at the Rec Dept. Trunk or Treat follows in Town Square as well as Trick/Treat at the lodges. WVRA annual meeting was held 10/23 and new officers were elected. Sean Stout and Leah Elliott were both elected to positions. Brooke has been looking at a new bus for the Rec Dept, which is included in the CIP plan. The cost would be \$56K, and the CIP amount is for \$90K. The afterschool program is going well with good numbers. The program is operating as a prepaid/preregistered program which helps for the proper staffing. Pickleball also going well

and they have had some schedule changes due to the school's use of the gym for PE classes, which were switched from the PM to the AM.

- **Public Works**

All public works items are discussed as agenda items.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports that he attended a session on the TAP grant programs. The projects being funded through the program are generally ones which are in need of connecting a pedestrian access way/trail/bike path to another access way to create a larger transportation way. WV finished last out of the applications, not due to the application itself, but due to the nature or rather the need, of the project. The WV project was to create a pathway surrounding Corcoran's Pond. Chris reports that there was \$36M in application requests and \$5.3M was granted. Chief Noyes is on vacation this week. The Citizens Public Safety Academy is done for the year. Chris is still in touch with brokers and dealers regarding searching for a lower priced option on the Fire Truck. He is looking to scrap dealers for the old fire truck, as there is no value otherwise for the truck. Current prices would be about \$150/ton, and the truck weight is +/-30 tons which calculates to approximately \$4K. Mike Aronson suggested it be offered to the mountain to use as a structure in one of the on-hill terrain parks. Mark added that option will be looked into and that whatever is decided, he would like to see it gone before winter snowfall. It was also suggested to put it out to bid to the highest bidder.

## **7. New Business**

- **Tax Year 2018 Tax Rate Setting**

Mark presents the draft tax rate of \$14.14, which includes leaving all revenues just as they are with no use of fund balance to bring to lower rate. The options were also presented using fund balance to lower the rate to an even \$14 and below to \$13.90. With either option, the remaining fund balance would fall between the 11.3-12.6% of the current budget (\$691,828 to \$771,163). The county taxes have decreased and it was assumed that this is due the decrease in property values in WV combined with increases in values in other towns in the county. The board concluded that the rate of \$14.14, being lower than the previous year at \$14.25, was fine and decided it was best to try to maintain a level rate and not to use any additional fund balance to lower the rate below \$14.14.

A motion was made by Margaret Turner to set the 2018 Tax Property Rate at \$14.14.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Osceola Rd. Maintenance**

Mark reviews the request from Alan Slobodnik on behalf of the High Country HOA. Additional comments via email were reviewed as well. The concerns expressed regarding the town assuming ownership and maintenance of Osceola Rd. were that the road does not currently meet the town specs for a road. The road lacks the proper 2' gravel shoulders and has plantings, boulders and bricks at the road edge. The road lacks a proper turn around at the end and snow storage dumping areas and is also currently in need of repairs to cracks in the road surface. Discussion followed and the board was in agreement that they would not create a warrant article to go to vote at Town Meeting in March, 2019. If High Country HOA wants to pursue creating a

petitioned Warrant Article with the required number of signatures, the Selectmen would then place it upon the Warrant for the voters to decide.

- **Zero-sort Recycling Program w/North County Environmental**

The recycling program is currently paying \$39.96/ton tipping fee to dispose of recycling. Effective 10/18/18 that fee was increased to \$116/ton. This increase is due to the changes in the recycling market, which is failing. This is only a temporary increase as well as effective 1/1/2019, North County Environmental (aka the Bethlehem facility), will not be accepting any recyclables and is terminating the program and all loads after 12/31/18 will be considered solid waste. The board asked if there were other locations to bring the recyclables to, or if sort recycling is an option. Answers to both questions is no, and the reasons being are those locations are either out of state or in southern NH, and with the increased costs to transport to them there is a higher cost. Jim comments that all communities in the Pemi-Baker SWD are facing the same issue. The question posed is whether to continue with the recycling program and pay the increased fees through 12/31/18 or to terminate the program now and collect and dispose of all of the trash and recycling items together. The rate which we currently pay to dump solid waste is \$63.56/ton. Mark reviewed the 2017 totals and the town paid just over \$50K for both solid waste disposal and recyclables. For 2019, Mark projects that the town will need to budget \$54K based upon current volume of solid waste/recyclables. This also does not take into account the reduced number of trips to the landfill and the wear/tear on the truck, as only full loads, not partially full, will be taken. Overall the increase in dollars is slight and not a major impact to the budget. It is the impression of the board that the eco-conscious community of WV will not be receptive to the concept of terminating the recycling program and the reasons need to be communicated to the property owners. The board was in agreement that paying the higher rate for recyclables for the remainder of this year makes no sense. Mark told the board all owners will receive a letter clearly explaining the reasons for the program termination. Additionally, signage will be placed on the blue dumpsters indicating they can be used for trash now and for reasons beyond our control the town will no longer be recycling.

## **8. Old Business**

- **Town Entrance Project**

Jim Mayhew comments that the steel will be set on Monday, with the electrical work to follow along with the final masonry work. The designer, Sparky Potter, is quite impressed with the masonry work done thus far and the board agreed that the sign looks great and are happy to be able to deliver the 1<sup>st</sup> step of town wide sign changes.

- **Corcoran Pond Dam Project – Discussion with contractor**

The contractor was not present to discuss and no message to cancel. Mark will update the board when he knows more information. The mobilization of equipment and materials is scheduled to begin on Monday, 10/29.

- **Town Hall Drainage Work**

Mark explains that the contractor has walked the site and suggested to extend the area to cover the entrance of the 1<sup>st</sup> fire bay. The additional area is 600 square feet and will involve reducing and reshaping the grade and installing the membrane liner at a cost of an additional \$5,700. Mark explained the expanded area will allow water to drain away from the fire bay entrance and the

building. At present time, water is coming into the fire bay through the doors during heavy weather events. Discussion followed by the board if the contractor would stand behind the redesign and it was assured that it would. The idea of installing additional drains in front of the bay doors was also discussed. This wasn't viewed as feasible at this time.

Mike Aronson motions to extend the contract for drainage work at the Town Office/DPS building to expend no more than an additional \$5,700 in funds.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Well #3 Update**

Mark informs the board that once the Town Hall drainage work is finished the same contractor will proceed to Well #3 to start the work. The water tests conducted on the well through early September were all good. EGGI recommended additional tests cease until the impervious membrane is installed around the well head.

- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert Update**

Margaret informed the board of the progress in getting letters of support from the condo associations adjacent to Packard's Field. This is an effort to show the BOS the community support and to facilitate the release of \$10K in Town support of the event. She is hoping that in November she will have responses of support from the associations. Discussion followed concerning refunding of funds if the event is unable to occur. The Rey Center, who is partnering with the NH Music Festival to host the concert, needs to show a good faith effort of support and the town funds, along with the private donations, will be held aside in a separate account. Mike also posed the questions of electrical power to the site, staging of vehicles, platforms/stages, and sound equipment.

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

None.

## **10. Correspondence**

Speare Hospital emailed that the WV Flu Clinic had a great turnout over past years. Mark also reported that he received an email from the NH Coalition Communities regarding the statewide property tax for education funding and there is draft report from the study committee he has yet to review. He will get back to the board once he reviews the report in full.

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

Jerry Stringham, a local candidate for State Representative, is present and asks about the use of fund balance in the tax rate and the recycling challenges facing the town. Mark reminded the board of the access to town offices on 10/25/18 will be via the lower level entrance due to the drainage work.

## **12. Non-public Session**

The board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (i) for a legal matter. The Motion was made by Margaret Turner 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 3:51. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:15pm.

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.

Margaret Turner motions to adjourn the meeting 4:16pm.

Rich Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant