

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

DATE: May 30, 2018

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Brown (USFS), Tom Giles (USFS), Katie White (USFS), David Dean, John Recine, Irit Levy, Tom Gross, Mark Decoteau, Chris Hodges, Jim Mayhew, Brooke Wakefield, Judy Rolfe and Sharon Charron

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. by Chair Mike Aronson.

2. Privilege of Floor

None.

3. Approval of Minutes of 5/16/18 Regular Meeting.

Mike Aronson motions to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 16th, 2018 as amended.

Richard Rita: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

4. Financial Report

Mark updates the board that all departments are looking good. Wastewater expenses are ahead of budget due to chemical purchases. General overhead is also ahead of budget, as reported in prior meetings. Property tax pre-payments were taken in 2017 were briefly discussed as to where they show in revenues. Mark explains they were processed as credits on accounts and were applied to the 2018 1st issue property tax bill when it was produced in May.

5. Calendar Review

June BOS regular meeting schedule includes June 13th and June 27th, 2018

July BOS meeting (just 1) is on July 18th, 2018.

August BOS meeting (just 1) is on August 15th, 2018.

The next Planning Board Meeting is on June 14th, 2018.

6. Department Heads Updates

- **Recreation**

Brooke Wakefield reported that Casting For Kirby Fishing Derby went very well with 141 participants with the largest turnout in a few years and there was a lot of community support and everyone had a great time. Boats opened up on Memorial Day weekend and the new paddle boats looked great on the water and the new dock will be installed on June 11th. The garden beds

are being worked on throughout town and are looking good. The new recreation seasonal maintenance person, David Laroux, has been hired and has been working on Packard's field and the beach area and is working well with the public works crew. Brooke addressed the need of a vehicle for his position and after discussion with Mark and Jim has proposed to purchase a new or used Kubota 4-wheeler, something can carry light equipment and materials for work. A used Kubota is in the \$7-8K range and new is in \$11-13K range. Discussion followed and it was suggested that a new one will be purchased for Public Safety and their current one was passed onto the Recreation Dept. Mark will review funding options for the purchase and will communicate this to board members prior to the next BOS meeting. Brooke adds this new position adds to the overall beautification of the town. Summer camp registrations are doing very well and some weeks are already sold out. The weekly Rec Dept newsletter updates people each with which camp weeks are getting close to full or already sold out.

- **Public Works**

Jim Mayhew reports that areas are being mowed throughout town, road work is getting caught up, and new headwalls are being built and installed for some culverts. The headwall prevents the roadside from collapsing into the culvert. Glading of the trees has occurred in the area behind Mountain Brook condos. Other projects include attention to the Library property and the Snow's Mountain Gazebo, the Snows Mountain Rd and Cascade Ridge Rd. washout areas are patched with material but not yet paved.

- **Public Safety**

Chris Hodges reports the department members have recently been involved in training via conferences, online and specialized classes. The Warrior conference is in town for this upcoming weekend with events concentrated at the ice arena. Gordon Research is also starting up as well. There is a new home being constructed on Cascade Ridge Rd. The WMAC parking lot is being paved presently. Chris adds that the mountain has been upgrading trails it presently operates for mountain biking, XC skiing and resort boards in the woods, in the event anyone sees equipment in the woods, mostly in the area of Nelson Path. The object is to get more people off the roads and onto the trails. Chris displays maps as provided by the mountain. Chris expressed concern for the area surrounding well #3, which will be having fencing installed around the well for protection of the water source. Mike Aronson asked David Dean of WVSR to help the bike shop staff better communicate to resort guests the rules of the road and trails in WV and what is to be expected when sharing the road with cars. The shop signage needs to be improved to better communicate to the new bikers the rules for the safety of all. David states there is no schedule for the work to do complete, but it will be ongoing. Chris adds that a new 25mph sign was also installed on Valley Rd. to remind cars of the speed limit.

7. New Business

- **Discussion with Brooke Brown, Pemi District Ranger - WMNF**

USFS-WMNF Pemi District Ranger, Brooke Brown, introduces herself as well as Tom Giles and Katie White, also of the WMNF Pemi District. Brooke updates the board on the status of the Wanosha Integrated Resource Project. The project was still in the planning stages at this time following the comment period. The items which were of the greatest importance from the comments include 1. Impact to historic properties, 2. Impact of forestry activities in wildlife habitats, 3. Impacts to water quality, and 4. Overall concern for an increased number of visitors

in the area. Brooke states that the areas in Waterville Valley which will see the changes include the Waterville Campground on Tripoli Rd and the Smart's Brook trail system off of route 49 which connects to WV trails and Sandwich Notch area. The upgrades to WV Campground include installation of water/sewer hookups to all 25 sites and to allow larger RV's to access, replacement of the toilet and shower facilities, and thinning of the over story in the tree canopy to allow more light and remove overgrowth to allow for RV access. Electricity would be brought in from the grid and water from new wells to be drilled. Mark asked if connecting to the Town's water and sewer systems had been considered, and it had not, but Tom Giles stated the USFS would be open for suggestions. Mark suggests doing a cost comparison between connecting to the town water and drilling a new well. Margaret added that the town has drilled more than 100 exploratory wells over the years and have only had 4 that have produced water. A cost comparison for sewer services should also be completed. Both the water and sewer services would be limited to spring, summer and fall months when the campground is operating. Tom added that the USFS felt that these upgrades would create a better experience for RV campers who are increasing in numbers. The amenities in town in WV were seen as having added benefits for campers for restaurants and activities. The Osceola Vista group campground will remain unchanged. The upgrades to the Smart's Brook trail system includes Sandwich Notch Rd. Tom Giles comments there are numerous old trails and dirt roads that the mountain biking community has used for years, although the Forest Service hasn't recognized them as trails, nor maintains them currently. These trails are being evaluated currently for selection to be brought into the Forest Service trail network. Is it possible that some trails will be connected into the Drakes Brook area in WV, however there are significant drainage areas in Drakes Brook which would require 4-6 bridges of significant sizes, but no decisions have been made yet. The current system incorporates walkers, bikes, and cross country skiing/snowshoeing uses and these would all be preserved in the most commonly used trails. The USFS is working in conjunction with NEMBA (New England Mountain Bikes Association) on multi-use trail systems signage and trail design. A newly designated parking area with restrooms and amenities is also one of the possibilities being considered. Input received from the public comment period was to limit bike use on the main trail loop now mostly used for hiking and dog walking. Trail etiquette and parking issues were also of great concern. The timeline of the project is looking towards 2019 for the Environmental Assessment Review, and not before 2020-21 to begin implementation of the approved plan.

Mark asked Tom Giles about Dan Newton's proposal of the Long Trail, which would circumnavigate WV. Tom comments that this was seen as a low priority as per the 2005 WMNF trail plan is limited to 25 miles of new non-motorized trails for the life of the plan. Tom comments that there are many of 1200 miles trails are in bad shape in NH and need maintenance now, and the Long Trail proposal creates 5-7 miles of new trails, making the proposal unlikely at this time.

Margaret Turner asks if there are any plans for Tripoli Rd. Mark adds that this road is important for the town's hazard mitigation plan as it is the alternate road into town if route 49 becomes impassable. It was mentioned that removing paved areas and returning it to a dirt road would create a passable road, as the paved areas are very broken up and rough. Brooke adds than future meetings would be beneficial to determine what would be the best solution for Tripoli Rd. Brooke thanked the board for their time.

- **Wastewater Treatment Remaining 2018 Capital Projects**

Mark comments that the projects still remaining to be done are the replacement of the 2 chemical feed pumps and the heating system at the treatment plant. The feeds pumps came in \$7-8K which is about half of the expected pricing. One of the replaced pumps can be refurbished and kept as a backup pump for emergencies.

Richard Rita motions to accept the bid from Watson Marlow to replace the 2 chemical feed pumps.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Mark adds that the replacement of the heating system, which is original to the plant, had a bid of \$65K from TML Mechanical LLC. There is additional work to be done for the electrical and carpentry work in the attic of the plant, which is approximately an additional \$10K in costs.

Mike Aronson motions to accept the bid from TML Mechanical LLC for \$65K to remove and replace the original WWTP heating system and the board will be notified if the additional electrical and carpentry work exceeds \$10K.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

- **Valley Inn Sign Request**

The sign request was reviewed by the board. The changed panel portion of the sign will be removed and the sign will be externally lit. The size of the sign will remain the same.

Richard Rita motions to approve the Valley Inn sign permit.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

8. Old Business

- **Town Entrance Sign Project**

Tom Gross updates the board on behalf of the Core Committee on the sign design selection. Over the Memorial Day weekend, images were displayed in Town Square and feedback was received from guests and residents. After considering the comments, the committee has recommended the design labeled as “D-2” to the Selectmen for their approval. The phrase selected, *“For a Vacation or a Lifetime”* was suggested to become a town slogan moving forward on print media. The inclusion of the incorporation date of the town on the sign was discussed and the core group felt that just about every town in NH is old, and WV isn’t the oldest, so they felt it wasn’t necessary to have the year of 1829 on the sign. The rear side of the sign, which is believed to be unseen for drivers leaving town, will be painted with a message such as *“Thank you for visiting”* if it can be seen from the road. It was thought that the rear side would not be visible. The board thanked Tom, and the entire Core Committee, for their work on the project.

- **Review & Sign Paperwork for Capital Bonds Project**

Mark informs the board that the NH Municipal Bond Bank conducted their sale last week and the 15-year note ended up with an interest rate of 2.93%. Final documents are presented to the board for their signatures.

- **Well #3 and Well #4 Updates**

Mark states that EGGI will be finishing up the design work on well #3 and once complete will go out to bid. Work is expected to start in August or September after a contractor is selected. Bacteria tests are yet to be performed on well #3 and the Board suggested that an in-house test, prior to the official test, be done and if possible to have those results by the next BOS meeting. Well #4 is back online and had no problems over the Memorial Holiday Weekend.

9. Board Concerns and Directives

None.

10. Correspondence

Mark comments that the sprinkler system repairs at the arena have been completed.

11. Privilege of Floor II

John Recine, Planning Board Member, comments about new signs in town that he'd not seen passing through the Planning Board. Mike Aronson, answers, along with Mark that sign permits are reviewed and approved by the Selectmen, and if they can choose to get the Planning Board's input on the interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance relating to signs, but that it isn't necessary. John thanked the board for clarifying the process.

12. Non-public Session

The board goes into Non Public Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II (b) along with Town Manager Mark Decoteau and Sharon Charron. The Motion was made by Rich Rita and seconded by Mike Aronson along with a roll call vote: Selectman Aronson – aye, Selectman Turner – aye, Selectman Rita – aye, and the Board went into Non-Public Session at 4:12. The Board came out of Non-Public Session at 4:34pm.

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.

A motion was made by Margaret Turner to approve the D-2 drawing for the sign entrance sign design.

Mike Aronson: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a majority voice vote. Selectman Aronson – aye, Selectman Turner – aye, Selectman Rita – nay. Selectmen Rita added that he prefers the town incorporation date to be included on the sign.

Rich Rita motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:36pm.

Margaret Turner 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Charron
Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant