WATERVILLE ESTATES VILLAGE DISTRICT

February 22, 2020 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

Approved as presented on July 18, 2023.

Attendees: Judy Kinney, Matt Smith, Sean Tole, Andy Griffiths, Art Marks, Corey Smith, Karen Waters

Guests: Harry Bertino, Jim Murphy, Ned McElroy, Jack Letvinchuk, Stan Bujarlski, Mike Hering, Sue Hering, Dave Ketchum, Anthony Patti, Maureen Patti, Andrea Canfield

Called to order: Mr. Marks at 8:10 AM.

Appoint and Swear in Moderator:

Mr. Griffiths made a motion to appoint Jack Letvinchuk as moderator to replace Samantha Ciaston, Mr. Tole seconded, unanimously approved. Mr. Letvinchuk was sworn in by Mr. Tole.

Petitioned Warrant Articles:

Warrant Article 6: To see if the Village District will vote to establish a planning board under RSA 673:1. The commissioners voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend.

Warrant Article 7: To see if the Village District will vote to change the name from Waterville Estates Village District to Campton Mountain Village District. Mr. M. Smith stated that NHMA and DRA often refer to our village district as Waterville Valley Estates Village District. Mr. Hering asked if deeds might be affected. Ms. Waters said the process is more involved than people might think. Mr. Kethcum asked if Campton Mountain Village might be confused with the ski area. Mr. Bertino pointed out that most of the confusion is around the association being conflated with the village district. Mr. Letvinchuk agreed. Mr. Letvinchuk stated it would be worth the effort to prevent the association being confused with the village district. The commissioners voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend.

Warrant Article 8: To see if the Village District will vote to establish the treasurers' term from one year to a three-year term. The commissioners voted unanimously **TO** recommend.

Warrant Article 9: To see if the Village District will vote to ban the use of village district drinking water and the village district water system for snow making. Mr. Marks asked whether this meant that pond water could not be used if it was considered part of the "water system". Mr. McElroy cited well pump flows and whether we cavitate at max flow. Mr. C. Smith said that we downsized the pumps from approximately 190 GPM to 150 GPM and have not have not had cavitation issues since. Debate ensued about the definition of the water system. Mr. Ketchum and Mr. Tole observed that the ponds are part of our overall fire suppression. The commissioners voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend.

Warrant Article 10: To see if the Village District will vote to authorize the board of commissioners to accept gifts of real estate or any interest in real estates, after a public hearing, in the name of the village district for any valid public purpose. The authority shall be limited to undeveloped land, or any interest in such land having a fair market value of ten thousand dollars (10,000) or less and shall remain in effect until rescinded or modified by further vote of the village district. Mr. Marks asked if the current limit was $50,000 which was confirmed. Mr. Bertino stated that the New Hampshire statutes dictate how the village district can acquire assets citing RSA 31:19, 31:95-b, and 31:95-e. Mr. M. Smith stated that 40 or 41:14a covered real property. Mr. Tole suggested that land has no cost of ownership and that in that case the warrant would be overly onerous.

Warrant Article 10 continued: Mr. M. Smith stated we currently have approved in perpetuity 31:95-b, 31:95-e, real estate and WEA property transfer ability. Mr. C. Smith read the warrant article from 1999. The commissioners voted unanimously **TO** recommend.

Warrant Article 11: To see if the Village District will vote to rescind the authority of the commissioners to accept ownership of such properties of the Waterville Estates Association as they may deem prudent. Mr. M. Smith pointed out that it does not repeal the warrant articles 31:95-b, 31:95-e, and real property cited in discussion for Warrant Article 10. Mr. Marks stated there has been no previous commissioners meeting about these petitioned articles so we should bear with their deliberation during this session. Discussion took place around whether the wording of Warrant Article 11 was specific enough. Mr. M. Smith recommended that the author propose an amendment at the annual meeting stating that it does not prevent the village district and association from transferring assets through the previously approved methods. The commissioners voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend. Mr. Tole stated that the village district attorney indicated that the commissioners can't qualify, they have to recommend or not recommend.

Warrant Article 12: To see if the Village District will vote to establish an official budget committee under RSA 32:14. Three members at large are to be elected, the meeting shall either elect the initial members for a one year term by means other than by official ballot, or shall authorize the moderator to appoint members to serve until the next annual meeting, as provided in RSA 669:17. Elections for staggered terms, as described in RSA 32:15 paragraph II, shall not begin until that next annual meeting, and shall be by official ballot if the municipality has adopted the official ballot system, as set forth in RSA 669. Ms. Kinney stated that the moderator can appoint or village citizens can elect from the floor. Mr. Tole confirmed. Mr. Griffiths asked who members at large could be. Mr. M, Smith stated they must be village citizens. Mr. Tole suggested that as a small district it would add a level of bureaucracy and add no other value. Mr. C. Smith stated that the budget committee would have the power to separate funds into special warrant articles that could then be defunded and the commissioners would not be able to change the budget. Mr. Bertino disagreed and cited an NHMA article from September/October 2017 article on the matter. Ms. Canfield asked if we were looking at this wrong and if a budget committee wouldn't be helpful. Mr. Tole disagreed. Mr. Bertino read from the NHMA article to support his earlier point. Mr. Berrtion asked that the article be sent our via constant contact. The commissioners declined on advice from the village attorney that it constituted electioneering. The commissioners voted unanimously to **NOT** recommend.

Old Business:

Treasurer Update: Ms. Waters provided an update on her office hours and requests from the community. She has also continued to work with Ms. Kinney on an improved treasurer's report. Mr. Hering asked that Ms. Waters make a presentation to the WEA board. Ms. Waters updated the commissioners on the written treasurer's policy she is working on and how it will be a living document that commissioners approve and each new commissioner would have an opportunity to review and approve.

Tax Rate Analysis: Mr. C. Smith provided an update on the tax rate analysis. He showed a handful of properties illustrating that tax bills have gone up LESS than inflation. He indicated he would be providing an updated analysis covering the entire village.

Candidates Night: Discussion took place on getting candidates bio's out via constant contact. **Web**

Site: Mr. C. Smith stated that separation of the WEA and WEVD information was being reviewed.

Adjournment: Mr. Tole motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Griffiths seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 9:22 AM.