

## Meeting Minutes

### Valier Government Review Commission

January 12, 2015

#### I Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

#### II The following were present: Ray Bukoveckas, Andy Van Haur and McKenzie Graye, Chair. There being a quorum, the meeting could proceed. Also present were Leo Malinak, Jackie Sheble, Aldermen Widhalm, Loch and Nelson; Liz Makarowski and Sue Schleif.

#### III Approval of minutes from the December 15, 2014 meeting

Copies of the draft minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting were distributed to those present. The draft minutes had been e-mailed to the commissioners earlier. The Chairman asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. There were none. Ray Bukoveckas moved to approve the minutes as written. Andy Van Haur seconded the motion. The motion carried with the minutes approved as written.

#### IV Consent Agenda

##### Public Comment

The Chair gave a brief overview of the purpose and scope of the commission and opened the meeting for discussion, comments and questions. A discussion followed.

##### a) Individual Interviews

- **Mayor, council, town employees**  
Ray Bukoveckas suggested that names be drawn as a way to divide the interviews of the mayor, council and town employees between commissioners.
- **General Public:** Each commissioner will interview the general public on a one-to-one basis as a means to gather public opinion.
- Ray Bukoveckas suggested that a set of questions be printed out for each commissioner in order to compare responses. McKenzie asked if he would be willing to make out a list of questions and Ray agreed.

##### b) Engaging the Public

- **Survey – Steven Swinford**  
*The Chairman had been tasked with contacting the Local Government Center to locate someone to do an independent survey of Valerians. A survey would help the commissioners decide on a direction and make an informed proposal. Steven Swinford, PhD, and Research Scientist at Montana State University was recommended by the Local Government Center. A conference call was held between the Chair and Mr. Swinford on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 8:30 AM. A summary of the phone conversation had been*

*e-mailed to each commissioner, after having been reviewed by Mr. Swinford to assure accuracy. A copy of the Summary is attached hereto and incorporated by reference.*  
A brief overview of the summary was given to the public attendees and a short question and answer period followed.

- **Public Hearings: Schedule first Public Hearing**

Ray Buckoveckas moved to hold the first public hearing at 7:30 PM immediately following the next Town Council Meeting on February 9, 2015. Andy Van Haur seconded the motion. A discussion followed and it was suggested that the Mayor be asked to move the Council Meeting from 7:00 PM to 6:00 or 6:30 PM in order to give Dan Clark, the speaker/facilitator more time. Andy Van Haur then moved to amend the motion by striking out "at 7:30 PM." Ray Buckoveckas seconded the amended motion. As there was no further discussion, the Chair restated the question as amended. The amended motion carried unanimously.

c) **Budget**

- **Filing fees, Dan Clark, Survey costs, Door Prizes at Public Hearing, other costs.**

Filing fees could not be determined until the Commissioners decided on a direction. The budget is due as soon as possible and must be approved by the Town Council. It was confirmed that door prizes at the Public Hearing would not be legal unless donated. Ray Buckoveckas moved to hire Dan Clark, Local Government Center, to speak at the first public hearing and facilitate the meeting. Andy Van Haur seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed. Public comment was supportive. The Chair called for the question and the motion carried unanimously. The Chair will make sure the legal ads are properly submitted to the newspapers.

d) **Timeline**

The Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Timeline. There were none, pending the direction the Commissioners decided to take.

e) **Wards vs. Elections-at-large – state law**

After researching the issue, the Chair learned that Montana State Law requires that towns incorporated under the General Powers Act of Chapter 7 elect its Council from Wards. Valier is incorporated under the Chapter 7 General Powers Act and would need to change its form of government in order to abolish wards and elect the Council at large.

**V Announcements**

The next scheduled meeting will be the Public Hearing on February 9, 2015 directly following the Town Council Meeting.

**VI Adjournment**

Andy Van Haur moved to adjourn. Ray Buckoveckas seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

DRAFT