

## **APCAV Annual General Meeting 28 December 2015**

At 16h00, APCAV President, Stéphan Margelisch, opened the annual general meeting (AGM) in the Salle de la Comba, Verbier. The President greeted APCAV members, noted those excused and welcomed visitors, including:

- Eloi Rossier, President of the Commune de Bagnes
- Jean-Daniel Gay des Combes, Commune Council Member
- Eric Balet, CEO, Téléverbier SA
- Florian Michellod, President, Société de Développement de Verbier (SDV)

The secretary for the AGM was the Verbier Fiduciaire SA.

Mr. Margelisch asked to make an amendment to the agenda to include the topic, "Changes to the APCAV Statutes". The members voted to accept this change.

The AGM was duly convened. The Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes of:
  - a. The Ordinary General Meeting 29.12.2014
  - b. The Extraordinary General Meeting of 27.07.2015
2. The Committee's report on the past year and its plans for the future.
3. The Accounts and discharge of responsibility
4. Budget for the year 2015/2016
5. Election of the Committee
6. Designation of the auditor
7. Amendment of the statutes
8. Various individual proposals

### **1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF 29/12/2014 AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING 27/07/2015**

The minutes of these meetings are on the APCAV Website. The minutes were accepted unanimously.

### **2. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PERIOD AND ITS PROJECTS**

The President reported on the following topics.

- a) Overview
- b) New federal legislation on secondary residences
- c) New cantonal law on tourism
- d) Alliance of Secondary Residences
- e) APCAV Committee

#### a) OVERVIEW

The inheritance tax initiative was rejected by 71%.

Regarding the tourism law, new legislation is in force from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 on second residences.

Following an anonymous complaint, several construction sites in Verbier are being scrutinized because they do not comply with regulations for existing buildings. The Commune has appointed independent experts to analyze these problems, and a re-organization is underway of the communal departments concerned. APCAV is not intervening in this matter.

Following several remarks about medical emergencies, APCAV expressed concerns to the Commune about access to ambulances and emergency care. An ambulance will be available during daytime hours in Verbier.

#### b) NEW FEDERAL LEGISLATION ON SECOND RESIDENCES

The new federal legislation on secondary residences comes into force on January 1st, 2016. This new law requires Communes with more than 20% second residences to keep a register of such residences.

Existing secondary residences are permitted to increase their surface by 30% following the Lex Weber vote of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

The Commune, the Canton and the Confederation will monitor the application of this law.

#### c) NEW LAW ON TOURISM

The new cantonal law on tourism was accepted and entered into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. This law gives power to the Communes to set their own rates for financing tourism.

#### d) ALLIANCE OF SECONDARY RESIDENCES

APCAV is a member of the Alliance of Secondary Residences, the Swiss Valais Federation of Secondary Residences (FVRS). This association has organized meetings with the Union of Tourism of Valais.

#### e) THE COMMITTEE OF APCAV

The APCAV president informed the members that he would not renew his mandate as President of APCAV since he is no longer a property owner in Verbier.

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND DISCHARGE OF RESPONSIBILITY

The accounts for the year closed on September 30th, 2015 and were made available to those present at the meeting. The accounts were presented in comparison with the figures of the previous year's budget and that for the coming year.

The secretary of APCAV commented as follows:

Net fiscal revenue was CHF 49'740.42 with expenses at CHF 46'491.85 and a positive balance of CHF 3'248.57. This amount increased the APCAV capital to CHF 73'218. 38.

The current fiscal year makes up for the loss of the previous year, which recorded exceptional costs in relation to the summer meeting held at the W Hotel when there were no alternative venues. The intent is to keep a balanced in the accounts. Significant items such as the costs of the annual general meetings will be even more closely controlled over the coming years.

Mr. Loyd Gabioud of Fiduciaire Fimob of Châble, submitted his report of the accounts dated 17th December 2015. He recommended approval of the accounts and discharged the Committee of its responsibility.

The accounts, the committee's report and discharge of the Committee's responsibility were presented to the assembly for comment. They were put to a vote and were accepted unanimously.

#### 4. BUDGET FOR 2015/2016

The budget is based on the membership numbers for APCAV. A slight increase was expected to receive gross revenue of CHF 51'800 and an expected expenditure of CHF 50'800 leaving a positive balance of CHF 1,000.

A member asked whether a provision for loss on the accounts was budgeted. The secretary said that a loss is not budgeted this year, but may be added to the accounts in the future.

#### 5. ELECTION COMMITTEE

Two new members were proposed for the Committee:

- Ms. Brigitte Borel has lived in Verbier for more than 10 years. She has worked in real estate for 15 years. Currently, she is responsible for private banking for UBS in Verbier.
- Mr. Nicolas Leuba is a business consultant. He has experience in the commune council in Pully (VD). He is currently working with a promotional company in the canton of Vaud.

The two nominations were accepted unanimously by the members present.

Hélène Maier de Riedmatten, Michele Lloyd, Lotta Treschow, Michel Posternak, Thierry De Preux, Burkhard Lücking, James Jackson and Robert

Veldhuyzen were presented for re-election, and their nominations were accepted unanimously.

The Committee nominated Ms. Borel as the new President of APCAV. This nomination was unanimously accepted. Ms. Treschow and Mr. Leuba were nominated as Vice Presidents and the members accepted their nominations unanimously.

## 6. DESIGNATION OF THE AUDITOR

Fimob were accepted as the official auditors.

## 7. MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTES

An amendment to the Article 9 of the statutes: "the Committee shall appoint his deputy" will be replaced by "The Committee may nominate two Vice-Presidents." This statutory change was accepted with one abstention.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Posternak thanked Mr. Margelisch for his eight years of service as APVAC President and for the enormous tasks undertaken during his tenure. Mr. Margelisch sat on the committee of SDV and was the initiator of the Valais Federation for Secondary residences. Mr. Posternak proposed that Mr. Margelisch be named an honorary APCAV president, which was accepted by the members unanimously.

### **Mr Eloi Rossier, President of the Commune of Bagnes then spoke:**

He announced that an ambulance would be present in Verbier 12 hours a day. The Commune met with the Valais Health Council to request a 24 hour ambulance service in Verbier. The Commune de Bagnes pays the largest contribution to the finances of Valais.

The Commune has appointed two experts to evaluate the disputes over the legality over certain constructions in Verbier. The final report from these experts will be produced on January 20, 2016. Mr. Rossier said that the construction affair has been very harmful to the Commune's reputation.

### **Jean-Daniel Gay des Combes spoke:**

Major road works are planned this year:

1. Rue de la Poste, is finished with a main road and sidewalks without steps.
2. Work on the rue de Médran is underway and will mean a wider street towards the Rosalp with the same configuration as the rue de la Poste.
3. In 2016, work will begin from the Rosalp to Millennium.
4. The final section, the Place Centrale, is planned for 2017/2018 with a slight adjustment to the roundabout near the BCV, which will improve traffic flow.

Many cables had to be redirected due to these repairs and improvements, and because of work on the local heating system.

The parking lot, Marais Vert, is now in service and offers 230 parking spaces, at a tariff lower than the Ermitage parking. There are also spaces in Marais Vert available to rent for the year.

The Sports Centre improvement is a project of around 45 million CHF. It is still blocked by an appeal relating an opposition to the planning application. The Commune is still awaiting the outcome of this appeal. Meanwhile, the project for the Sports Centre was modified, and a survey was conducted in the autumn. The Commune hopes that work will be able to resume in 2016.

**Mr. Florian Michellod**, President of the Society for the Development of Verbier, gave the entire Assembly his best wishes for 2016.

**Mr. Eloi Rossier presented the new law on tourism.**

Tourism is currently financed by the tax de sejour (2 million CHF) the tax de promotion touristique (1.5 million CHF) and the communal household tax (3 million CHF). Each tax has a specific purpose (the tax de sejour for example finances the Toursit Office in Verbier and Chable and events up to the sum of 300,000 CHF). In the current environment, (in particular, the exchange rate between the Euro and CHF) an increase in funding is needed to continue to promote Verbier in the world.

The Commune will not introduce a tax on second residences. Instead the Commune plans to increase the Tax de Sejour from 2.50 CHF to 4.00 CHF maximum and also the number of days for those paying the tax in packages from 40 to 50 days is under review. For those opting for a package with a leisure card, there will be some incentives with reductions (cable car in summer, sports center, public transportation). This is all subject to a study.

One member questioned the President about the “noise pollution” from music on the terraces of the bars in the resort. The President responded by saying the resort needs to find balance to satisfy all residents of the resort.

**Eric Balet, CEO of Téléverbier SA, spoke next.**

He said that there has been a change in the leadership of Téléverbier SA. Jean Pierre Morand and Mr Simon have left the company. Nicolas Perretta replaced M. Morand and Mr. Maxime Cottet replaced Mr. Simon. In the summer of 2015, the company invested 10 million CHF mainly on artificial snow-making capacity in Bruson, Tzoumaz/Savoleyres and Lac des Vaux, as well as the new tunnel at Carrefour and the bottom of the Combe. Téléverbier SA has also acquired an interest in a project in Tzoumaz named T-One that should provide 470 beds in 2017.

The priority for investment for the coming years is the provision of artificial snow allowing new snow tracks in the space of a few days.

In the future, 4 to 5 new ski lifts will be provided:

- 2016: Lac II will be replaced by a 6-seater chairlift
- 2017: the cable car of Mont Gelé will be replaced
- 2018: the Combimix from les Esserts to les Planards will be put in place.
- 2019: the 6-seater cabin at Médran will be replaced by cabins for 8 to 10 people.

Development of the Bruson sector is still under consideration with the construction of a gondola for 4 to 6 people up to Col de Chargerat. This construction will be linked to a property development called, Mayens Bruson.

The Combimix from les Esserts is subject to an opposition. A decision from the Federal Court is imminent and mediation regarding this is ongoing.

The buvette at Pasay will be expanded in 2016, and a study is underway for a panoramic restaurant on the summit of Mont Fort.

Téléverbier is also involved in several real estate projects to provide accommodation for “warm” beds. The Mayens Bruson project should offer 1350 beds. Another project at Creux (Savoleyres) and Medran would offer 150 beds and is subject to a study.

One member pointed out that the number of reciprocal days skiing at other ski resorts covered by our ski pass has decreased. The goal is to provide extensive skiing in the ski pass price. The upper Valais is no longer part of the ski area, as a new upper Valais ski pass has been put into effect. Téléverbier SA is in discussion with neighboring ski areas about the issue of reciprocal days.

Téléverbier SA provides all children from the surrounding towns a free 4 Vallées ski pass. Téléverbier SA also offers all schools in Valais a free day ski rental, and free transport and ski pass.

To close the meeting, Ms. Géraldine Fasnacht made an outstanding presentation of her sporting career and her new passion for flying in a wind suit.

**The AGM was closed at 18:45.** It was followed by a cocktail buffet, with the drinks provided by the Verbier Office of Tourism.

APCAV Verbier  
6 January 2016