

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
January 5, 2010

Present: Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon, Phil Arvidson, Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, David Jaacks, Cathy Boedtke

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Phil Arvidson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – highway map corrections
- 3) 2010 Town & Highway Budgets – Highway Budget: Phil told Mike that the Selectboard decided not to give raises this year but they did give small performance bonuses. Cathy Archibald said the total highway expense budget is \$512,625, which is \$11,700 higher than last year. Tom noted that the 2010 highway budget includes \$40,000 in state aid. Cathy Archibald said taxes to be raised are \$432,625, which is down \$26,200 from 2009 because of the extra \$38,000 budgeted for state aid. Tom asked if the Selectboard is going to be able to reduce taxes by a penny. Phil said he'd be inclined to leave them where they are and carry the surplus forward. Town budget: Cathy Archibald said the 2009 town expenses show a \$293,716 deficit which has to do with accounting for education taxes, but she doesn't know what to do about it until she meets with John Mudgett. Cathy Archibald said, without doing anything with the education tax, she calculates a \$17,000 surplus for the town. Bruce said he has no problem waiting until next week to finalize the budget. Cathy Archibald said if you compare the 2009 actual to budget, we're under budget by \$24,882. Cathy Archibald said the town budget for 2010 is \$449,043, which is down \$3,629 from last year's budget. Phil said the CC has asked to keep their budget the same but would like the Selectboard to cover legal expenses. David Jaacks said the Energy Committee got a new quote for the energy audits from a different company. The new quote includes the school, the town hall, the town garage and the library. Tom asked if the quote is contingent on the town agreeing to audit all four buildings. David said that is unclear at this point. Cathy Boedtke said when the Energy Committee approached the School Board about a school energy audit, they were told they would have to go through the supervisory union. Because of this extra step, they were not able to get their proposal to the School Board in time for inclusion in the school budget. Cathy Boedtke said she was told that, because of Act 60, the audit would cost more than the amount estimated. David said that's why he suggested that the Energy Committee come back to the town. Phil said his opinion is that the school will have to handle their piece of it. Tom noted that the school addition is relatively new and should be pretty efficient. David asked if there were savings as a result of the audit, would the savings affect the school budget or the town budget. Tom said energy saved at the school would affect the school budget. Phil said he doesn't want to get involved in the school budget. Phil suggested that the Energy Committee ask the auditor if he's interested in auditing the town buildings if the school is not included. Phil said the question is what the town does with the information the auditor provides. Tom said he thinks the Selectboard should consider implementing the auditor's recommendations in conjunction with expanding the vault space and renovating the town offices in time for the centennial celebration of its construction in 2015. David said efficiency measures implemented in town buildings set an example for town residents. Tom said he hopes the Energy Committee will consider projects that may require a bit of an investment now but will save the town money in the long run. David said that is what they are trying to do. David said the Energy Committee is also asking the Selectboard to put an article on the warning asking voters if they want to exempt alternative energy structures from property taxes. Phil said he has seen the proposed article and has no problem with it. Bruce agreed.
- 4) Discuss Warning for Town Meeting – Cathy Archibald apologized for not having a draft of the warning ready and said she would have it for the next meeting on Monday, January 11th. Cathy Archibald said she is not going to be able to meet with John Mudgett before Monday so the Selectboard is going to have to schedule another special meeting. Phil suggested putting an article on

the warning asking the taxpayers if they want to spend more money on the ancient roads situation. Phil said there are competing factions and he thinks there ought to be a public discussion on the issue. Bruce said the CC would have to be involved; they've put a lot of time and energy into this. Tom said people have expressed concern about getting title to their property. Tom said with Duling Road, the parties finally agreed on a recreational trail easement. Tom said he thinks recreational trail easements might be a good solution for the CC to pursue in this situation as well. Bruce said if the town doesn't do anything, the title issues will go away on their own in 2015. Tom said lawsuits in connection with the issue could drag on and on. Bruce said he thinks the town should consider the roads that are clearly defined and used. Tom said he thinks the CC should consult with Reading about the two trails that cross the town line so both towns can act in accordance with one another. Bruce asked about the deadline for the town meeting warning. Cathy Archibald said January 18th or 19th. Bruce said he thinks the Selectboard should invite the CC to discuss this with them at Monday's meeting. Phil agreed and said he will send an email to Ted Siegler. Cathy Archibald asked about the CC's request that the Selectboard establish an annual appropriation of \$5,000 for a Conservation Fund. Bruce said he thinks the CC is just letting the Selectboard know that this is something they'd like to do next year.

- 5) Other Business - Tom said he and Mike reviewed, and made corrections to, the highway map. Mike said there's a section of Duling Road that is not a town highway. Mike said the road by Ralph Johnson's is not a town highway, even though the town has agreed to maintain it for as long as the Johnsons are living there. Mike said he thinks the mileage on Seems Road is correct but it's not drawn on the map correctly. Mike said Ballard Road is not there any more and is not passable. Tom said the road was taken out in the flood of 1973 and he thinks the town threw it up. Phil agreed. Mike said the Yale Heights bridge is not a covered bridge. Mike said he thinks we need to make the corrections and send them into the state. Tom said it would be nice to get a new map showing the corrections before the Selectboard signs off on it. Bruce agreed. Tom suggested that he and Mike get together and call the state. Mike agreed. **Bruce made a motion to update the map per today's discussion and to contact the state to find out the best way to accomplish that. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Tom updated the Selectboard on plans for the 4th of July.
- 6) Sign Town Clerk's Orders – Cathy Archibald had two orders for the Selectboard to sign.
- 7) Executive Session – **By unanimous consent, the Selectboard went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. After discussion, the Selectboard came out of Executive Session by unanimous consent and agreed to schedule another meeting with the highway department employees at the Town Garage.**
- 8) Adjourn – **The Selectboard adjourned by consensus.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison