

**WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD
WEST WINDSOR SCHOOL BOARD**

Draft Minutes
June 19, 2013

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtke, Art Keating, Amanda Paquette, Aaron Gonthier, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- 2) Public Comment – None
- 3) Discuss village sewer project – Glenn noted that the town has done a feasibility study and preliminary engineering and now has to decide whether or not to proceed. Glenn said the town would like guidance from the School Board before pursuing grant funding for this \$2.1 million project. Glenn said there are development, pollution and possibly school issues involved. Glenn noted increased enrollment, the lack of a school cafeteria and possible consolidation as factors that could affect the decision. Given the amount of time involved in applying for grants, the Selectboard would like the School Board's support before proceeding. Bruce said it would be nice to have a commitment from the school to connect to the sewer line when it's available. Art said the Weathersfield School will be providing hot lunches for Albert Bridge next year but the School Board can discuss whether they'd like to have their own cafeteria and lunch program eventually. Regarding consolidation, Art said area school boards studied the issue and decided against consolidation. Amanda said enrollment for next year is pretty high. Art said he spoke with Realtor Seth Warren today to try and understand what's going on in the real estate market. Art said the rental population is difficult to predict and that's what's affecting school enrollment right now – the availability of low-cost rental housing at the resort. There was discussion about the school's wastewater system, which has a capacity of 133. Amanda said there are currently 93 students enrolled for this fall and 6 full-time staff members. Amanda said she is supportive of moving forward with the sewer expansion. Art noted that the situation is changing quickly. Bruce said resort property owners are desperate because values are falling, properties are not selling, and they need some way to cover their expenses so they rent it out. Glenn said even if the foreclosure issues are resolved next month as expected, the ski area is not going to be open this year; there's not enough time to get it back in shape. Bruce said low cost, a nice environment, a good school and school choice are making the local rental market attractive. Art suggested that both boards meet with one or more local realtors to discuss these issues. Art said it might be helpful to include the Superintendent. Bruce asked if Albert Bridge is an anomaly compared to the rest of the state. Amanda said the school that serves Quechee has seen increased enrollment for the same reason - an increase in the availability of rental units. Amanda and Art agreed to bring up this issue at the next School Board meeting on July 18th. Meanwhile, all agreed to schedule another joint meeting with realtors and the Superintendent prior to the School Board's next meeting.
- 4) Highway Access application: Carihfield – Glenn noted that Highway Foreman Mike Spackman has no problem with the proposed access location. **Glenn moved to grant preliminary approval for the Carihfield access off Cowshed Trail. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 5) Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at approximately 6:35 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison