

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
August 13, 2018

Present: Brett Myers, Win Johnson, Matt Kantola, Mike Spackman, Tom Kenyon, Cathy Archibald, Deb Shearer, Bill Ley, Bill Young, Mary-Anne Boyce, Kate Burr, Robin Malkasian, Midge Dunn, Cathy Hoyt (Windsor on Air), Ms. Anderson

- 1) Executive Session – At 6:15 PM, **Win moved to go into executive session to discuss a complaint made again a town employee. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** At 6:25 PM, **Win moved to come out of executive session, noting that the matter will be turned over to the Town Attorney. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 2) Call to Order – At 6:30 PM, Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the regular meeting to order.
- 3) Changes or additions to the agenda – Win will give an update on the status of Snowstorm I, and talk about the event wrap-up with Ascutney Outdoors. Win would also like an update on the status of the Library and a brief report on the Fire Department’s 60th anniversary celebration. In addition, Win said, the Selectboard has received a highway access application from Ken Parrot.
- 4) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 5) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report – Sign Town Clerk’s orders: **Brett moved to sign orders. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Discussion of possible town ordinance needs (parking, false alarms, junk) with Chief Sampson and the Planning Commission – The Police Chief and the Planning Commission were not present so this item was passed over.
- 7) Town Plan discussion – As noted above, the Planning Commission was not present so the Selectboard passed over this item.
- 8) Burke/Clay property Feasibility Report – Win said a property across from the town garage is for sale and, from a long-term planning point of view, it might be desirable for the town to own it. Win said, before the Selectboard could make a recommendation to the townspeople, they felt they should have a feasibility study done so they hired Engineering Ventures. Win said the state has been pushing the town to move the sand pile further back from Route 44 and there has also been talk about moving the Fire Station out of the floodplain; this property might allow the town to accomplish both of those goals. Win said EV has agreed that both are possible uses for the property. Brett said the concerns about the Fire Station being in the floodplain are valid but there may be questions about another property coming off the tax rolls. Matt said he doesn’t think the property generates much tax revenue. Brett asked about the Clay property, behind the sand pile. Mike said EV also looked at that property and said it wasn’t suitable for the proposed uses. Win noted that local zoning regulations do not permit exterior storage of materials. Win suggested making copies of Engineering Ventures’ report available to the public and referring it to the Planning Commission so they can determine, in discussions with the Fire Department, whether moving the Fire Station is a high priority. Win said if the Fire Station were moved, its current location could be available for commercial development. Matt said if the price is reasonable, the Burke property would be a strategic piece of land for the town to own for use by the Highway Department and/or the Fire

Department. Matt asked about the price of property. Win said he knows the price was reduced but he doesn't have the current figure; he'll contact Gary Burke to discuss. Win asked Deb to put the relocation of the sand pile on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting. Deb said the next Planning Commission meeting is on August 22nd at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.

- 9) Dog complaint enforcement – Win said it's his understanding that a citation was issued to the owner of the barking dog on Clough Road, but he's not sure exactly what that means; he's waiting for clarification from the Police Chief. Tom said he heard of another incident involving the dog that bit Ken Burke. Win said no complaint has been made about that.
- 10) Speed limits on town roads - Kate Burr asked the Selectboard to reconsider the speed limit on Rush Meadow Road, which is currently posted at 35 MPH. Kate said there's a lot of traffic including log trucks and lawn maintenance trucks and people are using the roads for walking, biking and horses. In the vicinity of Jacquith Road, Kate said, it's too curvy to safely go 35 MPH when there are no sight lines. Kate said the roads are also too narrow where they've been ditched. Kate asked the town to do the studies needed to set a more appropriate speed limit. Win said he will look into scheduling a traffic study. Win said Vermont towns are now subject to a whole new set of state regulations regarding stormwater runoff from roads. Win said the road crew is doing a tremendous job trying to comply with the regulations and the ditching is a by-product of that. Kate agreed that ditching is necessary but said there's just nowhere to go if you're trying to get out of the way of a larger vehicle. Brett asked if the speed limit on other back roads is 35 MPH. Kate said no; the speed limit on lower Sheddsville, Cemetery and Bible Hill is 30 MPH. Kate complimented the Highway Department on their maintenance of the roads. Kate noted that the speed limit on Route 106, where it passes GMHA, is only 30 MPH. Brett noted that the speed limit on the curvy section of the Brownsville-Hartland Road is only 35 MPH and that's a paved road. Win said the town had a traffic study done on the Brownsville-Hartland Road and the average speed was not much above the posted limit but the range of speeds was significant, with a handful of people driving at dangerously high speeds. Win said the town is also interested in acquiring a portable radar device for speed control. Others present agreed that speeding on Rush Meadow Road has gotten worse over the past few years. Kate noted that Google and other GPS devices are routing people along Rush Meadow when it would make more sense for them to take Route 106 to Route 44. Bill Ley asked if the Selectboard is going to pursue a flashing light device. Win agreed that the Selectboard needs to put more energy into that. Win asked Tom to expedite the investigation of a radar device with the Regional Planning Commission. Bill Ley suggested that event organizers ask participants to obey local speed limits. Related to that, Win said, Ascutney Outdoors is having an open meeting on Saturday, August 18, at 2:00 PM to accept public comment on all the events that have occurred during the last month.
- 11) Highway – Foreman's report: Mike said the Blood Hill project is done and there hasn't been any negative feedback from abutting property owners. Harrington Road project: Mike said GMP was planning to bore under Harrington Road but he has not heard anything about it lately. The road will be closed when they do the work. Mowing: The first round of mowing should be done this week if the weather cooperates. MRGP/Grants-in-Aid project update: Mike said he and Chris Yurek have looked at some of the road segments that don't meet the new state stormwater standards and, in some cases, all we can do is ask for an exemption because there's not enough room to meet the standards. Win said to comply with the new

Municipal Roads General Permit, the town had a road inventory done and road segments were classified as either: meeting the standards, partially meeting the standards, or not meeting the standards. Mike said he and Chris are looking at the high priority segments first, including the Brownsville-Hartland Road. Mike said he'd like to use the "grants-in-aid" funds to stone line the ditches on the steep part of Coon Club Road east of Trafton Road. The Selectboard agreed with Mike's recommendation. Mike said he will meet with the Regional Planning Commission again before proceeding. Equipment: Mike noted that the hydro seeder motor pump is in. Village Lane drainage issue: Matt and Brett said Karen had the work done already and it looks good. Brett said Randy Perry did the work. Route 44 paving project: Tom said he is happy to see the paving widened between Seems Road and the Post Office. Win noted that the paving company has done the first coat and will be coming back to do a second coat. Fire Dept. 60th Anniversary: Mike said it was a huge success even though the weather didn't cooperate. Win agreed. Parrot access application: Mike said he talked with Ken about it today; it's an agricultural access, east of his house, near the property line. Mike said he doesn't have any concerns about the access, he just hasn't figured out what size culvert should be installed yet. Mike said the sight distance is fine. **Brett moved to approve Ken Parrot's access application. Matt seconded the motion.** Mike asked that the approval be subject to his determination on the size of the pipe. The Selectboard agreed. Tom asked if this is initial approval. Mike and the Selectboard said yes. Mike noted an illegal access that was developed on Skyhawk Lane and said that person has been sent a letter. Trucks: The new one-ton truck is in service. Mike noted that we need to start the process of ordering a new 14 CY truck for next year.

- 12) Dam behind Fire Station – Win said the project seems to be going well. Tom noted very little silt going downstream. Win said the water depth looks good in front of the gate to the hydrant. Matt asked if the dam removal was a town project. Win said it was a grant-funded project, initiated by the hydrogeological study of Mill Brook done by the Conservation Commission. The study also resulted in the alteration of the dam on Harrington Road.
- 13) Radio equipment maintenance – Mike said the Repeater Association met and is happy to have the Town of West Windsor work with the same maintenance company that they use, which is Burlington Communication. Mike said, unfortunately, they just did the maintenance on the Repeater Association's equipment but they may have to go back because there were some issues. Mike said he asked Scott Smith to let him know, so he can let the town know, if they're going back up there soon.
- 14) Email address change update – The work will have to be rescheduled due to election day and Martha's illness. Win said he spoke with the company and they assured him that it would be done before the end of the month.
- 15) Utility Reports – Water system: Win said Martha has provided information about the amount of water used for the Ragnar event, which did not allow showers, and the Point to Point event, which did allow showers. Although water use did go up for both events, Win said, it was within the limits. Win said this is one of the things that will be examined during the event wrap-up with Ascutney Outdoors. Sewer system: Tom said a tree came down near Bob Farnsworth's house and knocked out power to the village last week, but all three of the sewer system's emergency generators came on and worked fine. Win asked Tom if he knows whether the utility owns the parcel that Pump Station #1 is located on. Tom said he would assume so. Cathy said she will be calling Jim Barlow to discuss the procedure for shutting off service to delinquent utility customers.

- 16) July Police Report – Win noted a sexual assault on the report and said he contacted the Police Chief to see if there is any reason to be concerned about public safety. Win said the Chief assured him that it's not a public safety issue. Brett questioned whether there are enough directed patrols. Win said if that's a concern, we'll have to discuss it with the Chief.
- 17) Other Business – Library: Win said it's his understanding that Matt Birmingham has not yet written an opinion on the status of the Library. Tom said that's correct; on Wednesday, the Trustees will vote on the status of the Library, which is now a town public library. Since it's a town library, Tom said, library employees will be subject to the same personnel policies as all other town employees. Tom said there was also a question about what happened to the Fred Savage Fund, which was divided up between the school, the library and the town in 2005, according to some prearranged formula. Cathy said the Blood Fund was closed the same year with \$10,317.86 going to Albert Bridge School. Win said if the Library was conveyed to the Town, then we need a memo from the Town Attorney to that effect, with corroborating evidence, to be recorded in the town records so this issue doesn't come up again. Win asked who will get the materials to Matt Birmingham. Mary-Anne said she has copies of the original deed to the Trust and other evidence over time. If the Blood Fund disappeared at some point, we need to have some understanding, legally, of why that happened since Blood gave the Library \$3,000 in 1901 forever. Over the years, Mary-Anne said, money was borrowed from the Blood Fund by both the Town and the Library and then generally replaced. Win suggested that the Library Trustees invite Matt to their meeting on Wednesday. Snowstorm I: Win said the Hotel would love to get rid of Snowstorm I. Win said when summer's over, he'd like to meet there with Mike, Glenn Seward, Leslie Levesque and a few others and come up with a plan to remove the structure. Brett and Matt had no objection. Tax withholding: Mary-Anne asked about tax withholding for Library employees. Tom said that should wait until the Trustees meet on Wednesday. Bible Hill culvert: Mike said SD Ireland called him last week; the culvert went into process today and the concrete will be done by the 27th. Mike said Jon Murphy is ready to start as soon as the culvert is delivered.
- 18) Approve Minutes – No action was taken on the minutes of July 23rd.
- 19) Adjourn – **Win moved to adjourn at 7:39 PM. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison