

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

August 29, 2011 (Noon)

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Jim Kenyon, Ralph Johnson, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison, Bill Ley, Audrey Halpert, Mark Isenberg, Jerry & Shirley Ouelette, and many other local residents

- 1) Call to Order – Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Kenyon began the meeting at 12:00 noon. Jim reported that the village has power and the rest of town, with the possible exception of the Resort, should have power by the end of the day. Glenn reported that the roads are a disaster but the town is hoping to have at least one lane passable on all roads by the end of the day. Glenn asked people not to drive around as it is still extremely dangerous. Glenn said the town will prioritize road repairs later today or tomorrow, with the main arteries getting fixed first. Jim said it will be several days or more before the Route 44 Bridge over Mill Brook is fixed. Glenn said there are serious bridge problems at the south end of Reading. Someone reported that the Reading Fire Department made it all the way to Woodstock this morning so 106 north is passable. In response to a question, Glenn said there are several local contractors helping with repairs so people who are stranded can get out. Glenn said we will most likely be dealing with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on this. Someone asked if it is okay for residents to do what they have to in order to open up driveways on town roads. Glenn said yes. Jim said the town has a list of those with heavy equipment in town. Mark asked if everyone is okay. Jim said approximately 20 people have been checked on and are okay. Mark said the store is open but doesn't have water. Jim said Windsor has stationed an ambulance in Reading to cover Reading and West Windsor, even though our ambulance contract is not with Windsor. Jim said the fire department has a list of people whose cellars need pumping so if your cellar needs pumping, put your name on the list. Glenn said residents are responsible for trees that have fallen on their property. Jim said if anyone has any property damage that might be eligible for financial assistance, contact Polly Ouelette, Cathy Archibald, or Martha Harrison. Jim said he has been informed that the contents of the firehouse are covered, but he's not sure about the parking area. Someone asked if town roads are covered. Jim said all we can do is file the paper work. Glenn said the town generally gets assistance from the federal and state government in situations like this. Someone asked if private driveways would be covered. Glenn said he doesn't think so. Jim emphasized the importance of planning ahead. Someone asked about phone service. Glenn said Fairpoint is working to get things running. Someone else reported that Comcast is back on line. Glenn said not all the road hazards are marked and things are continuing to deteriorate. Bruce said the sides of some roads are starting to cave in. Glenn urged people to be cautious about driving if they have to go out. Jim urged people to take pictures of the damage. Someone asked where the highway department is working right now. Glenn said they are working on Rush Meadow Road and Churchill Road. Glenn said Silver Hill and Bryant Road are passable at this point. Someone said it would be a good idea to stay away from those areas to allow for the construction. Glenn agreed. Someone asked if the Brownsville-Hartland Road is open all the way to Hartland. Glenn said that is his understanding. Someone asked about the interstate. Someone else reported that I-91 north and south around White River Junction is fine. Someone else reported that Exit 20 off I-89 is closed due to flooding of Route 12A. Someone asked where the town is getting material for road repair. Glenn said we're getting it from anywhere we can – Cersosimo, Casella, D&D in Hartland. Someone asked if the town will fix Route 44 first. Jim said Route 44 is a state highway so the state will repair it, which may take days or weeks. Someone asked about the concrete bridge near the overpass in Windsor. Glenn said he has heard that that bridge is out. Gary Burke said there's no sense in going down Brook Road. Jim said if there are cones or tape across a road, they're there for a reason. Jim said he'd like to meet with the fire

department after this meeting. Shirley Ouelette asked if anyone is homeless. Jim said if someone calls 911, the call goes to Hartford Dispatch and we've transferred all the phones to a special number here. Bill Ley asked if volunteers are needed. Jim said the biggest thing is the firehouse and we can't put too many people in there. Someone asked about the pump station. Glenn said CVPS is working on that; they're trying to kill the power. Jim said anyone who can operate heavy equipment can give their name to Glenn, Polly, or Martha. Mark said people have been helping each other, which is nice to see. Glenn said it's going to take a lot of time to get through this; it's more than a serious inconvenience. Bruce said we've got the power back and most of the roads will be passable by the end of the day, so we're doing pretty well. Jim said for those who don't have a generator, it might be a good idea to get one. Shirley said that Jerry would be happy to weld any broken equipment. No one had any further questions or comments so, at this point, the fire department commenced their meeting and the Selectboard moved to the Town Clerk's office. **Due to the extensive damage to the infrastructure within the town, Glenn moved to declare a state of emergency. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said we need to come up with a chart indicating each road, the amount of damage, and the work that needs to be done, with a cost estimate. Glenn said we need to make sure that everything is well documented if we expect to get assistance from the state and federal government. Glenn suggested starting with a cursory inspection and then doing a more detailed inspection. Tom said we're going to have to work with Windsor on the Brook Road. Tom asked Glenn to contact Windsor's Town Manager. Glenn agreed. Glenn said it is his understanding that there are serious issues with water and sewer at the Resort, specifically with the pipeline. Glenn said he's going to get back on that side of the brook and find out what's going on since we have 270 taxpayers over there. Glenn said he thinks Mike has a handle on the road issues. Tom suggested seeing if the fire department can rent Irwin's garage. Glenn suggested that Tom contact Chan Irwin. Tom said he will pass the suggestion along to the fire department trustees. Bruce asked about next steps. Glenn asked Martha to start trying to contact the state and FEMA. Tom said he doesn't know what we're going to do about the Bowers covered bridge. All agreed that it's low priority at this point, as is lower Banister Road, since everyone can get out and they're going to cost a lot to fix. Tom said Harrington Road is going to cost a lot to fix too. Glenn said if you follow it in towards town, the whole thing is cracked and ready to fall into the brook. Bruce said we need to check culverts and headwalls carefully. Tom said if the state is going to replace the bridge over Mill Brook, he hopes the town will have some say because we talked about putting the sewer line there and sidewalks on one or both sides. Glenn said he doesn't think anything's going to happen very quickly, although they'll probably try to get it open. Tom asked if it would make sense to fill it with rock. Glenn said it depends on what the abutments look like. Tom asked about lower Sheddsville Road. Martha said you can drive it but the D'Anna's culvert is washed out and the new bridge is partly washed out. Tom asked Bruce and Glenn if they still want to meet at 5:00 PM. Glenn said yes and he'd like Mike Spackman to be present. Tom said he thinks the Route 44 bridge is the biggest issue since Brook Road is not there anymore. Glenn agreed. Bruce said there are 14 bridges out in our district. Glenn said it's important to reach out to Trevor Starr at the Agency of Transportation and FEMA or Vermont Emergency Management (VEM). Martha said she will fax the emergency declaration to VEM. Tom said the Army Corps project behind the Grange Hall held up perfectly.

- 2) Adjourn – **Tom made a motion to adjourn at 12:46 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison