

West Windsor Selectboard  
Draft Minutes  
December 15, 2016

Present: Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Win Johnson, Erik Boedtke, Dave Perry, Mike Spackman, Phil Hathorn, Cathy Archibald, Amelia Tracy (Next Sun), Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – Base Lodge update
- 3) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 4) Annual Reviews: Highway Employees – **Dick moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters with the highway employees. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Win moved to come out of Executive Session. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** The Selectboard members noted that they are pleased with the performance of the highway department.
- 5) 2016 & 2017 Budget Discussions – County: Cathy gave the Selectboard copies of the Windsor County budget. Win asked about the ticketing revenue generated by the Sherriff, which does not appear to be reflected in the budget. Win also asked what is included in the expenses for the Windsor County Sherriff. The Selectboard noted a \$67,000 increase in the County budget and agreed that they would like more information. Highway: Win provided copies of budget summaries that he created with excel, using the numbers suggested by Mike. Win said, for this year’s budget, the highway expenses that are not related to compensation total \$389,950, and for next year’s draft budget, they total \$407,150. Dick asked about worker’s compensation. Cathy said we don’t have worker’s compensation; we have short-term disability. Win said the increase in non-compensation expenses is 4.4% and part of that is due to an increase in reserve fund transfers and debt service. Mike said there’s going to be a surplus in the highway budget this year, which could be transferred to the highway reserve fund. Cathy said she will run a new ledger after she pays the bills on Monday. The Selectboard agreed that they need to decide about compensation. Town: Win asked about the breakdown for legal expenses. Cathy said she will call Matt Birmingham. After discussing expected legal expenses in 2017, the Selectboard agreed to budget \$20,000. The Selectboard reviewed revenues and expenses with Cathy and adjusted specific line items as needed. Dick noted an increase of 3.5% in Windsor’s law enforcement charge. Win said the phone charges should be zero now that EC Fiber is providing us with free phone service. Cathy said custodian services are now paid through payroll so that line item can be removed. Tom said the Town Hall windows need to be washed. Martha noted that she needs a storm window. Win said we need to budget for wastewater fees. The Selectboard agreed to set the Conservation Commission’s expense budget at \$2,000, with an additional \$5,000 to go to the Conservation Fund, and contact Ted Siegler to see if he thinks that’s reasonable. Except where changes have been requested, the Selectboard agreed to keep contributions to community organizations the same. Tom said he’s hoping that the town’s share of the new lawn mower can come out of this year’s budget. Tom requested \$2,000 for the Sheddsville Cemetery. Tom noted that the Fire Department had their budget meeting last night so we should have their request soon. Cathy said she will call Nancy Gaynor to see how much the FAST Squad needs next year.

- 6) Other Business – Plowing to Reservoir #1: Martha said Dan Lesnick asked if we're going to want him to plow up to Reservoir #1. If so, he'd like to know as soon as possible so he can do it before the temperature plummets. Win noted the agreement with Ascutney Outdoors (AO) that they would provide access to Reservoir #1 via Sno-cat or snowmobile and asked if we want the water system to pay for plowing now that it appears we're going to have access over the burned-out Base Lodge property. Dick said we spent money improving the access road through the maintenance parcel so he is not in favor of spending money to plow an access across the Base Lodge property. Win said he'd like to hear from Dennis Brown. Martha said Dennis is the one who asked Dan if he's going to be plowing. **Win moved to proceed with plowing for today only and then consult with Dennis and Patricia about a long-term solution. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Sign Recreational Trails grant report – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- 8) Other Business – Base Lodge: Win said he heard from AO yesterday that they think they have worked out the deed language for the purchase of the Base Lodge property. Win said Glenn Seward asked about using electricity from the town's meter during the demolition.
- 9) Discuss net metering agreement with Next Sun – Tom said the town expects to acquire a large parcel of land on the west side of town in a few years, which might be a good site for a solar project. Tom suggested that the town might be able to get free electricity if it built its own project. Amelia said unless the town owns the system, which would require a substantial investment, it would probably not be a good deal. If the town leased the land to a private developer who then built and owned the system, the incentives on the electricity produced would probably not be as good as the incentives Next Sun is offering because incentives are projected to decrease in the future. Amelia said most towns don't own systems because there's a 30% federal tax credit which tax-exempt municipalities cannot take advantage of. Also most towns don't want to deal with maintaining the system. Amelia said most contracts are for 25 years, which is the life of the system. Next Sun is offering the town a fixed 13% discount so, regardless of what happens with electricity prices, the town will always get a discount. Amelia reviewed the projected savings with the Selectboard. Amelia said the credits can be allocated to any meters the town owns, and the allocations can be adjusted once or twice a year. Tom asked what would happen if the school burned down. Amelia said the town will be responsible for the amount contracted but, because the credits can be moved around, the town can re-sell the credits to any GMP customer if the town doesn't use them all. Amelia said Next Sun could help re-sell the credits if they have other contracts that need them. Amelia said since current incentives are better than future incentives are expected to be, and because energy prices are projected to keep going up, the town shouldn't have trouble re-selling the credits if necessary. In response to a question from Win, Amelia said Next Sun is a private company with six full-time employees. Win asked what would happen if Next Sun went out of business. Amelia said Next Sun's bank would take over the contract and administer it, and there would be no change to the terms. Dick said some of the language in the contract might need to be modified to clarify that credits can be reallocated among the town's meters. Dick said the town and the school are separate entities, and asked if each entity has to have an authorized representative sign the contract. Amelia said the town and school will have to answer that question. If the town signs on behalf of the school, there would need to be an agreement between the town and school. Dick noted that Next Sun's projected output for their Westminster facility is 800,000 kWh. Dick said it's encouraging to learn that credits can be reallocated among the town's meters. Dick added that the town is

looking at the agreement carefully and will get back to Amelia with a decision as soon as possible.

- 10) Sign Town Clerk's orders – **Win moved to sign orders. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 11) Move to Library for Executive Session on personnel matters – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- 12) Adjourn –**Tom moved to adjourn at 11:45 AM. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison