

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

December 20, 2012

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.
- 2) Public Comment – None
- 3) Highway Budget – There was discussion about West Windsor’s common level of appraisal. Glenn noted a 3% increase in highway wages. Cathy, Mike and the Selectboard went through the highway budget item by item, confirming or adjusting the amounts. Glenn noted the plan to do a separate article in the warning asking the voters to approve additional funds for road improvements. Mike said the deck of the chloride trailer may need work. There was discussion about repair work to Bowers Bridge and it was noted that it is not known at this time what needs to be done, how much it is going to cost, and whether or not it will be covered by insurance. Glenn suggested a separate article in the Town Meeting warning if it is needed. Glenn said we should know by then whether we need additional money for the work or not. Glenn said our insurance company, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), sent an engineer to look at the bridge last week and he also met with state historic preservation officer Scott Newman. When we hear from VLCT, Glenn said, we’ll know whether we’re going to get insurance money or not. Glenn said we’ll compare the reports from VLCT and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) Engineering and then make a decision. The Selectboard agreed to put a separate article on the warning if necessary. Mike said the highway department needs a new chain saw. Mike suggested increasing the Equipment Fund to \$65,000. Glenn suggested holding a couple of special meetings after January 1st to review the budget with those who might be interested, since we’re doing something a little different. Cathy said the adjusted highway budget numbers add up to \$546,290 so if \$80,000 in state highway aid is subtracted, \$466,290 would have to be raised by taxes. As a result, the Selectboard decided to leave the Equipment Fund at \$60,000. Tom asked if the Gravel Fund article will ask for a set amount, or for one or two cents on the tax rate. There was discussion but no decision. All agreed that a 2% increase in the highway budget is reasonable. Mike suggested a \$1 per hour raise for Charlie Weld in the 2013 budget. Mike noted Charlie’s ability and willingness to fix the truck. Bruce added that it is valuable to have him on call.
Glenn moved to increase Charlie Weld’s rate of pay by \$1 to \$16 per hour starting January 1, 2013. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- 4) Hannah Road discontinuance – The Selectboard approved and signed the Notice of Discontinuance of the easterly portion of Hannah Road (Town Highway #42). Mike asked about adding to Lemire Road. Glenn said the Resort would need to transfer the right-of-way to the town, which hasn’t happened. Martha noted that the right-of-way starts at the intersection. Mike said the town has maintained the right-of-way forever so it should be added to the town highway map. Glenn said we’ll need to get it surveyed and transferred. Martha said she thinks there is an existing survey. Glenn said the town needs to go through the legal process.
- 5) Town Budget - Cathy noted that the town has a surplus but she won’t know the amount until the end of the year. Tom said if we have enough of a surplus, maybe we can keep the budget

the same. Cathy said delinquent tax penalties for 2012 are \$5,264. Glenn commented that land use payments from the state are a shot in the dark. Cathy and the Selectboard went through the town budget item by item, confirming or adjusting the amounts. Glenn noted a wage increase of 3%. Cathy suggested lowering Constable and Second Constable wages due to the decrease in the amount of time involved. Glenn suggested that the Delinquent Tax Collector might be able to help collect delinquent sewer bills also. Glenn noted an increase in law enforcement to \$80,000 due to the fact that Windsor officers have spent more time in West Windsor than anticipated. There was discussion about how to budget for audit expenses. Glenn suggested a separate line item. Bruce and Tom agreed. Glenn noted that the copier is being replaced this year at a total cost of \$4,200. Glenn said he asked Martha to order her computer this year as well. Bruce asked about the backup system. Martha said she has Carbonite on hers. Cathy said she doesn't think the Listers have it on their computer yet. **Glenn moved to continue the budget meeting tomorrow morning at 7:30 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 6) Consider signing ambulance contract – Glenn noted receipt of a draft contract from Windsor Town Manager Tom Marsh. Glenn said he talked to Bob Allen and Gordie Eastman from the Reading Selectboard about West Windsor's thoughts on our ambulance contract and they appreciated the call. Tom Kenyon said the draft contract from Windsor is for two years. Glenn said he spoke with Tom Marsh about that and they are comfortable with a one-year contract with a 30-day "out clause." Tom Kenyon said some of the response time information provided by Windsor doesn't make sense. Tom added that he would like to let the voters decide which ambulance service they want. Glenn said he thinks the voters look to the Selectboard to sift through the details and make a decision based on their best interests. Glenn said he has confidence in the management structure in Windsor and feels that the Selectboard owes it to the residents of West Windsor to provide the fastest response time available by qualified personnel. Glenn added that not all members of the FAST Squad have medical training. **Glenn moved to award the ambulance contract for 2013 to the Town of Windsor. Bruce seconded the motion.** Bruce said West Windsor should give Windsor a try; if it doesn't work out, we can always make a change. Bruce suggested sending a thank you letter to Golden Cross. Glenn agreed. Bruce said West Windsor will be monitoring response time. Tom said he would like to see response times for every call. **Glenn called for a vote on the motion, which passed with Tom opposed.** Cathy asked if residents can still request Golden Cross if they want to. Glenn said he doesn't know but he would expect that they probably could. Glenn suggested asking Scott Smith.
- 7) Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 9:00 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison