

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
December 28, 2016

Present: Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Win Johnson, Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, Martha Harrison, Deb Shearer

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at the Mary Blood Library at 8:30 AM.
- 2) Executive session: personnel matters – **Win moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Win moved to come out of executive session. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 3) The meeting was moved to the Town Hall at 9:23 AM.
- 4) Changes or additions to the agenda – None
- 5) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 6) Sign Town Clerk’s orders – **Tom moved to sign orders. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Win asked if the payment to Daniels for their work on the school sewer system is reimbursable by the state, through the bond bank. Martha said yes.
- 7) 2016 and 2017 Budget Discussions – Highway: There was discussion about the allowance for overtime in the highway wages. The amount included in the highway budget for medical insurance is \$65,928.96 with an additional \$7,500 for HRA expenses. Town: There was discussion about whether or not to appoint a new Delinquent Tax Collector at Town Meeting or to make it one of the Town Treasurer’s responsibilities. No decision was made. There was discussion about the \$1,500 increase in Law Enforcement expenses. Win noted that Ted Siegler requested \$5,000 for Conservation Commission expenses related to the Master Plan and the Forest Management Plan, along with a \$5,000 contribution to the Conservation Fund. Dick and Tom agreed with the request. Win asked why the contribution to the Listers Fund is a special appropriation, and why it isn’t just included in the budget. Tom said it’s a good opportunity for people to ask about the next reappraisal at Town Meeting. Win suggested asking the Listers to be prepared to address the article. Win said we need to decide whether we’re going to borrow money to buy a new fire truck. Cathy said we can’t put it in the budget until the voters approve it. Win asked if the Selectboard is going to recommend the purchase. Tom said the Selectboard is not supposed to take sides. Win said if it’s approved it’s going to add to our expenses, and to the tax rate. Martha asked if the loan repayment would be an obligation of the town or the fire department. Mike said it would be the town’s obligation. Mike said he’s planning to speak to the issue at Town Meeting and there’s already an article drafted for the warning. Martha asked about the terms of the loan. Mike said that’s up to the town; the fire department is just asking for \$275,000 for a new fire truck. Cathy said she’ll just borrow the money from the bank. Win asked Cathy to inquire about rates. Regarding appropriations, Cathy suggested leaving Windsor County Youth at \$600 and the Food Shelf at \$500; people can amend them at Town Meeting if they want to. Tom said if the Food Shelf wants a higher amount, they should send a letter requesting it. Win suggested budgeting \$0 for Windsor County Youth, as discussed at the last meeting. Tom and Dick agreed. There was discussion about whether or not the Base Lodge property will be tax-exempt. Tom said

Ascutney Outdoors would need to request a tax-exemption. Cathy noted that the sewer and water funds still need to reimburse the town for her work.

- 8) Discuss net metering agreement – Dick said he has made some changes to the Next Sun contract to reflect the discussion the Selectboard had with Amelia Tracy and, if Tom and Win agree, he will send them to Amelia today. Dick said he wants to be sure we can adjust the allocations among our meters. There was discussion about whether to contract for less than our estimated total usage of 207,000 kWh. The Selectboard agreed to let Next Sun know that we would like to contract for 185,000 kWh.
- 9) Other Business – Martha noted that there was a Public Assembly application on her desk this morning so she'll put it on the agenda for the January 4, 2017 meeting. Deb said she's familiar with the event, which is a dirt road bicycle ride. Deb said the event has outgrown its current location in Hartland so the organizer would like to use the big parking area owned by the Town, and the former Base Lodge property, which is now owned by Ascutney Outdoors (AO). Win asked Deb what AO recommends. Deb said AO supports the event. Win said if AO thinks they can manage the event, he's fine with it. Tom said he'd like the Highway Foreman's input. Deb said the event will take place on Sunday, June 25th. Martha asked if the event organizer has checked with GMHA to make sure they don't have a big event on the same day. Deb said she doesn't know. Deb said Harpoon may cater the event.
- 10) Adjourn – **Win moved to adjourn at 10:30 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison