

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
December 9, 2019

Present: Win Johnson, Brett Myers, Matt Kantola, Peter Vollers, Peter Vollers, Jr., Kim Vollers, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison, Glenn & Shelley Seward, Bill Stillson, Laura Farrell, Lauren Stevens, Amy Rusiecki, Tom Kenyon, Aaron Gonthier (Windsor on Air)

- 1) Call to Order - Selectboard Chair Win Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions - Tree Warden's report; consider moving 12/23 SB meeting to 12/30.
- 3) Announcement re: change in State Police Field Station covering West Windsor - West Windsor will now be covered by the Westminster Field Station.
- 4) Other announcements/public comment – None
- 5) Sign Town Clerk's orders - **Brett moved to sign orders. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Event application by Peter Vollers for the VT Overland Maple Adventure Ride on Sunday, March 22, 2020 from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM, starting and ending at the Ski Tow Road parking lot, and including town roads in West Windsor and Reading - Peter said the only change is that the Butcher & Pantry (B&P) will be doing the food. Win asked Peter if he has seen the new alcohol policy. Peter said he thinks so. Win said he thinks, at the proposed event size, Peter may have to notify the Police Chief. Peter said they'll do whatever they need to do. Peter said there will be a police cruiser with the riders through town to Cemetery Road. Win asked about road crossings where the riders are coming fast into an intersection. Peter said there's one in Reading. Laura Farrell offered to loan signs from the Vermont 100, and to put them up for Peter. Win asked Peter to put two notices in the Front Porch Forum with information about the major roads included in the route. Mike had no concerns. Win also asked Peter to touch base with the snowmobile club. Peter asked if he needs a permit to have off-the-ground fire pits. Mike said no. Peter said the Ascutney Outdoors Center is an awesome resource. Bill asked if the race route is posted anywhere. Peter agreed to post a map at the B&P. **Brett moved to approve the event. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Event application by VT Adaptive Ski & Sports for the Vermont 100 Race from 9:00 AM on July 16th to 2:00 PM on July 19th, starting and ending at 1850 Silver Hill Road, and including town roads in West Windsor and surrounding towns - Amy said there's nothing new for 2020. The heat was challenging in 2019 but everything else went well. Amy said they are working with the Dugdales on sound barriers to further reduce the noise impact. Peter said the Vermont 100 is welcome to use his house as a stop. Mike had no concerns. Win asked Lauren if the race had a positive impact on the store. Lauren said yes; demand was high for ice, camping supplies and Vermont beer. Amy said they have no fires, alcohol, or music at the event. **Brett moved to approve the event. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 8) Consider adopting Resolution Supporting Municipal Authority in a Commercial Cannabis System - Win said VLCT is asking all Vermont towns to sign a resolution asking the legislature to consider certain provisions when they take this law up. Win noted the provision that allows town voters to "opt in" to hosting a commercial cannabis facility. Win said he sees no harm in approving the resolution, which also has revenue sharing provisions.

Win also noted a letter from the Mt. Ascutney Prevention Partnership endorsing the resolution and stating that it aligns with the best possible public health model on lessons learned from states that have commercial cannabis. **Brett moved to authorize the Chair to sign the resolution. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 9) Highway - Sign Better Roads grant application: Martha said the application is for work on Sheddsville Road. Mike said the project, which includes two very high priority segments, starts near Banister Road and continues down to the Orcutt property; the project involves stone lining the ditches. Win asked if we're also applying for MRGP funding. Mike said yes, but we don't have to apply for those funds, we just have to let them know what we're planning to do. **Brett moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Better Roads grant application. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Harrington Road culvert: Mike said there's a mandatory pre-bid meeting and site visit on Wednesday at 10:00 AM. Mike added that we're not applying for any highway structure grants in 2020. Foreman's Report: Mike said they're calling the Burke property "the storage building" for now. Win asked about the wall that was collapsing. Mike said it's level and plumb now. Win asked what is going to be stored there over the winter. Mike said the tag-along trailer and maybe the chloride trailer. Matt asked about the sagging joist. Mike said they're going to shore it up with a 6x6. Loader: Mike said he has two proposals to replace the loader, one from Caterpillar for \$136,400 and one from John Deere for \$135,500. Both prices reflect a deduction of \$30,000 for trading in our existing loader. Brett asked about the existing loader. Mike said it's a 2006 with 5800 hours on it. Mike said the loader gets used quite a bit in the summer, but it's critical in the winter. Mike said replacing the loader is in the capital budget. Win said the capital budget also includes replacing the chloride trailer, which is badly rusted. Mike said he would like to order the loader now because the price is going to increase at least 5% on January 1st. Matt asked if it's the same size as the loader we have now. Mike said it's a similar size, with a 2.75 CY bucket, and it lifts higher, which is good for the 10-wheelers. Mike said it comes with an all-angle 14' plow blade, which will be used to plow the parking lot at the mountain, and as a back-up plow for the roads when one of the trucks is down. Mike said the loader also comes with forks. Brett asked Mike which model he prefers. Mike said he prefers the Caterpillar. There was discussion about the capital budget as a way to smooth the highway department's equipment expenditures. Win said we don't have enough in the equipment fund for the grader, but we do have a fairly large surplus in the General Fund and we could transfer some of that to the Highway Equipment Fund. **Brett moved to authorize Mike to order a new loader to be delivered in 2020, with the net purchase price, after trade in, to be funded from capital equipment reserves. Matt seconded the motion.** Matt said in the future, he thinks it would be good to have a request signed by the Selectboard explaining what equipment is being replaced and why. Mike said that's not a bad idea. Win asked Matt if he is amending the motion to include a memo to the file. Matt said yes. **Win called for a vote on the amended motion, which passed unanimously.** Culvert inventory: Mike said the culvert inventory is finished and he will give copies to Martha and the Regional Planning Commission. Recall: Mike noted a recall on Kevin's truck for a steering wheel issue.
- 10) Sewer update - Win noted that the project is going to shut down for the winter. Martha said they were not planning for a winter shut down; it was supposed to be finished this past weekend, but there have been a lot of changes to the project and now the weather is an issue. Win asked if all the pipe has been installed. Martha said the pipe is in on Ski Tow Road and

Village Lane. Win asked Mike if he has looked at it. Mike said it's awful; the manholes are above the ground. One manhole is at least 12" above the ground where the plow is going to hit it. Mike said the contractor was also supposed to grade the road and Mike ended up doing it. Mike said the contractor or A+E should have contacted him. Win asked Martha to see if they can come back. Mike said all they need to do for now is fix that one area with one load of material. Mike said he'll level it off if they contact him, but they haven't worked with him at all. Win asked if we're still within budget. Martha said she believes so, but there's a tough section up near the resort and they're trying to figure out how to address it. Martha said she thinks it's just as well they're shutting down for the winter because she thinks they need to regroup.

- 11) Water project update - Martha said there's a meeting with Daniels on the 23rd to sign the contract.
- 12) Stormwater update - Win said the town submitted a proposal to the state indicating that the various property owners would work together to renew the permit and requesting that the penalty fees be waived, which the state has agreed to do. Win said he has met with Chris Yurek from the Regional Planning Commission about finding an engineer that can assist us.
- 13) Sheddsville Cemetery - This item was passed over because Tom Kenyon was not present.
- 14) November Police Report - Win noted more 911 hang ups than usual but added that the hotel is working with the police to address these calls. Speed cart: Mike said he has contacted the company that is repairing the speed cart, but they have not returned his calls. Win asked if the police have issued tickets for the outstanding dog licenses. Cathy said they did in August but they haven't issued a second one. Win said he will talk with the Chief about dog licenses and the speed cart.
- 15) Consider changing regular Selectboard meeting time to 6:00 PM - Brett said she thought it was changed to 6:30 to accommodate her schedule. Win said that's not the case; it's been 6:30 for as long as he has been on the Selectboard. The Selectboard agreed to keep their regular meeting time at 6:30 PM.
- 16) 2020 Budget Discussions - Win said we still have a \$60,000 surplus in the Highway Fund, but he thinks we should decrease the budgeted deficit to \$7,500 in 2020. Win noted highway wages are up due to the discussions the Selectboard had during their executive session at the last meeting. Mike said "equipment rental" includes anything that we need Dan Lesnick for, and a lot of "other aggregate" and "operating materials" expenses are grant-related. Mike said he increased the budget for sand and gravel because prices are going up. Mike also noted that we're going to be over budget on salt this year; we typically use 400 tons and this past year we used about 450 tons. Win suggested increasing the salt budget in 2020. Mike noted that he increased the tire budget to \$9,000. Mike said the grader still needs transmission work, but he reduced the budget for loader repairs since we're getting a new loader. Mike noted mower repair costs were high this year because the transmission needed work. Mike allocated \$2,000 each for repairs to the trucks. Mike noted that \$12,000 of the \$13,830 for repairs and maintenance at the Town Garage was for the new boiler that had to be installed. Win noted that fuel costs to heat the garage should go down with the new boiler. Mike decreased the allocation for signs because the state replaced half our road signs this year.
- 17) Other Business - Win suggested another budget meeting on December 16th at 5:00 PM. Win also suggested moving the December 23rd meeting to December 30th. Martha noted that the bid opening for the Harrington culvert project is scheduled for the 23rd at 6:30 PM. The Selectboard agreed to have a brief meeting on the 23rd and a regular meeting on the 30th.

Sheddsville Cemetery: With Tom Kenyon's arrival, the Selectboard revisited item #13. Tom said he is proposing a separate article on the Town Meeting warning requesting a one-time appropriation of \$12,000 for a stone wall at the cemetery. Win suggested a site visit this Saturday at 9:00 AM. Brett and Matt agreed. Tree Warden's report: Tom said Rice Tree will be using a crane to take down the big pine trees near the maintenance building this Friday at a cost of \$4,000. Win said we have to get the invoice in this year. Green Mountain Power: Mike said he met with GMP about moving a pole on Wardner Road. Cathy said GMP is also going to be changing our streetlights to LED lights.

18) Approve Minutes - **Brett moved to approve the minutes of November 11th and December 4th. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

19) Adjourn - **Brett moved to adjourn at 7:26 PM. Matt seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison