

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
February 16, 2015

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon, Dick Beatty

1. Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. Changes or additions to the agenda - None
3. Announcements/Public Comment - None
4. Consider request by EC Fiber to set poles and trim trees in Banister Rd. right-of-way – **Glenn moved to authorize the placement of poles and the associated tree trimming for EC Fiber as shown on the sketch provided.** Tom asked if the property owners know about this. Glenn suggested asking Martha to send them a note. **Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
5. Consider executing interlocal contract with EC Fiber for the construction of a high-speed telecommunications facility – Glenn said he asked Matt Birmingham to review this contract last week and hopes to hear from him this week. Tom asked if the building is going to be on the pellet plant property. Glenn said that is his understanding. **Glenn moved to table the review and execution of the interlocal contract with EC Fiber, pending input from the Town Attorney. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
6. Consider signing loan agreement with Mascoma Bank to fund construction by EC Fiber – Glenn said the Selectboard executed this agreement on January 26th and has been holding it until we hear from EC Fiber whether or not the terms are acceptable to them. Glenn said he heard from Stan Williams on February 11th that EC Fiber is uneasy about the fact that there is no ceiling on the interest rate in the agreement so he wanted to approach Mascoma Bank to negotiate a ceiling. Glenn said he has not heard anything since February 11th but the agreement that the Selectboard signed, and has been holding, expires today. The Selectboard agreed to wait to hear from Stan Williams or John Roy and revisit the issue at that time.
7. Water System update – Glenn said he met with a field inspector from VLCT’s insurance company on February 11th to tour the water system. Glenn said VLCT estimated the insurance on the system at \$1,600 per year but will provide a final rate in the next week. Glenn said Snowdance was paying between \$5,000 and \$6,000 per year so the reduced rate is good news for the water users. Glenn said the Public Service Board (PSB) signed the receivership order on February 12th which allowed the town to get bills printed. Glenn said he expects the bills to be mailed out tomorrow. Glenn said the Utility Advisory Committee and the Selectboard signed a joint letter, to be included with the bills, encouraging people to pay promptly. Glenn said the town’s engineers, Aldrich + Elliott, are pretty confident that the pumps in the base lodge can be eliminated. Glenn said they are going to determine what modifications need to be made to the existing artesian well pump so that it can pump to a valve pit between the base lodge and the reservoir, which will direct the flow to whichever reservoir requires it. Bruce said if the existing pump actually needs to be replaced, we should keep it as an emergency backup pump. Glenn agreed that the state will require the town to have a backup pump. Tom asked if we’re going to run new piping so that everything is on town property. Glenn said he thinks that’s the plan but more engineering work needs to be done.
8. Other Business – Town Hall heating system: Tom said Dead River is going to give the town an estimate on a new heating system for the downstairs portion of the Town Hall. Tom said he also asked Dead River to consider removing the existing cold air duct and running one from the furnace room out into the hallway. Bruce agreed that the town should do what it can to make the heating system more efficient. Housing & Military Affairs Committee meeting: Glenn said he was in Montpelier on the 12th to offer testimony to the committee, which reviews funding for the

VT Housing and Conservation Board - the Board that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is requesting grant funds from for the purchase of the mountain property. Glenn said it went well and noted that West Windsor, through TPL, was the only party present with a conservation project. Glenn said he is going back to Montpelier tomorrow to offer testimony to the Corrections and Institutions Committee related to funding for our village sewer project. Glenn said West Windsor was found eligible for a pollution abatement grant and the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) included the grant in their budget request but the Governor moved the funding to 2018. Glenn said the project gets built in 2015, completed in 2016, and then there's a one year warranty period, so there's a potential gap between the end of the project and the town's access to the \$469,000 pollution abatement grant funding. Glenn said Rep. John Bartholomew and Rep. Donna Sweaney have been a huge help with this and have asked him to come up and testify. Glenn said ANR's Facilities Engineering Division seems to be questioning the town's need for the funding. Glenn said there may be an alternative source of funding, through a subsidy, where the town pays the interest but not the principle on a loan. Bruce asked when the Selectboard will decide whether or not to proceed with the construction in 2015. Glenn said if we pull the plug, we're still on the hook for engineering work, in an amount approaching \$200,000. Glenn noted the substantial grant funding committed to the project from the Community Development program and suggested forging ahead and seeing how the construction bids come out. District 2 Environmental Commission: Glenn said he is planning to meet with District 2 Coordinator April Hensel tomorrow morning to go over the town's plans and discuss permit requirements. Trail Grooming: Glenn said there have been more requests for trail grooming in Mile Long Field. Glenn said he got a nice thank you call from the folks at the Hotel. Glenn said he's happy to groom more trails if Tom and Bruce are okay with it. Bruce said he's fine with it as long as it's not in the town forest. Glenn agreed that the town forest trails should not be groomed. Bruce said he also doesn't want recreation trails to intersect with Coaching Lane because that could invite motorized uses. Glenn agreed. Base Lodge: Tom asked if there's anything new with the base lodge. Glenn said not that he's aware of. Tom asked if AT&T is interested in relocating. Glenn said he doesn't think they're going to have a choice. Glenn said there is a sub-meter for AT&T's equipment so their electric usage can be measured and they can be billed. Tom noted that there's no power to the maintenance garage. Glenn agreed that the meter was chopped out for some reason. Tom suggested that the town and AT&T share the cost of getting power to the maintenance garage. Glenn said AT&T is making arrangements for a temporary 65' telephone pole/cell tower at the western edge of the burned out lodge. Glenn said he is concerned about all the underground water and electrical piping in the area and has told AT&T that they will be responsible if they damage any piping so they are trying to get someone in to x-ray the area. Bruce asked about the vandalism issue. Glenn said the fence is up and he hasn't heard about any additional problems.

9. Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 8:40 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison