

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

January 3, 2013

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtger, Cathy Archibald, Mark Isenberg, Mike Spackman, *VT Standard* reporter George Calver, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.
- 2) Public Comment – Mark Isenberg alerted the Selectboard to the fact that the viability of the General Store is in doubt and invited any suggestions they might have to keep it going. Tom suggested contacting the Listers about the assessment.
- 3) Sign Town Clerk's orders – **Tom moved to sign the Town Clerk's orders. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Appointments – Wastewater Committee: **Tom moved to appoint Glenn Seward, Al Keiller, Barbara Truex, Elvin Kaplan and Win Johnson to the Wastewater Committee through 2013. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Town Forest Committee: **Tom moved to appoint Cathy Boedtger and Jim Lyall to the Town Forest Committee through 2014, and Laura Stillson and Dennis Lemire through 2015. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Cathy noted that Rudy Gross's term is not up until the end of 2013. Development Review Board: Glenn said Jane Hoisington has been asked to accept an appointment to the DRB but she has not made a decision yet.
- 5) Budget Discussions – Highway: There was discussion about establishing a "gravel fund" and whether the article should request a set amount or a penny or two on the tax rate. Mike said some areas need geotextiles. Tom asked Mike to prepare a list of problem areas. Mike said some of the problem areas change from year to year depending on weather conditions. The Selectboard agreed to ask the voters for \$35,000 for the gravel fund. Glenn noted that the highway budget for 2013 is up 2.5%. There was discussion about the new replacement truck, which will be delivered in July of 2013. Mike noted that there are some issues with the new one-ton truck that are being addressed. Glenn said the Selectboard should add \$5,000 to the town budget to continue geotechnical monitoring of the slope on the Brownsville-Hartland Road. There was discussion about whether the funds should come out of the town budget or the highway budget. The Selectboard agreed to keep the monitoring expenses for 2012 in the town budget and to add \$5,000 for monitoring expenses to the 2013 highway budget. Town: Cathy said she is also adding \$10,000 to Selectman's expenses for the audit. Bruce asked about the Town Forest Fund. Cathy said the amount budgeted is \$10,200. There was discussion about budgeting for the new Economic Coordinator position at 10 hours per week from March through December. The Selectboard agreed to request a total of \$10,000 for labor and materials. Tom expressed concern about the use of cell phones in town trucks by highway department employees. Glenn said he will run the Economic Coordinator budget by the Planning Commission. Glenn said he thinks we need to address the deficiencies in the phone system and suggested using Town Hall improvement funds. Tom said he thinks there is enough money in the budget for that. Glenn said he will get some estimates. Cathy said she does not want voice mail.
- 6) Town Meeting Warning – Cathy gave the Selectboard a draft of the Town Meeting Warning. Bruce asked if Matt Birmingham reviews the warning. Cathy said yes. Cathy asked if the Selectboard is going to use the surplus to lower taxes. Glenn said he would like to see a

significant amount go into capital reserves and use the rest to maintain the tax rate at a consistent level. Tom said he is concerned about the Grand List. All agreed that they need to be cautious on the tax issue until they know what the Grand List looks like this year. Cathy noted the Reading Food Shelf request under Article 13. Martha reminded the Selectboard that they had received a request for \$100 from Northern VT RC&D. Tom expressed concern about the Northern VT RC&D's dry hydrant program. Martha said they also sponsor the Better Backroads program. Glenn noted that West Windsor has received considerable support from Better Backroads. The Selectboard agreed to ask how the town's donation would be used before making a decision. Glenn noted that the town budget is up about 2%. Glenn said we just need to add an article for the \$35,000 highway resurfacing fund. Cathy asked Glenn to send her the wording. Glenn agreed. Bruce asked Glenn to come up with wording for Article 6 too. Cathy asked if we need to elect a Second Constable. Glenn felt that we should, in case the First Constable is sick or something. Tom asked if the Giles lot has been transferred to the town. Glenn said yes. Glenn added that we should be receiving the Nowlan easement, the Coaching Lane Extension special tax district agreements, and the agreement with Snowdance to turn the right-of-way over to the town. Sewer line update: Glenn met with property owners groups over the holidays to discuss the sewer advisory committee and user units. Glenn said he received letters of support for the sewer purchase and for streamlining the Act 250 process from Orange Lake and Mts. Edge Condo Association, and he expects to receive another one from the Mt. Ascutney Property Owners Association. Glenn said he is meeting with Orange Lake later today to discuss the upgrades to their pump station prior to the town taking it over. Glenn said he also met with the town of Windsor, their wastewater operators, Snowdance's engineer and Aldrich & Elliott yesterday to make sure Windsor did not have any issues, and everything went well. Glenn said the escrow agreement is in the hands of Snowdance/MFW's attorney. Glenn noted that the Selectboard has already given him permission to sign the escrow agreement with the changes discussed so he will execute it as soon as he receives it, which will allow users to pay into the escrow account. Glenn noted that Windsor has not been paid for any processing this fiscal year. Glenn said he has some comments on the purchase and sales agreement that he wants to review with the town attorney. Glenn said he would like to see the closing take place by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom asked when the transfer to Windsor would take place. Glenn said it could take place immediately upon West Windsor taking ownership. Tom asked about the recent water issue at the resort. Glenn said the pump in the base lodge kicked off so there wasn't any water pressure but the problem was fixed promptly. Tom noted that Cathy's new assistant seems to be working out well.

- 7) Adjourn – **Bruce moved to adjourn at 8:55 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison