

West Windsor Selectboard  
Draft Minutes  
January 8, 2018

Present: Dick Beatty, Brett Myers, Win Johnson (by phone), Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, Tom Kenyon, Cathy Hoyt (Windsor on Air), Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Sign Town Clerk’s orders – **Dick moved to sign orders. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 3) Changes or additions to the agenda – correspondence from David & Trace Landino; VLCT request for letter of support for S. 97
- 4) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 5) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report – Cathy said the Town of Hartford sent us dump stickers and punch cards for their facility last July and they want \$430 for them. Cathy said the West Windsor resident who wanted to be able to use the facility came in to buy a sticker and cards but didn’t have all the information she needed with her. She said she would come back, but she never has. Cathy said she would like to send the stickers and cards back to Hartford. Dick and Win agreed.
- 6) Review draft Town Meeting warning – Cathy said Ascutney Outdoors (AO) asked to have an article on the warning requesting an exemption from state and municipal property taxes due to AO’s non-profit status. Cathy questioned the town’s authority to waive state taxes and said Town Attorney Matt Birmingham agrees with her. Dick clarified that AO can only request an exemption for the property that they own and operate. Cathy said the warning won’t be ready to sign until this issue is resolved and the correct wording for the article is provided. Win asked if other organizations in town are exempt. Cathy said yes; the Historical Society and the Fire Department are exempt from municipal taxes. Tom said he thinks the Historical Society, the Fire Department, and Lucy MacKenzie Humane Society are also exempt from state taxes by statute. Dick said the issue is in the hands of the Town Attorney. Win asked if there is a draft of the warning. Cathy said yes, but she hasn’t sent it yet because she was waiting to get the wording for AO’s article. Cathy said the Selectboard will have to wait until the 22<sup>nd</sup> to approve the warning. Win said the Selectboard can call a special meeting between now and then if necessary.
- 7) Highway access application: Silver Hill Road (Fitch) – Mike said he has some reservations about the proximity to the town culvert and thinks any approval should stipulate that the access culvert can’t be any closer than 10 feet from the town culvert. Win asked if the access is initially for logging and then would become a residential access. Martha said yes. Win suggested approving a provisional access for logging and deferring a decision on permanent residential use until spring. Mike agreed. **Win moved to approve a provisional access for logging, provided that the culvert is at least ten feet from the town’s culvert. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 8) Highway Foreman’s report – One-ton: Mike said the one-ton plow needed work, which fortunately was under warranty. ATV: Mike said he still hasn’t heard from Butch Robbins about the ATV for the water system and offered to look for a different vehicle somewhere else. Win said he thinks it should have a thorough service check before we buy it, and not at our expense. Dick asked Mike to find out if Robbins is willing to negotiate and, if not, to

look somewhere else. New one-ton truck: Mike said Ted Green Ford quoted \$18,566 for a \$56,065 truck, which reflects the trade-in value of our current one-ton. Mike said with a 6-year/ 75,000-mile/ 3,000-hour extended warranty, it would come to \$22,601. Gateway Motors bid \$26,974 without the warranty, and Lebanon Ford bid approximately \$20,000 without the warranty. Mike recommended purchasing the truck through Ted Green Ford in Stockbridge. Mike said the body price from Viking Cives is \$34,900, for a total of \$57,501. **Brett moved to purchase the one-ton truck from Ted Green Ford and the body from Viking Cives. Win seconded the motion.** Tom asked where the funds would come from. Win said the funds would come from the Equipment Fund. **Dick called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 9) Consider property donation offer – Dick said the offer was for property owned by Andrew Perlman on Skyhawk Lane. After discussions with our engineer about possible uses for the property, Dick said he doesn't think the town should accept the offer. **Brett moved to decline the offer. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 10) Consider adding meters to Next Sun contract and adjusting allocations – Win asked how many kilowatt hours the Historical Society and Fire Department would need. Martha said they would need a total of 13,000 kWh. Win asked if both organizations are happy to accept the allocation. Martha said they both expressed interest, and added that she sent an email to the Historical Society on Friday asking them to confirm if they are ready to go ahead. Win said he supports adding the two organizations but thinks we should wait for a positive reply from them indicating that they are willing to accept the allocation. Mike suggested contacting Polly Ouelette for the Fire Department and requesting confirmation from Trustees Bill Young, Chuck Kurtzhalz, and Scott Smith. Tom, speaking as Vice President of the Historical Society, said they discussed it and there were no negative opinions.
- 11) December Police Report – Dick noted nothing unusual in the report. Regarding the flashing speed sign, Mike said it was not moved to another location in town; it was just removed.
- 12) Other Business – Landino correspondence: Dick noted that the Landinos are not willing to accept the town's proposal. Win said he has not had a chance to read the letter and suggested deferring further discussion until the next regular meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Brett and Dick agreed. Letter of support for S.97: Dick noted that the proposed legislation would provide additional options with regard to public notice. Martha said it could save the town money if we don't have to publish notices in the newspaper. Dick said he is inclined to sign the letter of support. **Win moved to authorize the Chair to sign the letter of support for the legislation. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Invoices: Cathy said there are additional bills, totaling \$2,300, that should be reflected in the 2017 financial information so she added them. Cathy said she will email the information to Win.
- 13) Approve Minutes – **Win move to approve the minutes of December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 14) Adjourn – **Win moved to adjourn at 6:59 PM. Brett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison