

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
January 9, 2017

Present: Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Win Johnson (by speaker phone), Martha Harrison, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald, Bruce Boedtke, Tory Jones (Eagle Times)

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – The Selectboard agreed to pass over item #10 regarding the Brownsville General Store. Bruce asked about the nature of the claim. Dick said the letter claims that the store’s on-site septic system had some value and the store had planned to sell it but now they can’t because it’s been filled in. The Selectboard will consider a proposal by Springfield Fence to remove the fence from Base Lodge under “Other Business.”
- 3) Announcements/Public Comment – None
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report – None
- 5) Sign Town Clerk’s orders – **Tom moved to sign orders. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Highway Foreman’s Report –Mike had quotes for a truck body from Viking-Cives, HP Fairfield and Tenco. Mike recommended accepting the bid from Viking-Cives for \$68,200. Mike said the town has two Viking-Cives bodies already. **Tom moved to accept the truck body proposal from Viking-Cives. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Mike also had quotes for a 2018 truck from Patriot Freightliner and Reed Truck Services. Mike noted that Patriot is offering \$65,000 for the trade-in, which makes the net cost \$59,286, including warranty. Mike recommended accepting the bid from Patriot. **Tom moved to accept the bid from Patriot for a 2018 Western Star truck in the amount of \$59,285. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Mike said the total price for the truck and body is less than the amount included in the capital budget. Dowd-Putman driveway: Mike said he would like the applicant to stake the location of the driveway. Tom asked if there will be culverts. Mike said there will need to be a culvert in the right-of-way. Tom said he’s concerned about water getting trapped on one side of the driveway. Mike said he has no jurisdiction out of the right-of-way. Martha said the driveway can’t be built up any higher than the existing grade. Dick asked Mike if he is concerned about the increase in width from 14’ to 18’. Mike said no; wider is better for the fire department. Dick noted that the DRB granted approval for the driveway three years ago, based on the 14’ width. Tom said plowing is going to create snowbanks, which will trap the water. Winter maintenance: Mike said the highway department is working a lot of overtime due to the weather.
- 7) Consider proposals for 2018 town highway truck and body – See Highway Foreman’s report
- 8) 2016 and 2017 budget discussions – Win said with the addition of the debt service on the tank removal, he’s fine with the budget.
- 9) Review & approve Town Meeting Warning – Win said Article 5 accords with the numbers presented in the budget. Dick said Article 5 asks the town to approve \$544,169.80 for General and \$682,648 for Highway for a total of \$1,226,817.80 for 2017, of which \$954,621.80 shall be raised by taxes, \$222,196 by non-tax revenues, \$25,000 by prior year’s town surplus, and \$25,000 by prior year’s highway surplus. Dick noted a change to one word

in Article 6. **Tom moved to approve and sign the warning for Town Meeting 2017 as discussed. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

- 10) Consider action with regard to lawsuit by Brownsville General Store – Dick said this was discussed with Town Attorney Matt Birmingham at the last Selectboard meeting. Dick noted that the town’s insurance carrier has been notified and the Town Attorney has replied to the store’s attorney on the town’s behalf. Dick clarified that there is no lawsuit pending; there was just a letter with the threat of a lawsuit.
- 11) Consider approving net metering agreement with Next Sun – Dick noted new information from Aldrich + Elliott regarding the estimated power usage for the new booster pumps, which has been reduced from 70,000 kWh per year to less than 30,000 kWh per year. Win asked Martha what 90% of the new total would be. Martha said she needs to review the calculations but thinks it would be between 145,000 and 150,000 kWhs. Dick said he would like to send the modified agreement with the new numbers to Gerry Tarrant tomorrow. Dick noted that Martha has checked Next Sun’s references and all have indicated they are happy with the arrangement. Win said we should let Next Sun know about the reduction in the amount of energy we need. Dick said he will forward the information to Amelia Tracy. The Selectboard agreed to act on the net metering agreement at their January 23 meeting, provided the requested changes have been made and Gerry Tarrant is comfortable with it.
- 12) Consider net metering proposal from Mountain Funds – **Win moved to pass on this proposal. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 13) Water project update – Tom said work at Mountainside is done and water to the Base Lodge has been turned off so it can be demolished. Win asked about the telemetry. Tom said it’s running on automatic and can be monitored from a number of locations. For the next meeting, Win said, he’d like a report from P2 Environmental on the status of the telemetry. Tom said he has asked Dead River for clarification on their latest bill.
- 14) Sign HMGP Grant reimbursement request – Martha said this request is for the mobile home demolition project on Brook Road. **Tom moved to authorize the Chair to sign the request for reimbursement in the amount of \$19,791.70. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 15) Sign HMGP Planning Grant reimbursement request – Martha explained that this is a partial reimbursement for work on the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. **Tom moved to authorize the Chair to sign the request for reimbursement in the amount of \$1,457.99. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 16) Review and discuss policy re: consumption of alcohol on town property – Tom said the policy is not posted on the website. Tom added that he considers the Town Hall, Town Garage, Library and Sheddsville Cemetery to be covered by the policy on alcohol. Dick said the only policy he has seen is an unsigned policy for the Town Hall. Dick said he thinks the question is whether or not there is a policy, and whether it applies to the Town Forest and the newly acquired land, including the maintenance parcel. Tom said he thinks we should prepare a policy. Win said we should consult with our insurance company about having a different policy for the mountain area, where there are events. Dick said he is personally opposed to allowing alcohol consumption on town land but he agrees that we should consult our insurance carrier. Tom asked who’s going to enforce the policy. The Selectboard agreed to take up this issue again at a future meeting. Win said if this is complicated, we may want to have VLCT come to a meeting to talk with us about it.

- 17) Other Business – Fence removal: Dick noted the cost to remove the fence for re-use is \$910. Tom said he is concerned about sending someone into that mold-infested building. Win and Dick agreed. Mike said he doesn't think it's worth saving. **Tom moved to abandon the fence in the burned-out Base Lodge, unless Ascutney Outdoors wants it. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Water for demolition: Martha said the Property Owners Association (POA) had some questions about the period of time over which the water will be used and how quickly the pumps will re-fill tanks 2 & 3. Martha said, according to the demolition contractor, the water usage will be spread out over a week or more. Dick said he thinks it's wise to allow the water usage so the building can be torn down. **Tom moved to allow the demolition contractor to use water, as requested, at no charge. Win seconded the motion.** Win noted that water is also going to be needed for the cleaning of the sewer tanks at pump station #1 and suggested that the two projects be coordinated so they're not using water at the same time. Tom and Dick agreed. **Dick called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 18) Approve Minutes – December 19th, 21st, 28th: **Tom moved to approve the minutes of December 19th, 21st and 28th. Dick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 19) Adjourn – **Dick moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison