

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
July 8, 2016

Present: Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon, Win Johnson, Cathy Archibald

- 1) Call to Order – Dick Beatty called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.
- 2) Set Tax Rates – After discussion, **Tom moved to set the 2016 municipal tax rate as follows: town at .1421, highway at .2116, appropriations at .0360, and Act 144 at .0413 for a total of .4310, noting that the education homestead rate is 1.8965 and the non-residential education rate is 1.4754. Win seconded the motion.** Win noted that the total homestead tax rate, state and municipal, is up 23 cents from last year and asked how much of that is related to the school. Cathy said all of it is related to the school; the school tax rate went up by 25 cents and the town tax rate went down by 1.9 cents. **Dick called for a vote on the motion, which passed unanimously.** Cathy asked the Selectboard to sign a memo authorizing her to collect current taxes for the year 2016 and noting that the tax rate was set at a special meeting held on July 8, 2016. **Tom moved to sign the memo. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 3) Sign Town Clerk's Orders – **Tom moved to sign orders. Win seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Demolition and disposal of old Base Lodge – Tom noted the \$7,000 cost estimate from Laura Farrell for demolition and disposal of the old lodge. Win said it's \$2,500 if we can separate the materials and burn some of it on site. Win said the town doesn't have any money budgeted for this but the building is on town property and it is a liability. Win said we do have pipe up there and it shouldn't just lie around. Win said Ascutney Outdoors (AO) is not pursuing snowmaking at this time but would like to keep the snowmaking equipment so they can potentially make snow in a couple of years. Win said there is a red pine stand above Glenn Seward's house that could be harvested to provide income to cover the cost of demolishing the old lodge. Win suggested consulting with the Conservation Commission to see if they would support an investigation into the harvest value of that timber. Win said he would also like to get an estimate of the salvage value of the snowmaking pipe. Win suggested asking Martha to locate a salvage specialist who could estimate the value of the pipe. Win also suggested letting Laura know that the town is not prepared to commit any resources to demolishing the old lodge at this time. Dick said he would like to see the maintenance parcel cleaned up and doesn't have any problem with using salvage income to tear down the old lodge. Win said he will email Laura Farrell and Steve Carihfield and copy the Selectboard and Ted Siegler.
- 5) Letter dated 06-29-16 re: Monitoring Visit – Tom noted a letter from Ann Karlene Kroll regarding the state's monitoring visit, which noted some Davis-Bacon issues with the sewer project. Tom said he talked with Steve Zaluzny about the findings. The letter also noted that an A-133 Single Audit will probably be needed for 2016.
- 6) Water to WWVFD and Brownsville General Store – Tom said when the dam is removed the fire department is going to lose its well. Tom suggested allowing the fire department to connect to the water line that serves the store. Tom suggested putting a water meter in the store to determine how much to charge the store for sewage. Dick asked how much that would cost. Tom said he thinks it would cost a few hundred dollars. Win said he is working on the water and sewer ordinances and investigating the equivalent user units and will report back to the Selectboard soon. Tom suggested using "livable units" rather than "equivalent user units." Win asked Tom to provide a document that can be cited. Dick asked if the state will allow the fire department to connect to the water system. Tom said the fire department only uses water in two

sinks and to flush the toilet. Win asked if the dam removal project is likely to happen this year. Tom said no.

- 7) Use of Hartford Transfer Station – Tom said he was approached by a West Windsor resident who would like to drop her trash and recyclables at the Hartford Transfer Station. Tom said he doesn't know if that would be a problem. Tom noted that Weathersfield doesn't take all the different types of plastic and Hartford does. The Selectboard agreed to ask Martha to research our options.
- 8) John Mudgett recommendations – Tom said if money is coming in, the Town Administrator should notify the Treasurer. Regarding the sewer project, Win said the town voted to bond for the total project cost, less any grants received. Win said the town will have to borrow the difference. Tom agreed that, according to the article voted on by the town, the town has accepted some of the cost. Cathy said, according to Glenn Seward, the debt service would be paid by the users but there are no minutes because it was an Australian ballot vote. Win said we'll have to look into that. Dick said he recalls the town receiving a grant based on the percentage of low to moderate income residents in the village. Cathy asked when she can send bills to the newly connected residents. Tom said everyone is connected. Win asked Tom to note for the record what he heard about the school's mound system. Tom said the school's system was at the end of its useful life and on the verge of failure. Win said he heard that the school's on-site system had effectively failed, which could have jeopardized the town's ability to operate the school if an alternative had not been available.
- 9) Other Business – Knox Boxes: Tom suggested authorizing the installation of a knox box at the Town Hall. Win suggested knox boxes at each pump station. **Win moved to consult with the fire department about installing knox boxes at each site.** Major purchase bids: Win asked if the bids for the major purchases for the water system have gone out. Tom said the bids just went out. Brook Road demolition: Dick said we're supposed to be getting bids on the Brook Road demolition. Cathy said she has not received any bids. Website: Cathy said someone asked her why the Fourth of July event is on the town website if it's being run by the fire department. Dick noted that there is no longer a Town Forest Committee either. Win said he thinks we want that sort of thing on the website. Tom said it can go on the calendar. Win said a service directory for seniors was put on our website as a matter of information. Flag Fund: Tom suggested that West Windsor consider establishing a Flag Fund.
- 10) Adjourn – **Win moved to adjourn at approximately 11:05 AM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison