

West Windsor Selectboard Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2023
6:30 pm Town Hall and Zoom

Present in Person: Matt Kantola, Mark Harley, Cathy Archibald, Mike Spackman, Christina Dolan, Anne Valentine, Mike Dudley, Chris Nesbitt, Ken Parrot, Jill Crowley

Present via Zoom: Mark Higgins, Deb Shearer, Michael Coughlin (The Vermont Standard), Martha Harrison, David Jaacks, Christine Eggleton, Erik Boedtke, Cathy Boedtke

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

2. Changes or Additions to Agenda

Cathy requested we discuss (actions / votes taken under #12 “Other Business”):

- Peter Varconyi submitted a request for a liquor license for a private party (a surprise party for Jim Lyall; to be held on Tuesday 5/16/23 at AO) Voted unanimously to approve
- Question regarding the Sheddsville Cemetery
- Question about having Robin French do the gardens

3. Announcements/Public Comment

None

4. Town Clerk’s orders

Cathy: Mark Higgins came in and signed them; can get copies for the other Selectboard members, if you wish.

5. ARPA Committee Final Report and Recommendation

Anne Valentine presented a slide show summarizing the committee’s recommendations. The presentation included an overview of the main items considered and the final recommendations. They recommend that 100% of the funds be used “...toward improving emergency services and preparedness.”, with \$200,000 recommended to assist the fire station in initial planning, engineering and architect fees for relocating and building a new station. The remaining (approx) \$112,095 to be used for Emergency

Preparedness, possibly including updates to the Town Hall and / or the Albert Bridge School for use as emergency shelters as outlined in the priority section of the Town Plan.

6. WWVFD Relocation (Ted Siegler)

Tabled until the next meeting; Ted was not able to be present.

7. Highway Foreman's report

Mike reported emergency culvert repairs on Sheddsville Rd. Erik activated the VT_Alert emergency notification as the road had to be closed for a while to make the repairs. It was noted that about 360 people in West Windsor have signed up for VT_Alerts.

We will be in Barre on Wednesday this week for the annual plow / backhoe rally.

Eric Cooper started on the highway crew last Monday. So far, he's doing great.

8. Town Hall Cannon

Matt suggested we should either fix it or toss it. It was discussed that in the interim it should be removed from the Town Hall lawn and stored at the Town Garage. Given its current condition, that is probably safer. It was also discussed to see if either Fort #4 or the Shelburne Museum might be interested in having it. Matt will contact them. David Jaacks suggested we should find out more of its history. He knows it was fired in 1997 when he first moved to town, but it hasn't been fired much if at all since then. He also noted that the barrel appears to be an extremely complex design which he believes is quite rare. Erik Boedtke said we need to check on the year of manufacture and see if we can legally and safely move it at all (since it's moving a firearm). Mark Higgins to look into the legality of moving this firearm on public roadways.

9. Generator Quotes

Erik Boedtke has had 3 quotes come in for the Town Garage Generator (and one informal "quote"). Some include the electrical connection part of the installation, some quotes do not. Also, some include a Kohler generator, some a Generac. In my experience, the Kohler is a better product.

Quotes:

- BriteLite \$15,500 including transfer switch and all electrical; a 20kw Kohler generator. Timeframe: BriteLite is waiting on equipment for a large project in their queue and they have time immediately (next week) to do this job for us.
- Bushy gave an "informal" quote of about \$8,800 for a 22kw Generac generator; generator only no electrical work. Timeframe: (no reply from Bushy)
- HMS was \$21,750 for a Generac (also the 22kw model) and includes all wiring. Timeframe: "Sometime before winter"
- Yankee Generator could install either the 20kw Kohler or the 22kw Generac with prices ranging from \$19,135 to \$24,835 depending on exact option, though these

figures do not include any of the electrical wiring. Timeframe: “middle of summer”

It was noted that BriteLite is extremely reliable, actually has the time to do this project quickly, is giving us the best price by far on the brand of generator we’d prefer, and includes the full wiring. It was also noted that for any of the choices there would be an additional charge of about \$2,000 for doing a proper propane hookup.

Matt noted that this is a key element of town emergency preparedness. He moved that we move ahead with the BriteLite proposal using ARPA money. Mark Higgins seconded. Discussion re: how often the town garage has been held up due to power failures. Mike indicated several times in recent months when the garage was out of order. One huge snowstorm we had in late winter, we couldn’t get the doors up to get the plows out! We had one truck to do all of the plowing. More recently another power failure slowed us down significantly. Voted unanimously to approve.

The Selectboard acknowledged and thanked Erik Boedtger for his very thorough job in securing the quotes and collecting all of the helpful information re: the generator.

10. Sheddsville Sexton

Matt: We’ve had two candidates apply: Brian (lives in Happy Canyon) and Thomas Whelan, MD. Both want to “give back to the town” and would like to do the job. Thomas is asking to do the job without compensation; he’s retired (Brian is working another full-time job). After some discussion, it was voted unanimously to offer the position to Thomas Whelan. Matt will contact both candidates tomorrow.

11. Town Hall Projects

Matt noted the following projects that are being considered:

- Roof Repairs – trying to get Melanson to come in and give a quote on critical repairs to the slate
- Painting – getting quote for trim and railings from Gary Hilbert (would be time / materials)
- Lighting upgrades (quote coming – from local energy efficiency expert)
- A/C – BriteLite is a quote coming for a heat pump that would do A/C and also offer inexpensive heating through the same system. Have 2 other quotes in the works, including from ARC Mechanical.
- Also considering a quote for generator for the school (or the cost to add the school to the Town Hall’s generator system – which is primarily for the sewer system pump near the Town Hall). This would be to keep the heat, water, sump pump going at the school in case of it being needed as an emergency shelter...as part of the ARPA fund emergency preparedness recommendation.

12. Other Business

See item 2 for actions.

13. Approve minutes of April 24 and April 27

Voted unanimously to approve.

14. Adjourn

Voted to adjourn at 7:44 PM