

West Windsor Selectboard

Minutes

October 13, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Jim Kenyon, Polly Ouellette, Scott Smith, Chuck Kurthaltz, Dennis Lemire

Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and then asked Tom Kenyon to address the issues regarding damages to the fire station and the prospect of moving the fire station to a new location. Tom cited reasons for supporting the move such as the building being in the flood plain, and the state requiring certain updates to the building. Chuck asked if the Fire Department would be forced to move. Glenn said no; FEMA visited the building with Martha and indicated that there was not substantial damage to the building and it could be repaired to its previous condition. Tom also mentioned he felt there is a better chance of a positive vote to finance the move if brought before the voters sooner rather than later. Glenn agreed and stated that he supports the effort for a new building and would do whatever he could to help in the effort. Glenn also agreed that a vote sooner rather than later would work to the Fire Department's advantage. Jim said that the membership felt as though the Selectboard was acting too fast and they were being pushed into something that they had not truly considered. Chuck said the membership has concerns over voting for \$800,000 and it not being enough so then the Fire Department has to come back to the voters for more money. Polly agreed the membership felt rushed. Scott asked how the \$800,000 figure was arrived at. Tom gave an overview of the proposal from Osgood Construction. Scott also raised concerns about possible contamination at the Brownsville Garage site. Jim suggested looking at the site next to the post office. Tom said that site floods as well and doubted the state would allow raising that area. Dennis mentioned that there are other contractors in the area that build this kind of building and that other prices should be considered. Scott inquired as to the effect on the tax rate. Glenn replied he thought it would be in the 1.5 cent range. Tom reiterated that the \$800,000 number was a budget number that was carefully considered and that time was of the essence; the Fire Department has to make the decision ASAP. Very lively discussion continued for some time. Chuck asked what should be the tact at this point. Polly suggested a vote be considered for town meeting in the spring. Chuck asked about the plan from this point going forward. Glenn suggested a membership vote, to start informing the public as to their intentions while soliciting prices from other contractors as well as looking for other sites to consider. Glenn felt it important to keep the public informed as things progress. Tom agreed and suggested that a public meeting be scheduled soon. Jim said there could be a membership vote later this month.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn B. Seward