

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee meeting by teleconference, 4 p.m., Mon. August 21, 2017
Draft minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:15 p.m. Quorum reached with Jim Bonney, John Bossen, Ralph Bailey, and Jeff Nelson present. Tom Kenyon, Town Administrator Martha Harrison, and Clerk Connie May also present.

Changes or additions to agenda: None noted.

Announcements/public comments: No announcements given; no public present.

Approve minutes of last meeting: *Motion* made to dispense with reading of minutes. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on sewer project: Martha reported that a small list of items needs to be completed in Brownsville. Letter sent to W. Windsor residents to ask for nomination of a representative on the Committee. One person nominated but wasn't interested. Tom Kenyon volunteered to be Town Rep and received support from Town. Committee members expressed their thanks that he is joining Committee.

State confirmed that Town will get remainder of pollution grant for sewer project: total amount around \$400,000. Once final cost numbers confirmed, final assessment will be made as to what grant will cover.

Issue with generator at Fire Station arose last week; controller had to be replaced. Martha researching whether this work will be covered under warranty. No new problems with previously existing sewer system known.

Update on water project: Appeared to be a leak in new-hydrant piping. Area excavated to try to identify leak source. Jeff suggested that water could be tested for chlorine or fecal matter in effort to determine whether water from water-system or sewer-system leak. No leak on 8" distribution pipe found; general consensus was that this is ground water flowing around pipe and pooling where hydrant installation created bowl. Stone put under pipe when excavated to help drainage of water; when tube lift installed, drainage should further improve.

Water pressure high at Mountainside. Pressure adjusted, but then some single-family homes and Mt. Edge didn't get water. Flow-control valve was closed, and problem was solved. Committee asked who would be paying for this work. Martha will find out what caused the problem – whether a design flaw was at fault or flow-control valve was left open when water pressure readjusted – in order to identify who should pay cost of the fix. Point made that communication to water users could be improved when water system goes down.

At some point in future, Reservoir #1 will have to be cleaned - quote to be obtained.

Financials: Water System has \$30,927.58 in checking and \$111,667.10 in money-market fund. Sewer System has \$11,949.09 in checking and \$320,569.90 in money-market fund. Committee understands that payments to Windsor for sewer are up-to-date. Brownsville Store owner still expected to pay sewer fees.

Sewer accounts in good shape; perhaps once we have clearer idea of costs of capital needs, we can consider lowering rates. Committee encouraged Town to address a Capital-Needs Plan for Sewer System.

Water allocations: Martha keeping track of how much water well pump is pumping daily, so Town can get average/maximum daily use for peaking factor as requested by State – though the sum figures will be annual. Approximately half of Ski Tow Road residents and Mountain Edge residents are now full-time. More exact percentages will be more difficult to get for single-family owners than for condo owners. Ralph will get occupancy reports for resort to Martha in the next week; figures are not exact, and are calculated by the month – but still, good guidelines that Orange Lake uses for budget purposes. Martha noted she only needs estimates, rather than hard data. Meters would help measure use; grants may be available for future meter installations.

Fire pond/Fire Protection: No progress made on addressing needs/issues since last Committee meeting.

Ordinances: Atty. Nate Stearns has contacted Matt Birmingham to discuss discrepancies between what was originally agreed upon by Select Board, Committee and Act 250 for Sewer Ordinance language, and what Town is now considering. Nate is waiting to hear back from Matt, but vacation schedules had delayed a meeting/conversation. John made point that Water Ordinance should be based on the original agreed-upon Sewer Ordinance language, rather than reworking both ordinances. He hopes that Select Board will not make decision on ordinances until lawyers have had opportunity to discuss issues, and Committee has had a chance to give strong input. He expressed disappointment in the disagreements, and hopes that after 3 years, the issues can be resolved peacefully.

New business: None suggested for discussion.

Next Committee meetings:

September 18th, 4 p.m. by teleconference.

Friday, October 6th at 4:00 p.m. in person in Town Hall.

Adjournment: *Motion* made to adjourn. Seconded. No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.