

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee Meeting by teleconference, November 16, 2015, draft minutes.

Meeting called to order at 4:03 p.m. Committee members Lew Iadarola, Jim Bonney, Gina Halsted, Bob Norris, John Bossen and Jeff Nelson present. Also present: Dick Beatty and Martha Harrison from Town of West Windsor; Connie May, Clerk; and engineers Joe Duncan and Nate Pion.

Changes or additions to agenda. None mentioned.

Public comments: None offered.

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

Financial reports: Sewer: Money Market \$129,932.43. Checking \$10,580.97. Water: Money Market \$65,041.52. Checking \$3,052.25. All bills current.

Acquisition of water system: Department of Public Service wrote letter to Public Service Board (PSB), stating no objection to Town's acquisition of system. PSB swamped with other applications, such as for solar, so we don't know when we will hear their decision. Hopefully we will know more by December 11th meeting.

Recommendations for dealing with water pumps in base lodge. Engineers reviewed their recommendation to reach goal of rendering pumps in base lodge obsolete, at estimated \$330,000 (of which \$19,800 already paid for their services). This option involves pumping directly to upper tank and feeding lower tank from upper tank. Mt. Side would be fed from connection that is parallel to Mt. Edge's connection, so would be taken off lower tank. Engineers expressed comfort with fire-protection offered by their recommended option; expressed caution about using snow-making system for fire-protection, since that system needs maintenance and inspections, and yet isn't being used right now for snow-making. A lot of maintenance for little use (back-up for fire-protection). Lew raised concerns that State requires much more water supply for fire-protection than is estimated in engineers' plans. He recommended an option that would give all properties in mountain complex access to all reservoirs for fire protection. John made suggestion that Lew and Jeff meet with engineers to discuss suggestions and options. No objections voiced. John expressed hope that this discussion could occur before December 11 meeting, and asked Lew to organize the meeting. Lew added that tops on reservoirs 2 and 3 are not bolted. John asked Martha to let Patricia Beavers know.

Protecting water system over winter. Roof was constructed over staircase entrance, and someone will be cleaning up debris. Highway Department will keep access road to burned-out lodge plowed. We are waiting on estimate from electrician to install more lighting. Goals are to make access safer for those who check equipment, and to protect equipment from the elements. Approximate costs = \$5,000 for roof; \$1,600 for clean-up; wiring to be determined.

Role of Advisory Committee: John clarified that all members' input always sought, but representatives don't get to vote on specific issues if their constituencies aren't users. For example, Mt. Side is not on the sewer system, and so Steve Hawco, the Mt. Side rep., does not vote on sewer-system issues. Still, his input is sought, and he does a lot of work on water and sewer budgets. The committee agreed unanimously to this approach.

2016 water and sewer rates: John Bossen and Steve Hawco have been reviewing numbers and meeting with Town Treasurer Cathy Archibald. Both water and sewer systems run on calendar fiscal year. Suggestion made that for sewer system, we wait until February to calculate a proposed budget for 2016. By that time, final expense figures for 2015 will be in hand. We will bill for Quarter 1, 2016 on 2015 numbers; when final figures in and budget formulated, we will have a better idea of whether rates will stay flat or even decrease. The committee agreed to this approach.

For water system, preliminary budget prepared based on expenses to date. As of end of September, expenses calculated at \$66,000, which included \$37,000 for professional services and \$10,000 for maintenance. John meeting with Cathy to get further breakdown details on these expenses. Last year's water bill to individual users was \$495. Cathy and John felt that this year, bill could be the same. Bill will go out end of February, due March 31. John asked if any objection to this approach. None voiced. John added that \$18,000 in principal and interest already collected toward \$330,000, and \$6,000 is in escrow account, so \$24,000 surplus in hand. He hopes to work toward a five-year financial plan.

Other business: John reminded committee members of December 11 meeting in Town Hall at 4 p.m. Decision will be made then whether committee will need to meet again on December 21st by teleconference. Gina noted that she will be attending the December 11 meeting by teleconference. John noted that Bob Norris is now back-up as rep for Ski Tow Road and also rep for Ski Tow Road for the POA.

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.