

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

November 8, 2010 - evening

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, David Jaacks, Chris Nesbitt, Mike Spackman, Bob French, Jim Kenyon, Ralph Johnson, Todd Hindinger, Cathy Archibald, Cathy Boedtke, Hal Pyke, Merle Bushkin, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or Additions – Coalition of Municipalities update, Community Development Grant close out, Library issues, Minutes November 8, 2010 (morning meeting)
- 3) Public Comment – Dennis Lemire asked for an update on what's going on at the Resort. Glenn said the taxes have been paid with the exception of the taxes on a few condo units, for which no one wants to claim ownership. Glenn said there was an offer on the mountain that got refused but the parties are still negotiating. Glenn said there have been no serious buyers for the quad chairlift yet. Dennis asked if the electricity problems have been resolved. Glenn said they have been resolved temporarily and, in the long term, the electricity issues tie into the fire district so, at some point, things will be separated up there and there will be no issues.
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer's report – Town Clerk Cathy Archibald had orders and a cemetery deed for the Selectboard to sign, which they did.
- 5) Correspondence: Heritage Engineering – Todd Hindinger was present on behalf of Heritage Engineering. Glenn noted receipt of Todd's letter in regards to his feelings about an amount owed to him by the town. Glenn said there was a stipulation agreement and Todd's work was described in the agreement. Glenn said Todd's letter indicates that he feels that the services he provided were over and above what was described in the agreement. Glenn asked Todd who determined that the work he did was beyond the scope of the agreement. Todd said he determined that. Glenn noted that the Selectboard has discussed this and agreed to turn it over to the Town Attorney. Tom asked if the Highway Foreman had seen the letter. Mike said no. Mike read the letter. Glenn asked Todd if he had any comments to add to what he wrote in the letter. Glenn said he discussed it with the Highway Foreman and they are in agreement that we paid what we owe and we don't owe any more. Todd said he could have waited until the whole job was done and then checked it but, in this case, he checked it before the work was done and stayed to make sure it was done correctly. Todd said it's correct that the McCullough's hired him, but he probably saved the town a lot of money. Todd said if he had come when the blacktop was down and said it wasn't done properly, it would have been a completely different scenario. Todd said it was his decision to stay; the stipulation agreement didn't require that, but it was important to him to make sure that the intersection was fixed properly. Todd said he will talk to the Town Attorney about it but he wanted to give the Selectboard a chance to look at it before he pursues other avenues.
- 6) Town Constable – No report
- 7) Highway Foreman's report – Rush Meadow Road repairs: Mike said the repairs to the banks on Rush Meadow Road are 99% done. They just have to seed and mulch and cut a few trees. Mike said the state will reimburse the town for time and equipment. Mike said they used almost 2,000 yards of stone on the three repair projects. Mike said he should have all the invoices by the end of next week. Mike said Trevor Starr from the Agency of Transportation will look at the projects next time he's in the area. Glenn said he's heard from some people who are concerned about the lack of guardrails. Mike said the slope is less steep than it was, but he agreed to put some delineator posts in. Winter: Mike said he salted the roads at 4:00 AM this morning. Culvert near Mallon's: Regarding the repairs by Phil Mallon's old residence, Mike said we're waiting for the hydrology report, which Trevor Starr will try to get to him this week. Better Backroads grant: Mike said, with help from Glenn and Martha, the town submitted a Better Backroads grant application. Mike asked Martha if she has received the Agreement for Entry form from the Conleys. Martha said yes. Best Management Practices (BMPs): Mike said he has to go to a meeting in Montpelier on Wednesday at 12:30 PM. Mike said the most

common question that he has been asked is, “Who’s paying (for towns to implement the BMPs)?” In response, Mike said, he has asked “what are you being asked to do that you can’t do?” Mike said most people have responded that they are basically doing everything already. Bruce noted that towns that don’t adopt the BMPs stand to lose money. Computer: Mike said the highway department’s computer has been fixed but he needs an external DVD writer. Martha said she has one that she’s not using. Prince Road: Merle Bushkin said 3’ of Prince Road got washed away in the last storm; he asked Mike if the highway department could fix it when they get a chance.

- 8) Request for final approval of snowmobile access on Sheddsville Road (Casey property) – **Tom made a motion to grant final approval for the snowmobile access on the Casey property (parcel #4-43) on Sheddsville Road. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 9) Fire district update – Glenn said the Selectboard has received draft documents for establishing the fire district. Mike said he has been asked to shut down the sprinklers in the base lodge. Mike asked if the fire district has anything to do with the water in the base lodge because he believes that water goes into that building from one of the reservoirs and is then dispersed out of that building. Glenn said the fire district does have an interest because all the valving for the pumps that feed the homes up there is in the base lodge. Glenn said he hopes to see Todd Enright on Wednesday and will discuss the issue with him. Mike said they want to drain the sprinkler pipes and shut the heat off in the building and that doesn’t make sense. Glenn said there has to be some provision to ensure that the water doesn’t freeze. Bruce said the whole thing is a bad idea from an insurance perspective and he doesn’t think the town should condone it. Mike and Glenn agreed with Bruce.
- 10) Mile Long Field – Glenn said he had a discussion about Mile Long Field with an owner’s representative last week and the owner is interested enough to seek an appraisal on the property. Cathy Boedtger asked if the town should start preparing for a possible purchase now. Glenn said, as far as he knows, he is the only one talking to the owner about this possibility. Glenn said the owner recognizes the development constraints. Glenn said he doesn’t think there is a long list of people interested in the property. Glenn said he has talked to Win Johnson and the Conservation Commission (CC) about possible fundraising and the CC is going to consider the idea at their December meeting. Chris Nesbitt asked the Selectboard if they have considered approaching the Upper Valley Land Trust (UFLT). Glenn said he has talked to them and they have expressed interest in helping. Glenn said there are low-interest loans available but they take too long to get. Chris offered to help out with fundraising. Dennis Lemire asked who owns the field. Glenn said Snowdance LLC. Merle asked how big it is. Glenn said 44 acres.
- 11) Energy audits – David Jaacks said energy audits were performed on the Town Hall, the library, and the Town Garage by a company called Building Energy. David said the Energy Committee will review the audit reports at their next meeting and make short-term and long-term recommendations. David said there may be a grant available for work on the library. David said an energy audit of the school was done by Zero by Design with a grant from the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission (SWCRPC). David said that report is not available yet but the indications are that the greatest energy loss is taking place in the old section of the school. David said the Energy Committee would like to list the key audit findings in the Town Report. Tom asked if there was anything in the library report that needs addressing soon. Glenn said there is an issue with the library’s heating plant. Hal asked to have copies of the audits sent to the Planning Commission.
- 12) Re-adopt updated Emergency Operations Plan – **Tom made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the Emergency Operations Plan on behalf of the Selectboard. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 13) Appoint authorized representative for the water/wastewater feasibility study – Bruce nominated Glenn to be the authorized representative. Glenn accepted.
- 14) Sign application forms for the water and wastewater feasibility studies – **Tom made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the applications for the water and wastewater feasibility studies. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn noted that the signatures of all the Selectboard members are required. All the members signed and Town Clerk Cathy Archibald witnessed the signatures.

- 15) Appoint Fourth of July committee members – **Bruce made a motion to formally establish a Fourth of July Committee. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn nominated Cathy Boedtke, Chris Nesbitt, Dennis Lemire, Jay Bodnar, Tom Kenyon, Jim Kenyon, Weezie Hudson, Mimi Gray, Polly Ouelette, and Wayne Welles to serve on the Fourth of July Committee with assistance from the West Windsor Volunteer Fire Department. Bruce seconded the nominations. Cathy Boedtke said she thinks it's a good idea to formalize the committee for liability reasons. Cathy said more and more people are added to the committee as the year progresses and she imagines that they will be ad hoc members. Chris asked if the committee has to come back to the Selectboard to have new volunteers officially appointed as they become actively involved with the committee. Jim said anything that has to do with the fire department has to be voted on by the members. Glenn suggested a monthly update as to who is involved, which could be noted for the record at the Selectboard's regular monthly meeting. Cathy asked if she could email a list of the newly active volunteers each month. Glenn said yes. Tom suggested using the wording "and their assigns" in reference to the Co-chairs. Glenn said that's fine with him. Chris said the Fourth of July Committee could submit meeting minutes, which would note who is actively involved. Cathy said the committee is sending out a letter and putting an ad in the *Vermont Standard*.
- 16) Update on Town Hall projects – Tom said the town hall windows have been washed and the new windows will be installed tomorrow. Tom also noted that the ADA walk has been inspected and approved by the state. Tom asked if the Selectboard should consider having the rest of the Town Hall windows washed. Glenn said he thinks that's a good idea.
- 17) Tree Warden – Tom said he has to coordinate with Mike.
- 18) Other Business – Town Forest Committee resignation: Glenn said he received a letter of resignation from John Cocks. **Glenn recommended accepting John's resignation with regret and thanks for his service. Tom seconded the recommendation, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said he will send John a letter. VT Coalition of Municipalities: Tom said he attended a Coalition meeting today. Tom shared a letter written by the Whitingham Selectboard expressing their concerns about their recent reappraisal to William Johnson, Director of Property Valuation and Review. Reappraisal: Glenn asked Hal when West Windsor will be reappraising. Hal said the town-wide reappraisal will not occur until 2012. Glenn asked Hal about the impact of the present ski area situation on the reappraisal. Hal said that's still up in the air. Glenn asked Hal about the current Common Level of Appraisal for West Windsor. Hal said it's close to 100%. Tom asked Hal if people who are unhappy with their assessment have to wait until after January 1st to appeal to the Board of Listers. Hal said they can appeal prior to the notice of hearings. Tom said a number of people have said that they'd like to know when that is. Community Development Grant: **Tom moved to authorize the Town Treasurer to close out the Community Development Grant. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Library roof: Tom said using plywood on the roof would cost an additional \$7,700 and he would like to talk to the Planning Commission about it. Tom said there are some energy issues that have to be addressed. David asked if it would be possible to insulate the roof when it's replaced if we could get a grant to cover the cost. Tom said that's a possibility. Tom said the grants he has looked into have all required the building to be a national historic site and there are too many stipulations put on the building when it's a national historic site. David said he will look into this particular grant to see if the library would qualify. Pump test: Glenn said he would like to schedule the pump test for Saturday, November 20th. Jim said he won't be here. Glenn said the longer we wait, the more reluctant CVPS is to be generous with the demand charges. Jim suggested Sunday, November 21st. Mike agreed. West Windsor Repeater: Tom said the repeater was moved from the ski area to the town garage where it doesn't work at all. Jim said Bill Stillson offered to let the town put it up on his property. After discussing the options, the Selectboard agreed to see how the repeater works on Bill's property. Hartford Dispatch: Jim said the dispatching fee will stay about the same in 2011 with the exception of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Jim said he heard that VLCT's fee may go up. Glenn said he solicited a proposal for ambulance service from Windsor and Steve Cottrell said he would have a proposal by the end of the week. Bruce asked if we have Golden Cross's proposal. Glenn said yes. EC Fiber: Merle asked if anything is happening with EC Fiber.

Glenn said not that he knows. Martha said EC Fiber is meeting tomorrow night. There was discussion about the various types of broadband service, the service providers, and changes in the state's rules regarding eligibility for funding. David said because energy and broadband seem to go hand-in-hand the energy committee talked about creating a map of broadband service in West Windsor. Merle said Comcast is in some areas of town and maybe there's a way to get Comcast to expand. Merle said he got a quote from Comcast of \$57,000 to run a line to his house. Merle asked if the town licenses Comcast to do business in town. Glenn said he thinks that's a state issue. Bruce said Comcast doesn't seem to have a long-range plan. There was discussion about the difficulties people have had dealing with Comcast. Merle asked who gives Comcast the authority to run lines in town. Mike said the Vermont Public Service Board. Tom said they also have to get approval from whoever owns the pole. Merle said it would be nice to get out of the dark ages. Merle said he knows someone who lives in the middle of nowhere in Randolph who said that, if you request it, they have to provide the service. Merle said after getting a ridiculous price quote from Comcast, this gentleman contacted someone at the Public Service Board and got cable run to his house for \$300. Merle asked if the town could look into this. There was discussion about the areas in town that should be able to get service from the existing hubs on the southeast and southwest ends of town. There was discussion about the differences between DSL and cable. David said high-speed internet is a key factor in economic development. Meeting with Highway Dept: Mike asked the Selectboard if they could schedule their annual meeting with the highway department. The Selectboard agreed to meet with the highway department at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, December 7th. Health Insurance: Jim asked the Selectboard if they are aware of the increase in the cost of health insurance through VLCT. Glenn said yes; the cost is going up by 17%. Bruce said all the insurance companies are raising their rates. Mike said VLCT contracts with CIGNA. Bruce asked if VLCT shops around. Mike said yes.

- 19) Approve Minutes - October 5, 2010: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5, 2010, as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** October 20, 2010: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of October 20, 2010, as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** November 1, 2010: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of November 1, 2010, as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** November 8, 2010: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2010 morning meeting, as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 20) Adjourn – **The Selectboard adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:07 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison