

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
March 31, 2009

Present: Phil Arvidson, Bruce Boedtger, Tom Kenyon, Tami Ellis, Trevor Starr, Mike Spackman, Martha Harrison, Cathy Archibald

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Phil Arvidson called the meeting to order at 10:38 AM.
- 2) Discuss town highway issues with Agency of Transportation officials – Trevor Starr completed West Windsor’s annual financial plan using highway budget information from the Town Report. Trevor noted that the town has an equipment fund and a paving fund with rounded balances of \$10,800 and \$37,800 respectively and that \$25,500 has been budgeted for retreatment, \$4,000 for bridge maintenance, and \$11,500 for new construction. Mike said the \$11,500 is for the bank stabilization project on Sheddsville Road. Trevor noted that the town has submitted grant applications to replace a large culvert on Silver Hill with a bridge and to reclaim and pave sections of the Brownsville-Hartland Road. Trevor noted that the town has adopted the minimum required codes and standards included in the *Handbook for Local Officials*, and that the town’s infrastructure study is less than three years old. Mike said West Windsor updates its infrastructure study every two years and it was just updated last year. Trevor said the Agency of Transportation (AOT) asked all towns to sign a “Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards” this year to encourage Selectboards to review their standards. Trevor noted that the Traffic and Safety division is willing to contribute up to \$5,000 for each town to upgrade their traffic control devices. Mike said he thinks the town has upgraded all the signs along its class 2 roadway, with funding assistance from the state. Trevor said structure grants are awarded based on cumulative funding to the town over the years. Trevor said West Windsor has received about 5.5% of District 4’s funding, including funding for bridges in 2006 and 2008, which is about average. Trevor said some towns have received no funding and some have received 11-12%. Trevor suggested that West Windsor continue to apply and eventually, when our percentage is below average, we should be eligible to receive funding again. Trevor said there are tentative plans to increase the funding for both the structure and the roadway grant programs. Trevor said West Windsor has 2.35% of the Class 2 mileage in District 4 and has received 4.44% of the total funding so the town should be eligible for more roadway funding in the next couple of years. Phil informed Trevor that West Windsor is thinking about discontinuing several Class 3 roads that only serve one property and asked him if he has any comment, pro or con. Trevor said some towns maintain bridges and culverts on Class 4 roads and some don’t, but towns are not required to maintain trails. Bruce asked if towns are required to maintain Class 4 roads. Trevor said the law is open to interpretation. Mike said the West Windsor Highway Department maintains bridges and culverts on Class 4 roads when necessary. Trevor said documenting maintenance of Class 4 roads helps to prove a town’s eligibility for state and federal disaster funding. Mike said West Windsor has no bridges on Class 4 roads. Phil said the Selectboard is looking at the time and money involved in maintaining Class 3 roads that only serve one property and comparing it to the amount of state highway aid received for the mileage involved. Trevor said the state aid is \$1,500 per mile. Bruce asked Trevor if he is aware of any repercussions for the town resulting from Class 3 highways being discontinued. Tami suggested that West Windsor consult with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT). Phil noted that Bruce has expressed concern that a discontinuance could be

considered a “taking,” but if it is done by due process of law then the government has the right to do it. Trevor agreed. Tom asked if the state has any paving projects planned for Route 44. Trevor said he is not aware of any plans. Tami said she knows Route 44 is bad, but district funding is limited and there are at least 10 other roads in the district that are in worse shape. Tami said that section of Route 44 really needs to be cold-planed and repaved. Tom asked who paid for the roadwork on Route 4 in Bridgewater. Tami said that was an Agency project. Tami said cold-planing the quarter-mile section of Route 44 near Route 44A would probably take all of the district’s leveling funds for the year. Trevor said the town’s paving budgets are huge compared to what the district gets for leveling. Tami said if the district spends more on paving then they have to spend less on bridge and culvert maintenance. Tami said when a road needs major work, the district cannot afford to do it; all they can do is recommend it for Agency funding. Trevor said the best way for a town to influence which projects get funded is through their representatives and senators. Tami said there are 26 towns in District 4, which has more bridges than any other district in the state. There was discussion about the prohibitive cost of repairing roads properly, relative to the available funding. Regarding state highway aid to towns, Trevor said he was told last week to assume level funding.

- 3) Other Business – Town Hall Use: Cathy said someone asked about using the hall for a wedding reception with alcohol. **The Selectboard agreed unanimously that the use of alcohol at the Town Hall is not approved.**
- 4) Adjourn - **The Selectboard adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:27 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison