

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Minutes

July 6, 2009

Present: Phil Arvidson, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Cathy Archibald

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Phil Arvidson called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions – Sheddsville Cemetery, 6-month budget review, Brownsville Garage, Oil prices, Animal Control
- 3) Tax rate and 6-month budget review – Phil noted that Town Treasurer Cathy Archibald suggested a tax rate of 29 cents. Phil suggested reducing expenditures and setting the tax rate at 28 cents. Tom noted that the town had to cover \$21,000 of the school's indebtedness. Bruce asked how that happened and Cathy explained. Phil said he has suggested that, if we have what appears to be a significant surplus in the future, we confirm it in writing with the state. Cathy said she thinks the town budget is okay, but she's not sure about the highway budget. Phil said he doesn't think the highway budget is in bad shape. Tom pointed out that we budgeted state highway aid at half the expected amount. Phil said that's one reason why he thinks a tax rate of 28 cents would be fine. Tom and Bruce agreed. **Tom made a motion to set the 2009 tax rates for the Town General fund at 8 cents to cover articles 5 & 9 and any indebtedness; for the highway fund at 14 cents; for appropriations at 2 cents; and for Act 144 local construction at 4 cents, for a total of 28 cents. Tom noted that, together with the state education tax rate, the total property tax rate for homesteads will be 1.5328 and for non-residential properties will be 1.6144. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 4) Other Business – Brownsville Garage: Phil said he spoke with Matt Birmingham about the permits for the business next door. Phil said Matt is going to notify the property owner that anyone wanting to operate a body shop there would have to apply for a permit, which might or might not be approved. Tom noted that complaints go to the landowner, not the operator of the business, because permits go with the land. Bruce suggested notifying both the landowner and the business owner of any complaints. Phil agreed. Sheddsville Cemetery: Tom said he and Mike talked with CVPS about sharing the cost of removing the trees along the cemetery wall. Tom said they estimated the cost at \$1,200 so the town's share would be \$600. The Selectboard members all agreed that it's a good deal. Tom said the funds would come out of the Sheddsville Cemetery budget. Tom said that Bob Matthews pointed out to him that the burial plots on the east side of the cemetery are within a few feet of the right-of-way for the adjacent property. According to Tom, Bob said those plots were laid out before the right-of-way was granted. Phil asked if any of the plots have been sold. Tom said no. Phil said we may want to look at a map and think about not selling those plots or making them "cremation only" plots. Animal Control: Tom reported that someone had allegedly left a cat for days without food or water. Tom said he and Ralph asked a neighbor, who had a key, to take care of the cat. Tom said he also called Lucy MacKenzie about the situation and Ralph read the cat's owner the riot act. Oil prices: Cathy said the oil price today is \$2.669 per gallon and the propane price is \$1.679 per gallon. Phil said he thinks the town should lock in a rate tomorrow. Tom and Bruce agreed. Cathy said the contract would include 950 gallons for the church and 600 gallons for the library. Cathy said the Town Hall used

2,772 gallons last winter. The Selectboard agreed to reserve 2,000 gallons for the Town Hall for the coming winter. Cathy said the highway garage used 3,667 gallons of propane last winter. The Selectboard agreed to contract for 3,500 gallons of propane for the coming winter. Cathy said she will call Wesley Alexander and find out how many gallons the Historical Society needs. Town Hall Use: Cathy said her neighbor asked if she could use the town hall in the fall for a home health care training for 20 to 30 people. The Selectboard approved the request. Town Clerk's Order: Cathy had one order for the Selectboard to sign. Site visit: The Selectboard agreed to meet at the Town Hall and carpool to the Bailey access site visit on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM. Planning Commission public hearing: Tom said no one from the public was present at the Planning Commission's public hearing on the draft subdivision regulations. Tom said Martha mentioned that there is something that the PC wants to add to the regulations. Phil said if they want to add something he thinks they have to have another public hearing. Tom said maybe the PC is going to recommend that the Selectboard make the change. Bruce said that is the impression he got. Phil said the Selectboard has to have a public hearing anyway, whether or not there are any changes. Phil said he thinks the proposed addition to the subdivision regulations came about after a meeting that Steve Plaustein had with Hal Pyke and Glenn Seward, which Martha questioned. Phil said he, Hal and Glenn all agree that the meeting was fine and that it is better to maintain an open dialogue with the mountain than to make the process totally formal. Phil said the addition that the PC is proposing puts in black and white that an informal review can be done. Phil said once an application is on the table, the informal dialogue stops. Bruce noted that there was not a quorum present for the meeting with Steve. Bruce added that, if there is a risk, it's a risk of public perception. Tom said it's like Martha measuring the setback from the property line when it's questionable and someone wants a permit; it's a courtesy and she can either say it's fine or you have to get a variance. Tom said it saves a lot of work and it's in everybody's best interest. Bruce said Steve is aware that Hal and Glenn can't speak for the whole board.

- 5) Adjourn – **Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 4:29 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison