

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Minutes

February 15, 2011

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Mike Spackman, Cathy Archibald, Cathy Boedtke, Ralph Johnson, David Jaacks, Ed Connors, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:26 PM.
- 2) Sign Orders – The Selectboard signed the Town Clerk’s orders.
- 3) Changes – None
- 4) Town Clerk/Treasurer’s Report – The Town Clerk had liquor and tobacco licenses and a declaration of No Appeal or Suit Pending on the 2010 Grand List for the Selectboard to sign. **Tom made a motion to approve and sign the declaration regarding the Grand List. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Cathy said one liquor license and one tobacco license is for the Brownsville General Store, and two liquor licenses and one tobacco license are for Orange Lake. **Tom made a motion to approve the liquor and tobacco licenses. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 5) Constable’s Report – No report
- 6) Public Comment – Ed Connors, a local resident and the Business Manager for the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, read an article from Friday’s *Valley News* about the resignation of Windsor Town Manager Steve Cottrell. Ed objected to remarks made by Tom Kenyon that were quoted in the article. Ed also spoke about the potential benefits of Windsor and West Windsor working cooperatively on issues of mutual concern. Ed asked the Selectboard to be more diplomatic and to reach out to neighboring towns like Windsor. Glenn said Tom was not speaking on behalf of the Selectboard. Glenn added that the West Windsor Selectboard has had regular conversations with Steve Cottrell and Windsor Selectboard Chair John Tansey about how the two towns can work together. Tom said he has tried to work with Steve on a number of occasions and has been frustrated with Steve’s lack of response. With regard to the remarks that were quoted in the newspaper, Tom said he hadn’t realized that he was speaking on the record. Tom added that he was not speaking on behalf of the Selectboard.
- 7) Highway Foreman’s Report – Mike said the new replacement truck has been ordered. Mike gave the Selectboard an extended warranty contract for \$3,700. Mike said the equipment bid letters and sand/gravel bid letters should go out soon. Mike said Mark Dow and his brother will work as temporary replacements for Phil Hathorn at \$15 per hour starting March 1st on an “as needed” basis. Glenn said he wants to send the equipment bid letters “return receipt” to make sure that all local contractors receive one. Bruce said some towns have a list of “pre-qualified” contractors who have submitted their insurance information and qualifications. Mike said contractors are not always selected because they have the lowest rates; the quality of the finished product is also a factor. Tom said timeliness is also a factor. Mike agreed that availability has to be considered.
- 8) Mile Long Field update and discussion – Glenn said there is a group raising money for the purchase of Mile Long Field. Glenn said he would like the Selectboard to determine a specific amount of money to ask the voters to consider approving at Town Meeting. Glenn said it can’t be open-ended; the voters have to know the impact on the tax rate. Glenn said the appraised value is \$343,000. Glenn suggested asking the voters to approve between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Glenn said he would be in favor of asking the voters to approve \$150,000, to be paid off over three years, because he thinks it’s a very worthwhile project and the cash flow works. Glenn said the owner’s agent is willing to work out a purchase and sales agreement prior to town meeting. Glenn said there was discussion about the value of a possible infrastructure easement in the lower portion of the field. Glenn said a \$10,000 non-refundable deposit would be due at the signing of the purchase and sales agreement. Glenn said he does not want to commit \$10,000 unless the purchase is approved at town meeting and, if the deal falls through, he would want the \$10,000 to

come from private donations, not the tax payers. Glenn said taking \$343,000 off the Grand List would increase everyone's tax bill by between 3/10 and 4/10 of one cent on the tax rate. David Jaacks asked if the town purchasing Mile Long Field would limit future development for a potential buyer of the Resort. Glenn said the current owner anticipates that future development would occur in the base area. Tom said he can't see the voters approving more than \$150,000. Glenn asked if the Selectboard wants to suggest the wording for an amended motion at Town Meeting. Cathy suggested that the Selectboard wait and consider the wording for an amended motion when it's closer to Town Meeting. Bruce suggested meeting after we get a purchase and sales agreement. There was discussion about the possibility of negotiating a lower purchase price in exchange for a road and utility easement.

- 9) Town Forest Plan proposals – Glenn said the town received a proposal from Tii McLane and requested, but did not receive, an updated proposal from Stillwater Forestry. Glenn said the town also asked for a proposal from Bill Stack but he was unable to meet our time and budget constraints. Glenn said Stillwater's original proposal was for \$8,250 and Tii's proposal is for \$5,200. **Glenn made a motion to accept Tii McLane's proposal contingent on funding approval at Town Meeting.** Tom asked what the Town Forest Committee thinks. Glenn said the Town Forest Committee voted in favor of Tii McLane. **Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 10) Ancient Road status – Glenn said the Conservation Commission has indicated that their work on ancient roads has concluded and they have moved on to ridgelines. Tom asked if the Selectboard should dissolve the Ancient Roads Committee. Glenn asked if the Ancient Roads Committee was created by the Selectboard or the Conservation Commission. Cathy Boedtger said she doesn't know. Cathy said she doesn't think the Conservation Commission has decided officially that they are finished investigating ancient roads. Tom suggested that the Conservation Commission give the Selectboard something in writing indicating that they are no longer pursuing ancient roads.
- 11) Website update – Cathy Boedtger thanked Dave Halpert and Raina White for their technical expertise. Cathy said the new site will go live at the end of this month. On behalf of the group working on the website, Cathy requested \$600 to customize the photos on the site. Cathy said the group would like to announce a photo contest at Town Meeting and use the four best photos submitted to customize the site. Cathy said the group would also like to show the new website at Town Meeting and asked if and when they might do that. Tom suggested after lunch. David said the town should get releases from the photographers who submit photos. **Tom made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$600 to customize the website. Glenn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Bruce asked if there is an internet connection in the upstairs hall. David suggested burning a DVD showing how the interface works to avoid having a live feed in a public forum. Tom asked about links, e.g. to the Historical Society's website. Cathy said the group has been focusing on gathering, organizing and presenting town information but they do plan to provide links to local organizations and businesses in accordance with the policy adopted by the Selectboard last year.
- 12) Efficiency Vermont – Tom noted that we have not heard from Efficiency Vermont how much they are willing to contribute to the project. Tom suggested tabling consideration of the project until we hear from them. Martha said she thinks the deadline for completing projects is December 1, 2011. David asked if the estimate from the electrician, \$4,274 for the Town Hall and \$4563 for the Town Garage, includes labor. Glenn said yes. David said the energy savings could potentially offset the capital expenditure. Tom noted that the fixtures for the existing lamps are going to be discontinued so it makes sense to replace them now with financial assistance from Efficiency Vermont. David asked if the Energy Committee could be on the agenda for the Selectboard's next meeting. Glenn said yes. David said the Energy Committee would like to discuss the re-purposing of the library since it needs a lot of work and it's only open four hours per week. Tom said the Selectboard held an Executive Session at the library and he thinks the trustees are open to additional uses but the library doesn't have restroom facilities so the potential uses are limited.

David said the Energy Committee was able to have an energy audit of the school performed with assistance from the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. David said the Energy Committee would like to talk to the Selectboard about implementing some of the recommendations in the audits. Tom asked if the Energy Committee has looked into saving energy on streetlights. David explained some of the difficulties involved in negotiating streetlight changes with utility companies. Tom said the village is lit up all night and he doesn't think that's necessary. David said there are potential liability issues involved in turning the lights off.

- 13) Prepare for Town Meeting – Glenn suggested setting a date for a meeting just prior to town meeting. The Selectboard agreed to meet on Monday, February 28th at 6:30 PM. Glenn said he has arranged to meet with Windsor Selectboard Chair John Tansey directly after town meeting. The Selectboard also agreed to hold an organizational meeting immediately after Town Meeting. Tom suggested a joint meeting between the Windsor and West Windsor Selectboards. Glenn agreed and said he would arrange it.
- 14) Minutes – January 11, 2011: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2011, as written. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** January 31, 2011: **Tom made a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2011, as amended. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 15) Adjourn – **Bruce made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison