

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes  
December 30, 2009

Present at the Town Garage: Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon, Phil Arvidson, Mike Spackman, Phil Hathorn, Gary Austin

Present at the Town Hall: Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon, Phil Arvidson, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison, Mike Spackman, Jim Kenyon, Cathy Boedtke

- 1) Call to Order – Phil Arvidson called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM at the Town Garage.
- 2) Annual reviews: Highway employees - A number of matters of interest were discussed, including vehicle performance and maintenance, public comments on roads, safety equipment and clothing, the electrical transformer, and the new compressor. Mike confirmed that the CVPS residential transformer, which was extremely old, was the source of electrical problems at the town garage, including problems with the alarm system, and that CVPS has installed a new and proper transformer on the pole across from the garage. Phil said the Selectboard feels that West Windsor's roads were maintained to a high standard in 2009 and that they are pleased with the highway department's performance. Phil also stated that no decisions regarding compensation have been made yet, since final 2009 numbers are not available from which to work up a 2010 budget. The Selectboard agreed to look into the question of some possible alternate compensation for Gary Austin in lieu of medical insurance since Gary has elected not to be covered by the town's insurance, resulting in cost savings to the town. By unanimous consent, the Selectboard agreed to continue the meeting at the Town Hall at about 3:30 PM.
- 3) Reconvene - The Selectboard reconvened the meeting at the Town Hall at approximately 3:30 PM.
- 4) Ambulance Contract – The Selectboard discussed proposals for ambulance service from Windsor and from Golden Cross. Tom said his understanding is that Reading is going to sign a contract with Golden Cross. Bruce said the only down side to contracting with Golden Cross is the response time. **By consensus, the Selectboard agreed to contract with Golden Cross for ambulance service for 2010.** Phil signed two letters – one to Windsor notifying them that West Windsor is declining their proposed ambulance contract, and one to Golden Cross notifying them that West Windsor is accepting their proposed ambulance contract. Phil noted that the letters will have to be hand delivered. Cathy said the first quarterly payment to Golden Cross is \$2,400.75.
- 5) Payment in lieu of health insurance – The Selectboard discussed whether to compensate Gary Austin for not taking advantage of the health insurance benefits offered by the town. **Tom made a motion to compensate Gary Austin \$500 at the end of 2010 because he gets his health insurance through his wife. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 6) Town Hall Furnace – Tom said he would like Dead River to explain their furnace estimate. Bruce said the town should get another estimate. Tom said he likes the idea of switching to propane.
- 7) 2010 Highway Budget – Phil noted that the increase in the highway budget is \$11,700, or 3%, over last year. Cathy said because of unanticipated revenue, the town will need to raise

\$432,625, or \$26,000 less than last year. It was noted that the expenditures for 2009 were 1% less than budgeted. Cathy suggested charging the work on the Brownsville-Hartland & Cemetery Road intersection to special projects rather than paving. Mike said there is \$50,246 in the paving fund now so if the money spent on the intersection is put back into the paving fund along with \$25,000 of the surplus, there will be \$87,000 in the paving fund. Mike said he got a price today on paving 1.5 miles of roadway for \$89,000. Tom said he doesn't think West Windsor is going to get paving money from the state this year. Mike said he got a quote on a 10-wheel truck for \$169,000. Cathy said there is \$70,000 in the Equipment Fund now and another \$60,000 is budgeted for next year, so the town will have \$130,000 saved up when it's time to order the 10-wheeler at the end of next year. Cathy provided the Selectboard with the hourly pay rate for each of the highway employees. After brief discussion about whether or not to give pay raises this year, the Selectboard agreed to discuss the matter in an Executive Session.

- 8) Ambulance Contract review – Upon Jim Kenyon's arrival, the Selectboard reviewed their decision on the ambulance contract. Jim said he thinks the town ought to find out how much Golden Cross charges customers per mile. Jim also said that he thinks Golden Cross will want maps of the town with road and occupancy names, and the names of the FAST Squad members. Jim said we have to notify the 9-1-1 Board and Hartford Dispatch that Golden Cross is going to be our ambulance service provider as of January 1, 2010. Jim agreed that he and Ralph Johnson will talk to Dale Girard of Golden Cross tomorrow. Martha agreed to contact the 9-1-1 Board.
- 9) 2010 Town Budget – Tom said the library is going to ask for \$6,700 rather than \$5,500. Phil said the Selectboard will probably need to have a quick meeting next week when we have all the numbers, including compensation. Tom noted that the Conservation Commission has not submitted a budget request yet. Cathy said the budget for 2010 town expenses, without wages included, is \$309,978. The Selectboard agreed to budget \$10,000 for tree removal.
- 10) Energy Committee proposal – Cathy Boedtke was present to offer a proposal that the Selectboard put an article on the Town Meeting warning asking the voters to exempt alternative energy sources from taxation. Tom asked if the exemption would be from local property taxes. Cathy Boedtke said yes. Phil asked if towns have the statutory authority to do this. Cathy Boedtke said yes. Tom asked Cathy Boedtke to have Town Attorney Matt Birmingham review it. Phil suggested that Cathy Boedtke run it by the Listers also. Cathy Boedtke said Lister Hal Pyke likes the proposal. Bruce said he doesn't think the exemption should be retroactive. Phil agreed. Tom noted that property is appraised as of April 1<sup>st</sup> each year, so if the upgrade was done last year, it would still count. Bruce agreed. Phil said the language needs to be very clear. Cathy Boedtke asked if the Selectboard is proposing that the exemption not apply to someone who installed an alternative energy system 10 years ago. Phil said he thinks the cutoff should be fairly current. The Selectboard agreed that Cathy Boedtke would present the proposed wording to them at their next meeting, after Matt reviews it.
- 11) Next meeting – The Selectboard agreed to meet again, for a final budget review, on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM and to look at the Town Meeting warning on January 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 12) Other Business – Conservation Commission appointment: Phil asked Martha to notify Klaus Lubbe that the Selectboard appointed Cathy Boedtke to the Conservation Commission but that they would keep him in mind for subsequent openings. Community Development Grant: Tom said the cost of installing the lift at the Grange Hall is approximately \$30,000 and he

would like the balance of the funds to be designated for possible ADA work on the sidewalks so the town doesn't lose the money. Phil said he has no problem with that. Bruce agreed.

- 13) Executive Session – **Tom made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Following discussion, the Selectboard came out of Executive Session by consensus and agreed that they would not budget salary increases for any town employees for 2010 but that they would give small performance bonuses to Mike Spackman, Phil Hathorn, Gary Austin and Martha Harrison, and that they would recommend to the voters a \$200 increase in the salary for the Town Clerk and a \$200 increase in the salary for the Town Treasurer for 2010. The Selectboard also reappointed the following individuals to three-year terms, ending on December 31, 2012, on the boards indicated: Mark Nowlan and Win Johnson on the Conservation Commission; Shannon Harrington and Hal Pyke to the Development Review Board; Joe D'Anna to the Planning Commission; and Dennis Conley and John Cocke to the Town Forest Committee. The four members of the Energy Committee, Cathy Boedtke, Win Johnson, Ted Emerson and David Jaacks, were reappointed for one-year terms ending December 31, 2010.
- 14) Sign Orders/Adjourn – The Selectboard adjourned by consensus at approximately 5:00 PM, subject to signing the Town Clerk's orders.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison