

WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes
December 23, 2009

Present: Bruce Boedtger, Tom Kenyon, Phil Arvidson, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison, Mike Spackman

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Phil Arvidson called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.
- 2) Changes or additions to the agenda – Cathy gave the Selectboard members a copy of the furnace estimate from Dead River.
- 3) 2009 Budget Review – Cathy said the 2009 highway budget is \$57,050.32 to the good but, in order to stay under budget on expenditures, the town can only spend \$11,000 between now and the end of the year. Tom noted that the budgeted income from the state was \$42,000 but the actual was \$80,000. Tom asked if the town should spend the additional \$38,000 or designate it for paving. Phil said he thinks the Selectboard should carry it over. Bruce agreed. There was discussion about whether the work done on the intersection of the Brownsville-Hartland Road and Cemetery Road should be paid for with paving funds or as a “Special Project.” The Selectboard agreed to defer that decision until the next meeting.
- 4) 2010 Town & Highway Budgets – Highway Budget: Mike went through the highway budget line by line and gave the Selectboard his estimates for anticipated highway expenses in 2010. Mike said the highway department had to get a new transformer and a new air compressor in 2009, and spent \$5,000 to repair the injection pump on the loader. Mike suggested leaving the transfer to the equipment fund at \$60,000. Tom asked when the next vehicle would be replaced. Mike said he is planning to propose that the town buy a 10-wheeler in 2011 so they can haul twice the amount of material. Tom noted that the town should have \$190,000 in the equipment fund by then. Mike said the equipment fund should be adequate in the short run but might run into trouble when it’s time to replace the loader in 2022 and the grader in 2024. Mike said he doesn’t think the town will need three 10-wheelers. Cathy said the medical insurance cost for the highway department in 2010 is \$32,075. Tom said if income from the state is \$80,000 in 2010, the town might not need to increase the tax rate. Phil and Bruce agreed that there’s no way to know. The Selectboard agreed to assume that income from the state in 2010 will be \$80,000 - the same as it was in 2009. Cathy said, without wages, the proposed highway budget comes to \$512,625. Phil suggested that the Selectboard look at the highway budget again next week after Cathy updates the numbers. Town Budget: Cathy went through the town operating budget line by line and gave the Selectboard her estimates for anticipated town income and expenses for 2010. Tom expressed concern about the \$18,000 in delinquent taxes on the talc plant. It was noted that there will be another tax sale at the end of January. Tom said he talked to Steve Adams about trying to get experienced constables grandfathered for a few more years. The Selectboard agreed to leave town hall repairs and maintenance at \$11,500 to cover the cost of the windows. Cathy said she hasn’t received a bill for alarm inspections. There was discussion about the ambulance contract. Tom suggested postponing the decision until next week. Phil said in his opinion the town can either go with Golden Cross or make a counteroffer to Windsor. Cathy said we should remind the Conservation Commission to submit a budget request. The Selectboard agreed to budget \$3,500 for the Energy Committee to do energy audits on town buildings. Tom said someone complained that our flags aren’t big enough for our flag poles. The Selectboard

agreed that Martha will continue to work 35 hours per week and pay 12.5% of her health insurance. Tom said the library trustees are probably going to ask for \$5,500. Tom asked how much is in the Listers Fund. Cathy said \$97,675. Cathy said Annie is thinking that the town will need to do another reappraisal in 2011 and, by then, there should be \$127,000 in the Listers Fund. All agreed that \$127,000 would probably be adequate.

- 5) Other Business – Healey pond: The Selectboard agreed to send a letter to the Healeys about maintaining their pond at its permitted size. Cemetery deed: Cathy had a cemetery deed for the Agostos for the Selectboard to sign. Thermostat: Cathy asked about installing a cover over the thermostat so people can't adjust it. The Selectboard agreed. Fence in Silver Hill Road right-of-way: Mike asked about the application for a fence in the right-of-way on Silver Hill Road. Phil said the Selectboard has problems allowing someone to build a structure in the town right-of-way, but they would be receptive to a proposal to restructure the intersection. Bruce noted that the applicant is willing to move the fence three feet closer to the house, which would still put it in the right-of-way, but would move it back considerably. Tom said the purpose of the fence is to prevent children and pets from running into the road. The Selectboard and the Highway Foreman agreed that this is a good opportunity to get the dead trees down and restructure the intersection, which would improve the value of the property. Phil said Martha has noticed a Development Review Board (DRB) hearing on the application but, regardless of what the DRB wants to do, the Selectboard determines whether or not the applicant can build in the right-of-way. Bruce suggested denying the application. Martha said the Selectboard indicated to the applicant that they would discuss it further at their January meeting. The Selectboard agreed. Mike estimated the cost of restructuring the intersection at \$5,000.
- 6) Discuss State Police barracks at Windsor Armory – Tom said the Armory in Windsor is going to be vacant and he thinks area towns should get together and fund a state trooper or two, who could operate the building as a State Police barracks. Tom said he talked to Steve Adams about the idea and Steve is going to talk to the woman in charge of buildings to see if the state would be interested in expanding the State Police barracks. Phil said the idea makes sense.
- 7) Executive Session: Personnel – By consensus, **the Selectboard entered an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.** Following discussion, **the Selectboard came out of Executive Session and adjourned.** No action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison