

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee Meeting, Brownsville Town Hall, October 9, 2015, Draft Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. Quorum confirmed Ralph Bailey, Jim Bonney, Gina Halsted, Mary Vitullo, John Bossen, and Lew Iadarola present. Martha Harrison and Tom Kenyon from Town of West Windsor, and Clerk Connie May also present.

Changes or additions to agenda: None noted.

Public Comments: No public present.

Minutes of last meeting: *Motion* made to dispense the reading of the minutes. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial reports: At last meeting, Steve Hawco was appointed as financial liaison, and has been working with Town Treasurer to gather information in order to define expenses and how they relate to budget planning. At November meeting, we have to determine our recommendations for 2016 budget planning. John noted that sewer account seems in excellent shape; dues receivable reduced, and we may be able to reduce rates.

Timetable, status and impact of final acquisition of water system: Approval expected sometime in mid-November.

Follow-up to resolutions/motions of last meeting: *Disposition of final Sewer Ordinance:* Concern again expressed that Select Board has not approved final sewer ordinance, which contains agreed-upon changes not contained in current version. *Motion* again made to renew committee's recommendation to Select Board to approve this document as soon as possible. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cunningham's and role of advisory committee: Select Board overrode committee's recommendation to turn down request to disconnect Cunningham from sewer system. John raised point that it was his understanding by agreement with the Act 250 Commission that the committee would set rules and tone, and that Select Board would approve unless there were strong reasons to not do so. Martha and Tom commented that there were greater "public good" issues involved. Committee members expressed understanding but wanted to receive explanation if Select Board does not follow committee's recommendations. *Motion* made that when Select Board does not agree with committee's recommendations, we request that they explain why. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously. Lew made the point that since MFW's holdings are no longer connected to water or sewer system, they should not have representative on committee. No action was taken at this time.

Plans to protect water system over winter: Engineers and Patricia Beavers reported that pumps protected over winter, but access to base lodge is problematic. It's dangerous to climb up in order to install temporary roof to prevent rainwater infiltration into basement. Tom Kenyon said that Town is working on a remedy.

A&E's recommendations for dealing with water pumps in base lodge: Most of committee members had not had time to digest engineering report. Lew raised serious concerns that engineers' recommended solution would seriously erode Mountain Edge's fire-fighting capacities. In addition, he said that State does not see Mountain's Edge as "residential" but rather as a condo complex, a "multi-family," and thus the requirement for fire-fighting is not 500 gallons of water/minute but rather 3,000 gallons of water/minute. Lastly, he reminded committee that in the last two very serious fires in the mountain complex – the base lodge and the 100 building at Mountain's Edge - the Fire Department used the Mountain's Edge pond as a water supply. He added that since that pond is crucial to fire-fighting efforts for all residents on the mountain, the water system should be responsible for maintaining it. John urged Lew to discuss his concerns with Jeff Nelson before the November meeting. This topic will be on the agenda for that meeting; we will try to have one of the engineers present for this discussion.

New business: None noted.

Next meeting: Monday, November 16th by teleconference. Major topics on agenda will be budget planning and fire-fighting issues.

Adjournment: *Motion* made to adjourn. Seconded. No further discussion. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.