

West Windsor Selectboard
Draft Minutes
January 6, 2015

Present: Glenn Seward, Bruce Boedtke, Tom Kenyon, Cathy Archibald, Martha Harrison

1. Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.
2. Changes or Additions – Tom said he attended the School Board meeting last night.
3. Announcements/Public Comment – Tom said the school budget is up 5 or 6% over last year. The new school bus contract is up \$6,000+ but the new buses have seat belts. Tom said there was discussion about the \$60,000 guidance budget but there are some children who really need help. Tom said the School Board is also discussing “grade-less” classes. Tom said they have done a lot of work on the budget and he supports it.
4. Review Draft Warning for 2015 Town Meeting – Cathy asked the Selectboard to add \$4,000 to the budget for “Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer Wages” which would bring the total to \$580,244. The Selectboard agreed. Cathy read article 5: “Shall the Town approve the expenditure of \$480,662 for General, \$611,225 for Highway (Combined \$1,091,887) for the year 2015, of which \$855,620 shall be raised by taxes and \$186,267 by non-tax revenues, and \$50,000 from 2014 surplus?” The Selectboard approved Article 5. Cathy estimated that a town tax rate of 40 cents would be needed to cover expenses. Glenn suggested adding an article requesting \$25,000 for road refurbishment and an article asking for \$10,000 towards Clock Refurbishment (which totals \$60,000) with such funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectboard agreed that the clock funds, if approved, would go into the “Story Memorial Hall Centennial Celebration Fund.” The Selectboard agreed to sign the warning at their regular meeting on January 12th. Cathy said the surplus in the town’s 2014 general fund budget was \$163,000; \$30,000 due to rounding up the tax rate to the nearest cent; \$20,000 due to penalties on late filing of homestead declarations; \$19,000 due to the difference between homestead and residence; and revenue above the budgeted amount was \$97,000. Glenn said current use was a big contributor to the higher revenue amount.
5. Sign Town Clerk’s orders – **Tom moved to sign orders. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
6. Discuss water system financial situation and consider action to address same – Glenn said the water system has no money, the electric bills are in arrears, the testing company has not been paid, and an electricity shut-off notice has been issued. Glenn said it has been suggested that Orange Lake pre-pay their 2015 water bill for cash flow purposes but Glenn said he doesn’t think that’s appropriate. Glenn said he has talked with Matt Birmingham and Paul Giuliani about using money from the surplus or the utility escrow account to prevent the power from being shut off. According to Paul, Glenn said, it’s appropriate for the town to protect the integrity of a system the town plans to acquire. Glenn clarified that the town would not do anything until we have a signed purchase and sales agreement. Glenn said the water company has about \$52,000 in receivables with \$7,700 attributable to Hanover Holding Trust, which MFW Associates agrees is a bad debt. Tom asked what would happen with the receivables if the town acquires the system. Glenn said 85% of receivables would go to MFW and 15% would go to the town, but there is ongoing discussion about that. There was discussion about the town’s options for collecting receivables. Glenn said he hopes to have a purchase and sales agreement by the end of the week. Bruce said

he doesn't want to pay any water system bills until we have a signed purchase and sales agreement. Glenn agreed. Glenn said he just wanted to get Bruce and Tom's input on using money from the surplus or the utility escrow account to pay water bills after an agreement is signed. Tom asked what funds the town will have to run the water system. Glenn said he has suggested a special assessment to the Utility Advisory Committee. Bruce asked how the town will separate past due receivables from current receivables. Glenn said he has insisted on separate accounting. Tom asked if Dan Purjes would be willing to sell the receivables to the town for 25 or 50 cents on the dollar. Glenn said he will approach Dan with that offer. Bruce and Tom were okay with paying past due water system bills once the agreement is signed.

7. Consider signing purchase and sales agreement for resort-area water system – Glenn said we do not have an agreement to consider signing.
8. Other Business – None
9. Adjourn – **Glenn moved to adjourn at 11:30 AM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison