

## WEST WINDSOR SELECTBOARD

Draft Minutes

June 26, 2012

Present: Glenn Seward, Tom Kenyon, Bruce Boedtke, Windsor Police Chief Steve Soares, Scott Smith (Acting Director, Hartford Emergency Communications), Fire Chief & Highway Foreman Mike Spackman, Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Kenyon, Second Constable Bill Young, FAST Squad members Cathy Boedtke and Andy Tufts, *VT Standard* reporter George Calver, Mark Isenberg, Arthur Steinberg, Martha Harrison

- 1) Call to Order – Selectboard Chair Glenn Seward called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Meet with Windsor Police Chief to discuss transition in law enforcement coverage – Glenn welcomed Windsor Police Chief Steve Soares and explained that the Windsor Police Department will begin covering West Windsor on July 1<sup>st</sup> with 24/7 “911” response and 15 to 20 hours of roving patrols. Glenn said Ralph Johnson will still be Constable but he will no longer handle any law enforcement issues. Glenn asked Chief Soares what number people should call for a non-emergency police matter. Chief Soares said the best number for non-emergency situations is 802-295-9425, which is the number for Hartford Dispatch. The business office for the Windsor Police Department can be reached at 674-9042. Glenn said he is assuming that the Windsor Police Department will not respond to medical emergencies. Chief Soares said that is correct, unless the medical emergency is related to a criminal activity. Tom asked about response to car accidents. Chief Soares said the Windsor PD will respond to car accidents. Chief Soares said the Windsor PD will also respond to domestic disputes and any other situation where there is a risk to the FAST Squad in entering the building. Glenn asked if the FAST Squad should contact the Windsor PD through Hartford Dispatch if they’re in an uncomfortable situation. Chief Soares said yes. George asked how people get in touch with the FAST Squad for medical emergencies. Glenn said people call “911” for all emergencies. For a medical emergency, the dispatcher will tone out the FAST Squad. Tom asked about “noise in the night time” calls. Chief Soares said the Windsor PD is not going to be able to replace Ralph Johnson but they’re going to try very hard. Chief Soares said Windsor PD will respond to any emergency or non-emergency that would ordinarily be handled by law enforcement. Chief Soares explained that there may be times when Windsor PD is already on a call and they have to call the State Police for back up. Chief Soares said it is unlikely that two high priority calls would come in at the same time, but it could happen. Chief Soares said Windsor PD will have at least two full-time police officers on duty at all times. Mark asked about the size of the Windsor Police force. Chief Soares said there are nine full-time officers, including himself, six part-time officers, and an administrative assistant. Mark asked about traffic and speed control. Chief Soares said there will be random patrols in marked vehicles. Mark asked if the alarm company for the General Store should call the Windsor PD rather than Ralph. Chief Soares said yes. Glenn asked what people who have alarms in their homes should do. Chief Soares said they should contact their alarm company and direct them to Windsor’s central dispatcher, which is Hartford Dispatch. Glenn said he spoke with Ralph today and there is a list of homes in West Windsor that have alarms. Arthur Steinberg said his alarm is linked to the state police. Cathy Boedtke said it’s her understanding that you can contract with local or state police but there is a fee for contracting with the state police. Chief Soares said he has spoken with Lieutenant Jenkins at the Royalton barracks of the State Police and Lt. Jenkins is relieved to know that West Windsor has contracted with Windsor because West Windsor is the furthest point out from Royalton. Arthur asked if it’s going to be difficult for the Windsor PD to find “out of the way” places. Chief Soares said yes but they have a great dispatch system in Hartford. Scott confirmed that Hartford can direct officers to wherever they need to go. Arthur asked if the patrol cars have gps. Chief Soares said no. Glenn followed up on Mark’s speed control question. Chief Soares said they have roving radar so they don’t have to park somewhere and wait; they can run radar while they’re moving. Tom asked if the Windsor PD is authorized to enforce West Windsor’s local ordinances against littering, parking on the

road, false alarms, etc. Chief Soares said law enforcement officials in Vermont generally have jurisdiction state-wide, so the answer is yes. Chief Soares requested a book of ordinances that have been officially and lawfully adopted by the Selectboard. Mike Spackman asked about vehicles parked in the way when the Highway Department is plowing. Chief Soares said Windsor PD will respond to complaints from West Windsor exactly the same way they respond to complaints from Windsor. Scott said if Mike has the plate number for a vehicle that needs to be moved, Mike can call Hartford Dispatch and they can try to contact the owner. Mike asked about communications. Chief Soares said the Windsor PD can use the Windsor County Sheriff's Department frequency in West Windsor and Hartford Dispatch will be monitoring that frequency so they do have communication on that channel. Chief Soares added that the West Windsor Selectboard has been working to get an appropriate system in place to allow clear communication in West Windsor and to enhance communication ability in Windsor as well. Glenn said West Windsor applied for a grant for the equipment from Homeland Security but it looks like it may be awhile before we realize the benefits of that grant. Meanwhile, Glenn said, Sheriff Chamberlain has graciously allowed the use of his system and hopefully that will be adequate for the time being. If it's not adequate, Glenn said, we may have to forego the grant in order to get the new communication system up and running. Mike asked about interoperability among the Sheriff's Department, the Fire Department and the Highway Department. Glenn deferred to Jim Kenyon. Jim said Windsor's cruisers have the capability of using West Windsor's fire ground and West Windsor's repeater. Chief Soares said they tried that but it didn't work. Jim said it should work car to car if the cruiser is in West Windsor. Glenn said it's going to be a little cumbersome until the new system is in place; the question is whether we want to wait for the grant funding or not. Glenn suggested that we try the communication system as it is and see how it works and if it isn't working then we won't worry about the grant; we'll just get the new system in place. The Chief and the Selectboard agreed that a properly functioning communication system is an absolute necessity. Mike asked if an officer will come out to a structure fire in West Windsor automatically. With fires, Chief Soares said, West Windsor should call Windsor PD if they need traffic control; they won't come unless requested. There was a question about community building activities with the school kids in West Windsor. Chief Soares said that's not included in the current contract but, once everything is running smoothly, if the Selectboards in Windsor and West Windsor want to expand the contract, then they could move in that direction. Chief Soares acknowledged that some people in the community may be concerned about the upcoming changes in law enforcement. The Chief noted that he has 44 years of experience in law enforcement and if he has doubts about any of the officers working for him, they won't be working for him for very long. The Chief invited the residents of West Windsor to contact him if they are ever treated offensively by a Windsor police officer. Tom asked if he could get the police blotter every week for his column. Chief Soares said he can email the police blotter to the Selectboard. Chief Soares asked Scott Smith about differentiating between Windsor calls and West Windsor calls for documentation purposes. Scott suggested working that out with Ken Prior.

- 3) Resort water/sewer utility purchase discussion – Glenn said he was contacted by the utility owner today but did not have a chance to return the call. Tom asked if the Selectboard is still scheduled to meet on Thursday morning. Glenn said yes, the Selectboard will meet with the Town Attorney in Executive Session at 7:00 AM on Thursday. Arthur asked if the ownership issues have been resolved. Glenn said no, but the most recent offer included a statement that the town would be presented with clear title if the offer was accepted so, in the owner's eyes, there's not an issue. Glenn noted that the foreclosure action is ongoing.
- 4) Sign Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Forms – Glenn said this is the same form that the Selectboard signed last Thursday for Yates and Findlay. The form confirms that Edson Pierce is the owner of flood-damaged property that may be eligible for repair with NRCS funds. **Bruce moved to sign the form. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn signed. Tom and Bruce witnessed his signature. Glenn said the NRCS projects have to be done by August 28<sup>th</sup>.

- 5) Sign agreement for trail usage on Bossen property – Glenn noted that the Town Attorney has reviewed the agreement and Mr. Bossen has signed it. **Glenn moved to sign the agreement. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** Glenn said the agreement has to be notarized so the Selectboard members will have to stop by the town office and sign it when Cathy or Paula is present.
- 6) Executive Session: contract issues – **Glenn moved to go into Executive Session. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.** After discussion, **Glenn moved to come out of Executive Session at 7:22 PM. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Tom moved to authorize the Chair to continue discussions with the utility owner. Bruce seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- 7) Adjourn - **Glenn moved to adjourn at 7:23 PM. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Harrison