

Draft Minutes - Joint Meeting between West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee and West Windsor Select Board
December 11, 2015, Town Hall, 4:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m. Select Board members Dick Beatty, Tom Kenyon and Ted Siegler present. Committee members Ralph Bailey (Orange Lake), David Leavitt (Mountainside), Jim Bonney (Village Condos), Gina Halsted (Windsor Building), Jeff Nelson (Mt. Edge), Lew Iadarola (Mt. Edge alternate), Bob Norris (POA alternate), and John Bossen (POA) present. Connie May (Committee Clerk), Martha Harrison (Town Administrator), Mike Spackman (W. Windsor Fire Chief), and engineers Joe Duncan and Nate Pion also present. Some people present by phone rather than in person.

Changes of additions to agenda: None noted.

Announcements/public comments: Announcement made that VT's Public Service Board has approved sale of water system to Town of West Windsor.

Review preliminary engineering report for Summit Water Company & consider engineers' recommendations: Engineers had originally outlined three options and had recommended option #2. Engineers subsequently met with Jeff Nelson, John Bossen and Lew Iadarola on November 30th. At that meeting, Lew expressed concern about potential effect of increased water pressure on water lines. That discussion led to engineers changing their recommendation to option #3, which would place pumps in a dedicated building; connect the three reservoirs in case of fire and thus increased need for water for fire-fighting; additional fire hydrants; connection of piping between Mt. Edge and Mountainside for increased water pressure; and the ability to tie any building that might be constructed as replacement for Base Lodge into the system. Engineers - this option better alternative as a long-term solution.

Detailed discussion ensued concerning price differentials among options, including costs of construction, equipment needed, maintenance, future need for replacement, and energy costs. Jeff Nelson asked if piping costs (estimated at \$50,000) for connection between Mountain's Edge and Mountainside could be avoided with installation of booster pump and tank. Engineers responded yes but that would result in additional upkeep costs for more equipment, plus they would prefer a continuous piping loop. There was some discussion of option #4, which is similar to option #3, but includes a submersible pump. Engineers prefer pump to be above ground in separate building for ease of maintenance, and greater efficiency of operation of pump. Option #3's pump plan involves additional \$20,000 capital expenditure up front as compared to option #4 but, in the long run, will save money on less maintenance and greater efficiency. Both option #3 and option #4 include additional hydrants up Ski Tow Road and at Mountainside.

Ultimate gross costs of option #3 would be in range of \$350,000 (about the same as option #2) – and this budget is what engineers are recommending. The \$350,000 figure assumes that State will not require back-up generators in case of power outage. Points made that trees had been taken down that might disrupt power during a storm; that the longest power outage had occurred during Tropical Storm Irene; that catastrophic events like this are not the standard; and that the Town could rent generator(s) in case of fire-fighting during power outage. Discussion regarding location of various transformers ensued. Point made that service to well and booster pump should not run through a building (such as Base Lodge) but have its own source. Engineers are meeting with State officials next week to discuss several issues, including necessity of having generators. The hope is that the State will not require generators.

Lew made several additional points: first, variable frequency drives for pumps would extend pumps' shelf life, and cost for installation would be absorbed by energy company; and second, pond on Mt. Edge land

has been instrumental in fire-fighting and thus upkeep should be water company's responsibility. Mt. Edge board got estimate a year ago of \$10,000 to dredge pond.

Engineers reminded committee members and Select Board members that inspections of tanks had resulted in positive findings, but long-term capital planning should include possibility of future replacement of tanks, as steel tanks not typical approach for water systems. John Bossen expressed committee members' satisfaction with Option #3 and recommended that moving forward, we concentrate strictly on that. The committee and Selectboard agreed. Mike Spackman expressed comfort with general direction, but encouraged dredging of pond on Mt. Edge land as safety net for fire-fighting in case of loss of power.

John Bossen said that water system account has \$60,000 in cash. Select Board will be going for Town's approval for bond at Annual Meeting. General discussion of timing for clarification of total cost of option #3, as well as for work, ensued. Concern expressed that we need to be sure where water infrastructure exists – whether on Town land or not. Discussed need for source protection buffer around main well. The Town will need easements to work on water infrastructure that is not on Town land.

Jeff Nelson made suggestion that engineers proceed with necessary surveys and boring while weather remains mild – in order to get a jump start on planning designs at an expense of approximately \$10,000. This will also lend clarity to need for funds before Town Meeting warning is distributed. The Selectboard and Committee unanimously agreed to this approach. Town representatives can sign agreements now because Town has receivership of system but, once Town owns system, that receivership will end. Engineers will be wrapping up preliminary report in next week or two. Then State has 90 days to review preliminary design, but State has been involved in meetings and discussion along the way, so things should move along more quickly. John Bossen is working with Steve Hawco on budget for water and sewer including capital work, and will present as soon as possible to set rates for next year.

Discussion of timing of work followed. Engineers would like to do designing in January, so work could be done by end of June. Engineers mentioned that planning loans are available through Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and payment of loan would not have to begin until construction begins.

Review proposed changes to Sewer Ordinance. No objection to tabling this discussion until the next joint, in-person Select Board/Advisory Committee meeting, which will be Jan 22.

Other business: A portion of the PSB's approval of sale of water system to Town read aloud. Town must notify PSB once Closing has occurred. Work on extension of sewer system into Town's properties going well; ahead of schedule due to mild weather. Closing on Mt. Ascutney acreage expected to occur on 12/15.

Next Committee meeting: Friday, January 22 IN-PERSON at 4:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Draft minutes prepared by Connie May & reviewed by Martha Harrison