

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee minutes, March 21, 2016

Call to order: John Bossen called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. Committee members David Leavitt, Jeff Nelson, Gina Halsted, Steve Hawco and John Bossen were present by teleconference. Committee member Jim Bonney was present in person. Martha Harrison and Selectboard members Dick Beatty and Tom Kenyon were also present in person.

Changes or additions to agenda: Jeff – storm water discussion, Tom – water to general store and Fire Dept, John - Sewer Ordinance.

Announcements/Public Comments: No public present.

Approve minutes of last meeting: *Motion* made and seconded to dispense reading of Feb minutes. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial report: Water

John met with new Selectman, Win Johnson. Win understood that Steve Hawco has been taking the lead on preparing the water financials. Win had some ideas and we expect his input. John said the \$500,000 in work that we expected was included in the budget and we appear to be in good shape. Steve noted 267 equivalent users and said, if all goes well, we should have a surplus. We have put aside about 45% for escrow and upcoming projects. Steve questioned borrowing money from town. John's understanding was that we borrowed money only to keep things moving until 2016 collections come in.

Discuss water audit: As a result of the water audit discussed last month, we now have 267 equivalent users including the general store and the additional 6 from Orange Lake. Ralph Bailey got back to us and agreed to the audit results. Tom said the Town Treasurer's records show 266 not 267. John will reconcile list with Cathy Archibald. Tom questioned why general store was being charged; he thinks the general store was promised free water forever.

Discussion: They have 2 units according to the audit. The original records of total users filed by Snowdance with the PSB to acquire permits included 2 units from the general store which is the same as the current audit. Is it fair to the users to provide free water for life to any user? Why should we be responsible for a deal that might have been made by an insolvent company? We have no record of any deal and it was not included in the PSB records of the deal to sell the water company to the town. No additional action was taken.

Tom said the Fire Company was going to lose their well and was it possible to connect to our system. One toilet and two sinks are involved. Jeff thought it would be fair to not charge them for usage but they should connect at their own expense. The discussion included allocations. John will contact Patricia Beavers to see what information she can provide. Regarding allocations, John reported that Patricia Beavers told him that the (Egan) property near the top of Ski Tow Rd had a water connection with an outlet that was able to draw water. The owner apparently used the water connection to build a foundation although the property now sits idle. On *Motion* and second with no further discussion it was unanimously decided to begin billing the property the normal water rate.

Discuss bond vote: Bond was approved for \$500,000. We only borrow what we need.

Discuss Engineering recommendations: Lou Iadarola, our water liaison, will speak to engineers this week to discuss some of the recommendations he's made. Next meeting with engineers April 7th and state reps will be present. Hopefully Lou can attend. By the time applications, permits, etc. are in place it is anticipated that bids will not go out until summer. Jeff brought up issues regarding fire-fighting capabilities and the need to understand state and local codes regarding pump sizes, etc. We hope to know more by next meeting.

Sewer: No time line yet for recommended sewer repairs. Jeff Nelson, as our sewer liaison, will be in contact with the engineers to discuss their report.

Storm Water: Jeff said we never really addressed the storm water system in our sewer discussions. They are related and we should have a plan as to effects of the storm water on our sewer system. We need to study the existing permits to see if and how we need to be involved. Jeff will discuss with Martha and Ralph Bailey.

Sewer Ordinance: John met with Win Johnson and discussed the Sewer Ordinance. It has been pointed out to the Selectboard in prior meetings that the current Ordinance is not the one that was originally approved by the Selectboard, POA and Act 250. The correct Ordinance had been reviewed and approved by the POA attorney and Glenn Seward but never officially adopted. Win had a copy and said that he would review and get back to John. It was also agreed that he was free to discuss with the POA attorney, Nate Stearns.

Next Meeting(s): It was decided that the next meeting would be via tele-conference on Monday, April 18th at 4 PM and that the May meeting would be in person at the town hall on Friday, May 20th at 4 PM (to coordinate with an anticipated POA Spring Meeting weekend). Is there a better time of the day? We want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to attend but it's unfair to Martha to have to round up a quorum.

There being no further business, on motion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.