

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee (WWUAC) meeting, 4 p.m., May 20, 2016, Town Hall, Brownsville, VT. Draft minutes

Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. Quorum established with committee members John Bossen, Jeff Nelson, David Leavitt, Ralph Bailey, Bob Norris, and Gina Halsted present in person or by phone. Also present: Select Board members Tom Kenyon and Dick Beatty; Town Administrator Martha Harrison; committee clerk Connie May; and 2 members of public representing the Brownsville General Store.

Changes or additions to agenda: David Leavitt asked that “easements, license agreements, and contact person” be discussed as related to Mt. Side. John Bossen added “discussion of water ordinance” to agenda.

Announcements/public comments: None made.

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

Financial updates: John Bossen reported money balances as follows: water system checking = \$91,569.15; water-system money market = \$1,053.12; sewer-system checking = \$52,576.18; sewer-system money market = \$52,040.05. Figures just came in. Steve Hawco working on figures further to produce report on which to base 2016 water budget. Committee not ready to discuss 2016 sewer budget. Question asked if sewer system is up-to-date on payments to Town of Windsor; update on what Windsor will charge going forward will help determine 2016 sewer budget. Budget updates to be discussed at next meeting.

Update on water project: Jeff Nelson gave report on meeting that occurred earlier in month among Lew Ladarola, Jeff Nelson, engineers, and representatives from State and West Windsor Select Board regarding water-system issues, including user allocations and possible locations for booster pumps. Engineers are to file request for permission to construct with State. One permit is granted, project to do water-system improvements will go out to bid. Hope is to start work in September and complete work by end of year. Select Board goal is to finish a portion of project – completion of booster-pump facility – by end of October, so old base-lodge can be demolished in November. Otherwise, demolition may be postponed until the spring.

Question asked if Select Board knows what MFW will do to the 2+ acres it still owns on which old base lodge sits. Answer unknown, but Dick Beatty mentioned that negotiations between MFW and AT&T regarding cell tower are not smooth; AT&T may move cell tower to another spot altogether. This may limit West Windsor residents’ access to AT&T services, but EC Fiber will be installed in whole town for telecommunications.

Question asked if Town forgave Purjes any electrical charges for when water to base lodge cut off. Part of Town’s purchase of water system allows use of lodge’s basement until pumps can be moved.

Water allocations: Martha Harrison shared chart of latest figures with group. With fire-fighting included, system is now over the number of allocations State allows, even though system uses approximately a quarter of the available water. Question asked if allocations to Base Lodge and Cunninghams are available to other properties, or do they run with the land? Issue of water fees for Brownsville Store

raised. Lively discussion ensued on both sides of issue: that when a well was put in for development of resort, Store's well compromised, and so Store given free water in return, verified in the deed, versus fact that other users are covering the cost of Store's water supply. Point made that if Store is to have free water, then Town rather than users should cover that expense. Committee members agreed that legal opinion on this matter is necessary and made request to Select Board. Allocation numbers remain a quandary.

David Leavitt given floor to discuss issues he wanted included on agenda. He told committee that Mt. Side is appreciative of work that Town is undertaking, and that the association is ready to grant easements and licensing for water-system capital and maintenance work. He gave Select Board paperwork that Mt. Side's attorney, Nate Stearns, had prepared. Dan Lesnick will be Mt. Side's contact person for the Town.

Question raised about makeup of WWUAC committee. Once the sewer in Town is operational, it's expected that Town will have a representative on the committee, and MFW's rep should go off the committee as they have no water or sewer at this time. Tom Kennedy does not represent a constituency, but has been very helpful in negotiations with Windsor; should he stay on as an ex-officio member? Current way we operate provides that Mt. Side is only able to vote on water-system issues, since the association is not connected to the sewer system. System ordinances will determine make-up of committee and voting rights of its members. Sewer ordinance corrections still need to be made. Water ordinance needs to be composed.

Fire pond: Everyone recognized that Mt. Edge's pond is important fire-fighting resource. Town's funding is for clear-water drinking system, however, and not for fire-fighting. To mingle the two might compromise funding. Suggestion made that perhaps all owners on mountain could contribute to cost of dredging pond. John Bossen will discuss this further with Lew Iadarola. Tom Kenyon added that Town is working to get funding to connect a main to brook for fire-fighting.

Update on immediate sewer project: Good progress being made. Windsor has ordered generator, and generator for West Windsor almost in place. Piping installed under ledge, and is 3/4s installed to where it needs to go to connect to buildings. Hope is that by July 4, work will be completed.

Other business: None mentioned.

Next WWUAC meeting: June 20th, 4:00 p.m. by teleconference.

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