Town of Westminster Select Board Meeting

July 22, 2015

Present: K. Sheldon Beebe-Chair, Craig Allen-Clerk, Toby Young, Peter Barrett and Paul Banik-Vice Chair

Others Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager), Millie Barry (Recording Clerk), Bill O'Connor, Kathi Blake, Fran Renaud, Tom Hodsden, Ali Bigwood (Town Clerk), John Jones, Nick Hodsden, Tara Reed, Jan Ameen, Dawn Wright, Jackie Atwood and Bruce Sterling

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Select Board Chair.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes were approved as written
4. **Communication and Public Comments:** Jan Ameen - the Windham Solid Waste District had 40 more tons of recyclables in the first two weeks of July compared to a year ago. Act 148 has had a significant impact. The district will provide a sample compost bin for the Westminster Town Hall to sell and there will be an article on compositing in the **Westminster Gazette.** Composting will save residents money. Also the District chair signed a solar land lease agreement for the land fill in Brattleboro. The power purchase lease agreement will first be offered to towns and eventually, in 2017, reduce costs. Contacting local businesses to sell Westminster trash/stickers has not met with much success. Ali Bigwood, Town Clerk – Handout in the Board packet details training she has attended in the first year as Town Clerk. Nick Hodsden made a request to the Board for a second set of trash stickers for property he owns in Westminster West as there are two permitted residences on the parcel. TM – There have been many requests for additional trash stickers. All scenarios/requests are different and complicated. General consensus of the board was the process of issuing stickers, special consideration for extra stickers etc. was a 'learning curve, in the works', so far the process is working. The Board will re-visit problems, concerns again in six months.
5. **New Business:**
   A. **North Westminster Sewer and Water Request:** John Jones (Chair) of the Westminster Fire District #5 and Prudential Committee requested the Board consider paying the bond and user fee owed since a sewer back-up problem at North Westminster Community House. Discussion ensued regarding the condition and fate of the building, maintenance of the building and a committee to discuss the building in general. Mr. Jones stated the bond was $37.50 semi-annually since 2010. The request was tabled and will be re-visited at the next Select Board meeting.
   B. **Diane Packard – Cat Problem:** Ms. Packard did not attend the meeting. TM – believes the town has done its part, during the past year, dealing with this problem.
   C. **Set and Approve Tax Rate:** The Grand List is: $280,370,200. plus/minus.
   Craig moved to accept $2.3425 for homestead and $2.2734 for non-resident tax rate. Peter Barrett seconded the motion, passed unanimously.
6. **Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action):**
   A. Four candidates presented information regarding their qualifications applying for three lister positions presently open in the Town. One additional candidate will be interviewed at the next meeting. TM – NEMRC company and individual representatives are very professional and experienced. Their contract is for one year and they will work w/listers in training 'light

duty', meaning inspections, change of use, and grievance by statues. At the end of the NEMRC contract the Board may envision the listers taking back the Town listing duties. NEMRC will teach the new listers the State computer program.

B. **Legal Steps to Change Zoning in Westminster – maps:** TM presented detailed maps showing zoning changes made in past years in the Town. From 2005-2010 small changes were made. The Board will re-visit Zoning changes at the next meeting.

C. **Solar Agreement in Industrial Park (update):** TM – Peter Thurell has requested discussion of the project be kept in executive session. Board packet includes legal response/information from Larry Slason. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting with a request from the Board for more information.

D. **Solar Tax Exemption – Ordinance Change Update (if any):** TM – Working on this, there are no answers yet. Biggest question is: are they tax exempt even if the Town changes their ordinance?

7. **Manager's Report:** 1. Westminster Center School's first request and Town application for a cross walk for the children crossing Route 5 was denied. As there is now 4' walking lanes on Kings Highway, TM will fill out a new application to re-apply for crosswalk. The white line on School St., again for children walking and safety, is still in question, due to State guidelines. 2. WSWMD is supplying signs at the Town shop, recycling center as the Board requested. The signs will address disposal of specific/odd items adding the Rockingham Recycling Center as a resource. 3. Valley Brook Drive update: The dumpster will be removed the week of 7/27 due to three weeks of use/dumping violations and non-attendance by residents of Valley Brook at an informational meeting on trash, dumping and recycling at this site. TM noted there were ongoing investigations of illegal dumping and Ben Gates has taken over the sheriff position for the Town.

   4. The Town Clerk has issued a liquor license to Donovan's for a rehearsal dinner and wedding 8/7/2015 at 2261 Davidson Hill. 5. Confirmation has been received of the buy-out of the Dupris residence at 36 Town Garage Road from FEMA. The funding amount is $43,568. The Town will match 25% of this amount for labor and equipment to turn the area into a green space. TM noted there was no hazardous waste on the site.

8. **Boards and Commissions:** Planning Commission is in the final phase of the plan. A draft of the plan, 6.1 can be requested. The Windham Regional maps will be posted.
9. **Other Business:** None
10. **Date of Next Meeting:** August 12, 2015
11. **Adjournment:** Toby Young made the motion and Paul Banik seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Select Board Clerk, Craig Allen

Minutes prepared by Millie Barry 7/23/2015