

Town of Westminster Select Board Meeting

July 8, 2015

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

Others Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manger), Millie Barry (Recording Clerk), Nancy Dazell, and Germaine Romano

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by the Select Board Chair.
2. **Adjustments to Agenda:** None
3. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Paul Banik made the motion to accept the 6/24/2015 minutes as printed, Peter Barrett seconded. The motion passed with Toby Young abstaining as she was absent for the June 24th meeting..
4. **Communications and Public Comments:**

Representative David Deen visited with the Board answering questions regarding Town of Westminster solar outcroppings, specifically the number of arrays, Act 248 process/review, the role of the Town Plan, Windham Regional Plan played, Public Service Board input and authority. The Town Manager also questioned Representative Deen on the Town's ability to tax solar projects? Also, per Representative Deen, consideration was given to road run-off and the New Water Quality Act (248). Using best management practices to make changes to the roads will begin in the year 2020, identifying worst roads for run-off. In addition, Deen spoke about the State on education to regionalize school districts. Consolidation issue is not the focus at the town level. Peter Barrett congratulated Representative Deen on his "Irene" storm effort for the Town.
5. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **Legal Steps to Change Zoning in Westminster** – TM – Per Legal Counsel, Larry Slason, the Board cannot change zoning on their own. There is a process involving public hearings to change zoning districts. The Board cannot shortcut the procedure. The Board asked for information from the previous zoning district changes done in 2005 +/- and why the changes were done.
 - B. **Appointment of Listers:** TM-Referring to NEMRC information in the packet, specifically sections e. and h. states the beginning of the Listers scope of work that NEMRC will be expecting. NEMRC will be assisting the Listers for a minimum 40 days in a teaching/learning process for a hands on approach to their duties. Candidates for the three Listers positions will be interviewed by the Board on 7/22/15 and 8/12/15 at their regularly scheduled meetings.
 - C. **Windham Regional Commission's meeting on solar (update):** TM-The Board does not have enough information regarding a verbal offer for the project requested at the Industrial Park. This offer is new. The Board suggested that the Town's legal counsel be consulted and that Mr. Thurrell's offer be put into writing. Paul Banik made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the details further, Craig Allen seconded, the motion passed.
 - D. **Closing the Recycling Center at the Town Shop on nights/weekends:** TM- The Town Garage recycling area will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. as per the signs and closed at night. The weekends will be open during the day only also. Paul Banik volunteered to man the weekend opening and closing of the gate. The Board suggested making a hand made sign explaining where furniture,

electronics, etc. can be taken for disposal. The TM will send a warning letter to the residents of Valley Brook Drive because of the problems with their dumpster and the illegal dumping that is being done.

E. **Solar Tax Exemption:** TM – no changes to date. The Town is close to getting this information needed.

F. **Town Plan Review:** TM- Reported that the Planning Commission is moving forward and public hearings will follow.

6. New Business:

A. **Set and Approve Tax Rate:** - TM – NEMRC will be assisting the Town Clerk to figure the tax rate before the July 22nd meeting where it will be presented for approval. The Manager said that it looks like right now it will be a little higher.

B. **Errors and Omissions:** Changes for the 2015 Grand List mandated by the State were presented in the packet. Toby Young made a motion to accept the changes as listed. Sheldon Beebe seconded. The motion passed with Craig Allen and Paul Banik abstaining.

- 7. Manger's Report:** 1) TM- The West school will be taking care of their own trash and plowing as per Steve Tuller (the Principal). Mr. Tuller has asked about painting a white line down School St. for the kids to walk safely to the Village. He also asked about a cross walk across Route 5. The TM and the Road Foreman Mark Lund will be looking into it. 2.) The Westminster cemetery deeds that were questioned at the last meeting about being confusing were the old version and the new ones that were developed around 2009 are much clearer and have the four corner stones as mandatory and not an option. 3.) The Town has purchased four remote cameras to help stop illegal dumping and protect our landscape. 4.) The Board has received a letter from the Westminster Fire District #5 stating that they would like to be heard at the next Selectboard meeting. Their letter is in the packet.

8. Boards and Commissions: - None

9. Other Business: None

10. Date of Next Meeting: July 22, 2015

The Chair declared the meeting over and that the Board was going to move into Executive Session at 8:15 PM. to discuss contractual matters and invited the Town Manager.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:58 PM., no further action was needed.

11. Adjournment: At 9:01 PM the Selectboard moved to adjourn.

Selectboard Clerk – Craig Allen