Town of Westminster

Select Board Meeting September 9, 2105

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

Others Present: Russell Hodgkins (Town Manager), Millie Barry (Recording Clerk), Mark Lund (Road Foreman), Nancy Dazell, Joe Ruggiero, Susan Roman, Tony Coven and Fran Renaud

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Select Board Chair.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** TM- The minutes of the August 24, 2015 special meeting (in packet) be read, add to agenda and approved. In addition, Susan Roman, Pinnacle Assoc. representative, requested, under New Business, article E, Trash Stickers for the Pinnacle Assoc. be considered as the first article under New Business? The chair approved both requests.
3. **Acceptance of Minutes**: August 26, 2016: Toby Young moved, Paul Bank seconded to accept the minutes as written. Toby Young moved, Paul Banik seconded to accept the minutes of the special meeting August 24, 2015. Both motions passed unanimously.
4. **Communications and Public Comments:**
   Joe Ruggiero – Progress Report: He believes all is going well with Trash removal/recycling. 85% of Town residents are in compliance. Recycling increased (July and August results in packet) to 16.2 tons in August from 15.4 in July. Mr. Ruggiero noted, Walmart, Shaw's (as an example) flat plastic bags and styrofoam are not recyclable. Binned recyclables containing non-recyclable items have been left at several pick-up locations with a Town flier noting items that are NOT recyclable. Recycling at the Town Garage is still open and often being used by non-Westminster residents.
5. **Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action):**
   A. **North Westminster–update:**
   TM-A Village of BF meeting has been scheduled 9/14/15. More information on North Westminster facility and need for takeover will be provided to the BF Village. The process is a work in progress. Saxtons River has opted to re-do their current plant instead of a pump system with the Village of BF.
   B. **Change Zoning in Westminster-discussion before Public Hearing:**
   TM-The first public hearing to discuss the new Town Plan is scheduled for 9/10/15. One change that may be discussed in the Plan is combining the commercial/industrial zones together and have more commercial land available along the Route 5 corridor. As the plan sits right now the only change is the commercial/industrial zones will be combined. The written Town Plan is available for residents at the Town Hall. The meetings are to discuss the Plan as it is composed now. Toby Young believes Westminster Residents should have more information regarding the hearings that are scheduled and specifically, that zoning changes within the Town may be modified or discussed. As the Select Board has the authority to make changes to the Plan, Toby believes, Town Residents as a whole, need to be more aware of changes, especially the possibility of zoning revisions. Fran Renaud believes there is not enough public information being distributed by the Town Hall/ Select Board regarding Town business. In addition, Fran believes the information dispersed by the Town is not easily accessible to Residents. Susan Roman questioned the specifics of possible zoning changes and that she was unaware of specifics. TM-There are many topics in the

Town Plan that could be discussed. The Select Board is discussing zoning. The second public hearing is a development of the first hearing. At the second hearing as well as at other hearings (if scheduled) the public can re-visit any item in the Town Plan. There can be any number of Public Hearings. There is no set agenda to the Public Hearings.

C. **Solar Agreement in Industrial Park (update):** TM-Taxation of Solar Projects/Legal opinion/information (in packets). In the opinion is important information. One sentence reads: **"The Town has no authority to exempt from taxation land upon which solar generation facility is sited"**. The land is going to be taxed. Mr. Thurell's offer cannot be accepted as presented. More information is needed regarding units involved, kilowatt output etc. The Public Service Board has approved the project. TM asking permission to go back to Sovern to re-arrange pilot agreement to be revised according to legal council recommendations. The Board agreed that TM request more information from Sovern.

D. **Solar Tax Exemption-Ordinance Change Update (if any)**: TM-Legal Council provided Taxation Renewable Information (in packet) Russ recommends reading the information before moving forward. Paul Banik inquired if the Town had requested 'Party Status' as Representative David Deen suggested the Town do when he visited with the Board at a recent meeting? TM- Town(s) will have 'Party Status' in the future as things in the State are changing. Mr. Banik further requested a letter, originally written by John Mederios be modified and used or sent. No action was taken.

6. New Business (Discussion/Action):

E. Trash Stickers for the Pinnacle Association:
Susan Roman requested 52 stickers for the Pinnacle Association for trash generated at the Pinnacle and Bald Hill areas. Currently, Pinnacle Board members are using their own household stickers to dispose of trash left in these areas. Peter Barrett motioned and Craig Allen seconded to issue 26 stickers to the Pinnacle Assoc. More stickers can be requested if needed. Motion passed unanimously.

A. **Cemetery Lot Sale:** Craig Allen moved and Paul Banik seconded to sell two lots, 97 and 98 in section E of the New Cemetery to Jeanne A. French. It was noted corners markers are included. The motion passed unanimously.

B. **RFP-Town Hall Architect Search** (14 firms attended):
TM- Names of firms/companies attending the walk through (in packet). Bids are due 9/25/2015. Peter Barrett commented that parked vehicles from the mandatory walk through held on September 2, 2015 impacted his property and specifically accessing his mail box.

C. **Pavement Bid Results:** TM-2.2 miles of skim coat, grinding both ends, emulsion and tack coat and one inch overlay. The Road Foreman and TM recommendation is to accept the Springfield Paving bid (information in packet). If less tonnage is used, the price quoted from Springfield Paving will be less. Craig motioned, Toby seconded to accept the Springfield Paving bid paving 2.2 miles. Motion passed unanimously.

D. **Land Gift-Dunklee**: TM-Jeff Dunklee, Executor of his Parents estate has offered from their Estate a gift of 15 acres within Town Forest to the Town (information/map in packet). Taxes are approximately $260.00. Toby Young motioned, Craig Allen seconded to accept the 15 acres within the Town Forest as a gift (with the Select Board's thanks). The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Town Manager's Report:** 1/ TM-will be out of the office October 19, 20, 21 for EM seminar required for Emergency Management Directors. 2/TM-Public Hearing, one of two. The second hearing is scheduled for October 6th @6:30 p.m. The Select Board's input is requested, right away if they believe this is not enough time. More meetings can be scheduled if necessary. 3/TM- Saturday, 9/12/2015 is the Re-enactment of the Westminster Massacre. Soup will be served at noon at the Fire Station. The actual event is @1:30. All are welcome, please support the Historical Society. 4/TM-Reminder that the Select Board is invited to attend a private showing of the Westminster Museum @1:00 p.m. 9/14/2015. 5/Status of Bridge #2424 – Irene TM-The Town needs to submit one additional document before receiving approximately $289,000.00 +/- for full bridge replacement costs. 6/TM- A payout of approximately $42,895.00 for Town Report Agency appropriations will be dispersed September 17. More than two board members should be present to look/check appropriations.
8. **Boards and Commissions:** TM-At the Public Hearing 9/10/2015 the Select Board will open their meeting and the Planning Commission will open their meeting. The Select Board officiates the meeting calling on people. The Planning Commission answers the questions asked.
9. **Other Business:** The Board Chair suggested having the TM review/follow-up on disposal/reuse/recycling of cat litter. In many cases the bulk of trash is litter. Bazin Farms is in the process (within two years) composting food waste into composted manure. Possibly the Town of Westminster could set a precedent to dispose of litter in a user friendly manner. The TM believes there are some unique ways to re-use the clay based cat litter. The Board approved having the TM do further research to dispose of cat litter.
10. **Date of Next Meeting**: September 23, 2015
11. **Adjournment:** At 7:53 Toby Young made the motion and Craig Allen seconded to adjourn the meeting.

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Select Board Clerk, Craig Allen

Minutes prepared by Millie Barry 9/11/2015