**Windham Selectboard**

**Regular Meeting**

**August 1, 2016**

**Present: Frank Seawright Chair**

**Kord Scott Selectman**

**Maureen Bell Selectman**

**Bob Bingham Planning Commission**

**Jerry Dyke Resident**

**Nancy Dyke Resident**

**Ken Grimm Planning Commission**

**Laura Hayes Meadowsend Timberlands**

**Josh Dryden Windham Road Foreman**

**Tim Johnson Resident**

**Louise Johnson Resident**

**John Hoover Resident**

**Sally Hoover Resident**

**Vance Bell Resident**

**Asa Goodband Resident/Roofing Contractor**

**Aubrey Goodband Resident (minor in age)**

**Phil McDuffie Resident**

**Stephan Maurath Resident**

**Imme Maurath Resident**

**Ginny Crittenden Resident**

**David Crittenden Resident**

**Mark Emmons Resident**

**Linda Emmmons Resident**

**William Sullivan Resident**

**Dossie Sullivan Resident**

**Meredith Tips-McLaine Resident**

**Jo-Jo Chleboggiannis Town Clerk**

**Peter Chamberlain Town Treasurer**

**Alison Trowbridge Select Board Clerk**

Called to Order: Meeting called to order at by Frank.

1. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:** Jo-Jo presented the Board with letters from Windham residents regarding the proposed wind project, she also requested permission from the Board to spend $400 on the NEMRC dog license program.

2. **Minutes of July 18, 2016:** Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

3. **Road Report:**

**50/50 Safety Grant:** Josh reported that they are nearly complete with purchasing of the equipment as part of the State’s Safety Grant Program.

**Paving:** The paving project is done. The shoulders still need to be completed as well as line painting.

**Chloride:** The tanks are delivered and the crew has started spreading chloride on the West Windham Road and plans to do all the gravel roads.

**Grading:** Richard Pare will be conducting a training to help the road crew with cleaning ditches with the grader.

**Town Garage Roof:** Asa is getting ready to work on the roof of the Town Garage. He is looking to start at the end of August. It takes about two weeks to assemble the materials. He is planning to help with replacing the chimney and flashing. His estimate for $13,500 is assuming there is no rot or other structural problems that may be discovered as the project gets underway. He will deliver a bill to the Town Office to cover purchasing materials. Maureen made a motion to authorize Kord to negotiate a contract with Asa Goodband to repair the Town Garage roof. The Board voted all in favor.

**Better Backroads Grant:** The Town has been awarded a grant through this program. It will fund a study to identify and prioritize the Town’s road repair needs. Kord signed it as the Road Commissioner and gave it to Jo-Jo to send electronically to the State Department of Transportation.

**Annual Road Crew Evaluations:** Kord reported that these have been completed and there will be an update proposed for the personnel policy as a result.

3. **Municipal Planning Grant:** Frank read a description of the Municipal Planning Grant Program administered by the State. Applications are now available to apply for this year’s program. The Planning Commission is currently is using funding from this grant for their zoning ordinance update.

4. **Treasurer’s Report:** There is $311,929 in the Town’s bank account. Tax bills have been sent out and seven people have paid so far.

5. **Upcoming Elections:** A special Town Meeting will be held on August 3rd, and the State Primary will be on August 9th.

6**. Filing Systems for Policies, Procedures and Ordinances:** The Board discussed shortcomings in the Town’s system of filing policies, procedures and ordinances. Maureen suggested a dedicated meeting to work this out and the Board will plan this sometime in the near future.

7. **Designated Signer:** Frank brought up the idea, of designating one member of the Board to sign documnents and letters for the Board, specifically in situations such as enforcing a Town ordinance, or signing letters that the Board has agreed on in advance. Kord made a motion that Frank can sign letters for the Board in the Shalom Stevens dangerous building issue. The Board voted all in favor.

8. **Dangerous Building Ordinance:** The Board signed the letter to Shalom Stevens regarding the inspection of her South Windham home. Alison will send it certified mail.

9. **VELCO Powerline Maintenance:** Several residents have brought to the Board’s attention that numerous large trucks associated with maintenance of the VELCO powerline have been driving through town. Most of them have been carrying culverts. River management engineer, Scott Jensen, said the culverts are for the building forms for pole drainage system, not for crossing brooks.

10. **Dump Truck Traffic:** Phil McDuffie noticed a team of three dump trucks coming in and out of Windham everyday, heavily loaded with gravel. Kord was interested in following up on this to make sure they have an overweight permit and that they are in compliance. Bob Bingham stated that Windham Hill Road has become the major route for Cesosimo’s gravel pit to go north to Weston, etc.. Jo-Jo requested that residents who see loaded trucks coming through Town get the name of the company and contact her and she will contact Josh to make sure they have a permit and an insurance certificate on file.

11. **Dog Ordinance:** Maureen reported that the proposed dog ordinance has evolved into a vicious dog ordinance because in its original form, the ordinance had too many issues that were difficult to enforce. The current thinking is to adopt a vicious dog ordinance with an accompanying code of conduct for dogs. A resident has requested very recently about cataloging kennels kept in Town. Maureen would like to research this more with the State before she can report on any action that the Board may take to address or not address this issue. Linda Emmons asked about reporting a vicious dog attack, the handling of medical bills and who pays. Frank stated in the last dog attack in Town, the Town did not get involved with paying the victim’s medical bills. Bob Fisher, the Town’s Attorney, said that a victim can ask the Town to cover medical expenses. The Town can be liable if it doesn’t follow its ordinance.

12. **New Business:**

**August 3, 2016:** Town Meeting to vote on whether to authorize the Town to hold a vote by Australian Ballot on the Wind Tower vote that Iberdrola has proposed.

**Evacuation Plan:** Frank reported on a template received from Alyssa Sabetto of the Windham Regional Commission, for Towns who may decide to include an evacuation plan in the Town’s Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). He pointed out that Windham, due to its elevation, might be a destination for people from other places evacuating from flooding. Imme said she would review Alyssa’s template and report on this at the next meeting.

13**. Public Comment:**

**Road Signs:** Asa brought up the issue of putting up signs to warn travelers on the Old Cheney Road of children playing, etc. The Board said they will alert the Sheriff to include this road for speed limit enforcement.

**Presentations Regarding the Wind Project:**

Bob Bingham, in response to statements that the proposed windmill project is sited on a plateau on the Stiles Brook property, presented a map identifying the ridgelines and valleys of the identified windmill sites. He pointed out that there is no plateau. The windmill sites range in elevation from 2120’ to 2460’. All proposed wind tower sites are on ridgelines and serve as headwaters. There are significant valleys associated with these ridgelines. He read a letter he wrote to the Board regarding the Town Plan (see attached)

Phil McDuffie read a letter in support of the Select Board’s position to support the Town Plan. He is planning to meet with a technician from Iberdrola to discuss the sound analysis completed by MYL.

Imme pointed out that there were a lot of letters, 32 in all, sent to the Selectboard and there were too many to read.

Jo-Jo pointed out that the Attorney, Richard Saudek, at his presentation last week in Windham, stated that no one should be living within 1 mile of the turbines.

14. **Correspondence and Pay Orders:**

The Board reviewed mail, including the 32 letters received from residents in support of the Board’s position to not negotiate with Iberdrola.

15. Motion to Adjourn: Frank made a motion to adjourn at 8:20. The Board voted all in favor.

Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Select Board Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

For File:

Board letter to Shalom Stevens

Municipal Planning Grant Information letter

Better Backroads email

Scott Jensen email

Town dog count

Alyssa Sabetto letter

Vermont DEC acknowledging receipt of drinking water permit applications for two Windham residents