**Windham Select Board**

**Regular Meeting**

**October 3, 2016**

**Present: Frank Seawright Chair**

**Maureen Bell Selectman**

**Peter Chamberlain Town Treasurer**

**Josh Dryden Road Foreman**

**Alison Trowbridge Select Board Clerk**

Kord Scott was not present due to being sick. An attendance sheet was passed around.

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Frank.

1. **Additions/Deletions:** Addition: Nancy Tips will present information from Brad James of the Agency of Education.

2. **Minutes of 9-19-16:** Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board voted all in favor.

3. **Stiles Brook:** Frank announced that the Windham Foundation came out against the wind turbines.

4. **Presentation by Nancy Tips:** Nancy spoke about her discussion with Brad James from the Department of Education to learn how a possible gift from Iberdrola to the Windham Elementary School would affect the tax rate for Windham taxpayers. (See attached sheet.) In Windham, 68% of the tax bill is for education and 32% is for municipal taxes.

5. **Roads:**

**Ernie’s Bridge:** Work on Ernie’s Bridge is started.

**Lines on Re-paved Roads:** White Road and Horsenail Hill are still to be painted with yellow lines. Josh found a contractor other than the State to do the painting because he wasn’t able to reach them and he feels it needs to be done soon. The State already did Rt. 121 and Windham Hill Road. Jerry Dyke requested the Town get the white lines done as well as yellow. There was general agreement with this point of view from the public in attendance.

**Culvert Cleaning:** The road crew is working on cleaning culverts in anticipation of winter.

**Clearing Trees by School:** Jerry Dyke requested trimming back small trees sprouting off stumps along the road in front of the school. Josh will put it on the to-do list.

6. **Town Plan Deference:** The Windham Regional Commission (WRC) can give, under Act 174, the Windham Town Plan substantial deference which provides towns and regions a strong voice in the siting of energy facilities. Bob Bingham read a letter from Chris Campany, WRC Director, about granting substantial deference. There are two possible ways to achieve this at present: 1. The Town can go to the Public Service Board or 2. The Town can wait for the Windham Regional Plan to come out in 2018 and then follow the necessary process as outlined in that document.

7. **Red Cross and Sheltering:** The Town’s Emergency Plan needs to be updated to include both of Windham’s shelters, the Elementary School and the Meetinghouse. Kathy Jungermann and Imme Maurath attended a Red Cross workshop on shelter management.

8. **Old Business:**

**Collapsing Building in South Windham:** According to the property owner, an excavating contractor will come to take the garage down this week. Supposedly, the house cannot be taken down because it’s owned by the bank. If there are hazardous substances in the building and it is to be taken down, a specialized contractor must be hired to inspect the building, undertake the demolition and dispose of wastes properly.

9. **Windham Resource Guide:** Rick Weitzel noted that the website and the Windham County Resource Guide that came out with the Brattleboro Reformer, didn’t mention the Fire Company or any emergency services in Town. Rick also mentioned that the Red Cross is giving away cots and blankets and that might be something the Town would like to consider.

10. **Establishing the Official Website:** The Board and members of the public in attendance agreed that townofwindhamvt.org would be a good name for the website.

11. **Budget Planning:** (See attached sheets, Appropriations/Dues/Fees, Public Safety, and Select Board.)

**Appropriations Budget:** The question came up about the Abbott Fund and what it is. No one in attendance knew and Peter is planning to call Carol Merritt and/or Alan Partridge who might know. There were questions about the Energy Committee’s appropriation from last year which has about $3500 left over.

**Public Safety Budget:** The sheriff’s budget is based on 6 hours/month. There is general consensus that people are slowing down, although Bob Bingham has seen cars going through South Windham 60 mph+. Bob Bingham mentioned that there had been several spills of hazardous materials and the law sets a small amount, approximately 5 gallons(?), as the minimum amount that is required to be reported to the Agency of Natural resources (ANR.)

**Select Board Budget:** The Board postponed review of salaried postions until Kord is in attendance. Frank will try to find out about the consultant line item from Mary. The Town is anticipating a higher amount for legal fees in 2017 to allow for possible defense of the Town Plan depending on what happens with the proposed industrial windpower project. In the last six years, the Town has spent approximately $2,000/year except for 2012, in which $11,000 was spent. It was unclear what that amount was for. The Board is in communication with Jerry Tarrant, the lawyer, for help in determining the amount to budget for 2017.

**Treasurer’s Budget:** The NEMRC line item is for a program, currently provided by NEMRC, for municipal treasurer software that will simplify bookkeeping and payment of taxes.

12. **Other Business:**

**Grant Program from WRC:** A grant program for local projects that can create community jobs is available through the WRC. The Town must provide matching funds.

13. **Correspondence:**

Demetrios Chlebogiannis sent a letter to the Board requesting that the Select Board not engage in any kind of employment with Iberdrola or Meadowsent Timber Lands if the wind project is built. (See attached letter.) Maureen and Frank signed.

14. **Motion to Adjourn:** Frank made a motion to adjourn at 8:10. The Board voted all in favor.

Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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

For File:

Windham Woodland Owners Letter about their website

Chlebogiannis letter

John Pozzi’s insurance certificate

L&D Safety Marking Corporation bid for marking lines

Information Sheet from Vermont Department of Education

Attendance Sheet