**Windham Select Board**

**Regular Meeting**

**January 9, 2017**

**Present: Frank Seawright Chair**

**Kord Scott Selectman**

**Maureen Bell Selectman**

**Peter Chamberlain Town Treasurer**

**Jerry Dyke Resident**

**Bob Bingham Planning Commission**

**Josh Dryden Road Foreman**

**Rick Weitzel Windham Fire Company**

**Michael McLaine**  **Windham Fire Company**

Called to order at 6:30pm by Frank.

1. **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:** A Public comment heading is to be added. The Energy Committee would like to request a budget of $5,000 for 2017. The Timber Ridge community association would like information on the best source for purchasing yield signs.

2. **Minutes of 12-19-16:** Maureen made a motion to approve the minutes as presented with a correction to #6 that the selectboard voted 3-0 against participating as a pilot town in the Act 174 WRC program. Frank (who was not at the meeting) cast his vote earlier to Bob. The Planning Commission voted 6-0 against participation at their meeting.

**3. Vicious Dog Ordinance:** Due to confusion regarding the legality of the previous posting of the Vicious Dog Ordinance, the Select Board Re-adopted the Vicious Dog Ordinance to be posted in the Brattleboro Reformer and in the posting places in Town.

**4. Correction to 11-21-16 Minutes:** The Board accepted the post-adoption correction to the 11-21-16 minutes that clarified that Ellen McDuffie is considering retirement and not necessarily planning to retire as Assistant Clerk.

**5. Road Crew Budget:** The road crew would like to meet with Kord and do some preliminary budget planning and then present updated numbers to the Board at its next meeting.

**6. New Business:** Susan Persa said there was a war memorial plaque at the South Windham church that was accidentally destroyed during recent septic work and proposes to the Select Board that it be replaced. She is looking into some funding from the VFW in Brattleboro. The estimated cost of the plaque would be $1,500.

**7. Road Report:** The Town has a new plow. It came without a carbide blade and one will be installed. There haven’t been too many storms but some icy road incidents. The road crew has been busy repairing and maintaining equipment.

**8. Fire Company Report:** Michael McLaine read a signed petition (33 signatures) (see attached) to have the fire company property be tax exempt for 5 years. This is supposed to be done every 5 years. Kord made a motion to approve the article as written. The Board voted all in favor.

**Annual Request of Funds:** The Fire Company would like to raise its request from the Town from $20,000 and will let the Board know an amount by next Monday.

**9. Building Study Committee:** The Frank suggested, as a contingent to this budget request, that a committee be formed to study a future joint town garage/fire company building. Kord said a notice inviting people to be on this committee was put in the News & Notes and there were several people interested in serving. Kord made a motion that the Board form a committee to study the feasibility of renovating and/or replacing the Town garage, consolidating the fire company the and Town Garage that would consider potential alternative locations that would also include storage for the school bus. The Board voted all in favor.

**10. Update on Moose Death at Met Tower Site at Meadowsend Timberlands**: Bob Bingham said that evidence very strongly indicates that, the wind company responsible for the meteorological towers(Atlantic Wind) is in violation of its Certificate of Public Good because it was supposed to file a report about the moose that died due to entanglement. There have been no such reports found. Frank will call the Town’s lawyer to find out more.

**11. 2017 Proposed Budget:** (See attached work sheets.)

**Appropriations:** The Board would like the Energy Committee to provide an explanation of its $5,000 request for 2017.

**Public Safety:** The Sheriff’s appropriation has increased slightly.

**Select Board:** The Board will eliminate the consultant line item. The Treasurer proposes increasing the Select Board salary to $3,000 each. The Board declined. Alison gave notice that she will step down as Select Board Clerk after Town Meeting. The Board asked that she submit an estimate of Board Clerk’s hours at the next meeting.

**Social Services Budget:** There are three new agencies requesting funds: $500 for Rescue Inc., $250 for the Windham County Humane Society, and $250 for the Townshend Food Shelf. Neighborhood Connections and Mountain Valley Medical Clinic no longer will be funded because Neighborhood Connections uses most of their money for salaries, and Mountain Valley is now part of Springfield Hospital. Frank made a motion to appoint a committee to review social service requests annually to see if there is duplication of services, and make recommendations to the Select Board. The Board voted all in favor.

**Town Office:** The Board reviewed the Town Office budget and made adjustments.

**10. Correspondence:** A letter of resignation of Beth McDonald from Windham School Board. The Board will appoint a replacement to serve the balance of the term and is awaiting a recommendation from Carolyn Partridge, School Board Chair. The Board signed pay orders.

11. **Motion to Adjourn:** Maureen made a motion to adjourn at 8:34 pm. The Board voted all in favor.

**12. Adjournment**: The meeting adjourned at 8:34.

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