

Windham VT Selectboard Meeting Minutes  
May 20, 2019 Regular Meeting

Present:

Maureen Bell, Selectwoman	Kord Scott, Selectman
Hal Wilkins, Selectman	Dawn Bower, Various Commissions
Russ Cumming, Lister	Joyce Cumming, Selectboard Clerk
Ernie Friedli	John Hoover, Library Trustee, J.P.
Sally Hoover, Auditor	Tom Johnson, Energy Commission
Louise Johnson, Meetinghouse Transition	Keith Jungermann, Meetinghouse Transition (Alternate)
Kathy Jungermann, Auditor	Bob Kehoe, Building Safety Officer
Kathy Scott, Treasurer	Alison Trowbridge, Conservation Commission

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Additions to Agenda/Announcements/Reminders**

- Maureen reported that this week (May 19 – 25, 2019) is recognized as National Public Works Week in Vermont by House Concurrent Resolution 100. Maureen acknowledged the fine work done by our road crew and encouraged everyone to share their appreciation as well.
- Maureen announced that she and Kathy Scott were planning to attend a VLCT workshop on Governmental Accounting and Auditing scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Jungermann, Sally Hoover, and Imme Maurath may also attend as Auditors.

**Act on minutes:** May 6, 2019 Regular Selectboard Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of the May 6, 2019 Regular Selectboard Meeting as presented—moved by Maureen—all in favor.

**Public Comment**

- Alison Trowbridge commented on an upcoming effort by the Conservation Commission to remove invasive plants, i.e., wild chervil and wild parsnip, from along roadsides in Windham. These invasive species have been identified in several locations including Windham Hill Road near the Cherry residence and on Golding Road in three distinct areas. The Selectboard agreed to a request to use the Town dumpster for disposal of the trash bags. Kord suggested Alison check with Richard Paré regarding disposal, and that Alison co-ordinate with Diane Newton regarding efforts to combat poisonous parsnip. Maureen asked Alison to check with Richard re: use of safety measures such as cones and signs to warn drivers of roadside work underway.
- Kathy Scott commented on receipt of a wastewater grant in the amount of \$7680, and State funding of \$4513 toward Lister fees.

**New Business:**

**West River Modified Union Education District (WRMUED) info meeting on June 6 for vote on June 11  
School Property Transfer**

Maureen noted that the West River Modified Union Education District (WRMUED) which includes Brookline, Jamaica, Newfane and Townshend, voted on May 6<sup>th</sup> to warn a vote for June 11, 2019. Voting will be by Australian ballot on 2 articles:

1. Whether the WRMUED shall accept Windham Elementary School as a member of the WRMUED effective July 1, 2019 per the State Board of Education's Final Report of Decisions and Order on Statewide School District Merger Decisions.
2. If Article 1 is approved, whether the WRMUED shall amend the previously approved 2019-2020 budget of \$11,710,082 by adding \$450,039 (the amount necessary for anticipated expenses at Windham Elementary School for 2019-2020). If approved, the cost per equalized pupil would be approximately \$20,900.09.

An informational meeting will be held on June 6, 2019 at 7 p.m. at Leland & Gray.

Kathy Scott felt the ballot language characterizing the inclusion of Windham Elementary School (WES) in the WRMUED as an invitation was extremely misleading, saying it would be more accurately reflected as a requirement or forced merger based on Windham's prior vote against joining the WRMUED. Brief discussion followed on an article in today's issue of the Brattleboro Reformer. Kathy expressed a sense of urgency in the transfer of the school property to the Town prior to June 30 if the vote on June 11 to accept WES is approved.

Maureen reported on a conversation held recently with State Representative Carolyn Partridge in which Carolyn did not seem to share a sense of urgency but was more focused on a one-year extension. Maureen also had a conversation with Selectboard counsel, Atty. Bob Fisher, and it is up to the School Board's attorney to contact Atty. Fisher to initiate the school property transfer. Atty. Fisher will need the deed for WES and confirmation that WES is debt-free. Brief discussion followed on the calendar of events:

- June 3 – Windham Selectboard Regular Meeting
- June 6 – Informational meeting at Leland & Gray
- June 11 – Vote on whether to accept WES into WRMUED
- June 17 – Windham Selectboard Regular Meeting
- June 30 – Deadline for school property transfer if WES is accepted into WRMUED

Kord will contact Carolyn to explain the need for the School Board Attorney to contact Atty. Fisher.

**Old Business:**

**Update on stray cow and loose dogs/animal control officer**

Kord followed-up on the complaint re: a stray cow and loose dogs belonging to the Van Alstynes. Kord concluded that the stray cow is a farm/agriculture issue in which the Selectboard has no jurisdiction, and the dogs are a nuisance but are not considered vicious. Kord also related a conversation in which he reminded Constable Joe Lamson of the need to register his dogs. To date, this has not occurred.

A suggestion was made to include funding for an Animal Control Officer in the next budget. Bob Kehoe shared contact information on a candidate for Animal Control Officer with Kord at the last meeting.

### **Announcement not mentioned previously**

Maureen shared a request from Dave Cherry to discuss ambulance services at an upcoming Selectboard meeting. She apologized for the oversight in not mentioning it under announcements.

### **The Meeting House:**

#### **Possible Committee Meeting Update**

Dawn Bower reported that the Meeting House Transition Committee met earlier this evening and continues to explore ideas and discuss options. At the suggestion of Ernie Friedli, Louise Johnson agreed to write an article for the next issue of News and Notes. Hopefully, this will assist the Committee and the Selectboard in gauging the reaction from residents to the possibility of the Town assuming full ownership of the Meeting House. Dawn deferred to Russ in response to an inquiry re: timing, and Russ reported that the Meeting House Transition Committee hopes to make a recommendation to the Selectboard by end-June in order to plan for any possible additional expenses in next year's Town budget. The total expense for the Meeting House is currently approximately \$16,000, of which the Town contributes \$10,000. The Transition Committee is exploring fundraising and other options to close the gap.

Hal commented briefly on the successful transition of the Meeting House in Landgrove. Hal apologized that no one from Landgrove responded to the Windham Meeting House Transition Committee. Brief discussion followed on metrics such as rental fees, etc.; Williamsville may have information to share. A review of the financial history of the Meeting House will proceed as information is made available to the Transition Committee. Hal referred to the upcoming Community Values Mapping workshop on May 28<sup>th</sup> and cited the Meeting House as one of the things residents like himself value in Windham.

### **Roads:**

#### **Set time for Road Crew training with Innovative, the Magnesium Chloride vendor**

Kord would like to schedule a time to meet with Innovative (magnesium chloride vendor) that is mutually convenient for members of the Road Crew as well as the Selectboard members assuming they are interested in attending. Kord explained that magnesium chloride is used on unpaved roads for dust control. Magnesium chloride is preferable over calcium chloride due to environmental concerns. It is also effective at preventing road erosion. Innovative provides the tank at no cost on the condition that the Town contracts to purchase a certain amount of magnesium chloride per year from Innovative for the length of the contract (3 years). In reviewing usage history, Kord explained that Windham used approximately 100 gallons of calcium chloride per mile in the past. Innovative recommends using approximately 500-600 gallons of magnesium chloride per mile. The Town is somewhere in-between—utilizing approximately 300-400 gallons of magnesium chloride per mile. In response to a question from Maureen re: the frequency of applications needed, Kord responded that application generally follows grading work. Kord suggested holding the meeting during normal business hours sometime next week; Hal confirmed his availability and Maureen is available any day except Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Kord will coordinate a date and time and notify the Selectboard and Road Crew.

### **Discussion re: 550 truck**

Kord opened discussion by explaining that the 550 is the yellow truck, which recently incurred \$20,000 in repairs, leading to a decision to replace it. At this year's town meeting, an article passed to appropriate \$60,000 for the New Road Machinery Fund. Estimated cost of a replacement vehicle is \$90,000-\$100,000, which would result in a shortfall of approximately \$30,000-\$40,000. The Town has the option to borrow from the State's Municipal Loan Fund. If another appropriation for \$60,000 is approved at next year's Town Meeting, the truck can be purchased without the need to borrow money.

Kord questioned the decision to replace the 550, citing that it allows more control for reduced salt application on paved roads in winter. This past winter, rather than dividing the snow removal/salt/sand application work geographically by North and South ends of town, work was divided by road surface: paved or unpaved. Richard used the 550 to salt the paved roads in town, while the road crew applied sand to the unpaved roads. Because the 550 allows better control of salt application, less salt was used this year. Kord also stated that Richard enjoys the 550. The Treasurer noted that payments on State Loans are required to be made in December. Kord wants to be sure the Selectboard agrees with any decision re: the 500 truck before moving forward.

### **Roads Paving Plan – update and continuing discussion**

Kord reviewed recent discussion about road paving and the decision to begin paving work this year utilizing the \$420,000 currently available in the road paving budget. Work will include mill, shim and overlay on sections 4 and 5 of Windham Hill Road, and as much of section 6 as possible. (See attached for section segments). Kord has instructed Richard to request and handle sealed bids, which should be in by June 3. Specifications include milling 1 – 2",  $\frac{3}{4}$ " shim, and 1  $\frac{1}{4}$ " overlay. Brief discussion followed on State plans to pave Route 11 by the end of the year but this may be delayed until next year.

Kord also discussed the possibility of trading or selling the milled material to a contractor in exchange for a mixture of mill and gravel for use on road shoulders. Discussion followed on the paving history and the last time work was done to mill, shim and overlay sections of WHR. Brief discussion followed on the weight of the vehicles on Windham's roads which cause cracks in the middle of the travel lanes. Hal noted the need to move quickly to get signs up to post roads at 24,000 lbs. limit prior to work beginning on Route 30. Ernie asked about accident reports to explain damage to guard rails, and Kord responded that damage was caused by wing arms in the past. With use of markers around guard rails, no wing arms were broken this year.

### **Correspondence/Payroll/Bills**

Correspondence, payroll and bills were reviewed and approved as necessary. Road crew training certificates need to be initialed and signed by the road crew members before being returned to Chaves—Kord will get forms signed by road crew members. An insurance liability certificate was received from Carlton Trucking as a follow-up to an application for an overweight permit. Discussion followed on developing a policy to cite as part of Windham's restrictions and exceptions on overweight permit approvals. Hal will contact VLCT for a sample policy. Annual reports from VLCT were received. Among the bills approved for payment was the fine assessed by the State for the diesel fuel spill. Maureen suggested she hold the check until the training form is finalized by Kord and Richard, and then she will send the material in full to the State by the June 7 deadline (30 days from May 7). Discussion followed re: detours during paving work on Windham Hill Road and flaggers to control traffic.

**Executive Session—Personnel issue regarding employee evaluation**

It was determined that the anticipated Executive Session was not needed at this time.

Prior to adjournment, the Town Clerk presented the members of the Selectboard with a list of 23 dogs which are not registered as required. Letters will be sent to the dog owners.

**Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m.—moved by Hal—all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Cumming  
Selectboard Clerk

Attachments:

- Announcements and Correspondence
- Map showing sections of Windham Hill Road for paving purposes