

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 17, 2018
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Mike Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Winston Averill, Marla Butts, Dorothy Durst, David Fortin, Jeffrey Gordon, Diane Miller, John Navarro, Heather Paquette, Douglas Porter, James Reck and Christine French, clerk.

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Mike Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to add item 2a To Warn a Special Town Meeting to the agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approve the Minutes of the May 3, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen’s Meeting and May 9, 2018 and May 15, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen’s Meetings:

Selectman Frank Olah made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and the May 9, 2018 and the May 15, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Olah asked if Matt Beauregard had passed in the Town’s material. Mr. Alberts said that he had, and he also announced that Mr. Beauregard had passed the Building Official’s exam.

2a. Warn a Special Town Meeting:

Mr. Alberts explained that the Board of Finance has approved the use of CNR funds for this project at the Arboretum. It now must go to Town Meeting for approval. This project will be done as an Eagle Scout project, and that it must be done rather quickly, as the Scout will be turning 18 in July.

Marla Butts asked if any work would be done in a wetlands area. Highway Foreman John Navarro stated that it would not.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

Mr. Olah moved the following:

**TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
May 30, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

A Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut, will be held at the Woodstock Town Hall, 415 Route 169 in the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut on May 30, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss and vote on the following:

1. To choose a Moderator.
2. To consider and vote upon the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock approve the expenditure of \$4,000.00 as recommended by the Board of Finance from the Reserve for Capital and Nonrecurring Expenditure Fund to be used for the Arboretum Drainage Project.

3. To adjourn

Michael L. Alberts, First Selectman
Chandler Paquette, Selectman
Frank Olah, Selectman
Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider the Appointment of Jim Reck as a Member of the Economic Development Commission for the Term of May 17, 2018 through December 31, 2019.

Mr. Reck explained that he had at one time been a member of the Inland-Wetland & Watercourses Agency and a member of the Conservation Commission. He has been interested in joining the Economic Development Commission since it was re-instated. When he heard that there was an open position on the commission he submitted his application. He feels that economic growth is very important to Woodstock.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to appoint Jim Reck as a Member of the Economic Development Commission for the Term of May 17, 2018 through December 31, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Reck for being willing to serve.

4. Discussion of Willimantic Waste Paper Company.

Winston Averill and John Navarro informed the Board of Selectmen that Willimantic Waste has recently contacted them in regards to the fees charged to the Town. The raise in fees are significant, however Willimantic Waste has not raised their fees in many years. Mr. Averill and Mr. Navarro have both talked to the owner of Willimantic Waste and he has indicated that there may be the possibility of negotiating for a lower rate.

Mr. Averill and John Navarro have also spoken with Republic Waste, based out of Auburn, Massachusetts. Republic Waste recently toured the transfer station with Mr. Averill and Mr. Navarro, but they have not submitted a proposal yet.

Mr. Navarro reminded the Board that the Town had received a STEAP grant that would allow the Town to purchase a roll off truck, containers and a compactor. Once this job is complete the Town would be able to haul its own garbage, cutting the need for trash haulers. However, Mr. Navarro has been having a difficult time finding out when this money will become available from the State.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow Mr. Averill and Mr. Navarro to continue to oversee this situation.

5. Discussion Regarding Town Hall Hours.

Douglas Porter, Marla Butts and Dottie Durst expressed their concerns with the Town Hall being closed on Friday's beginning on July 1st. They believe that it is very important for the public to have access to the Town Hall five days a week. They suggested that one staff member could work on Friday, and have Monday off, and the other staff person work on Monday and have Friday off. Or that the Town Hall open at noon on Wednesday, and close at noon on Friday.

The Board of Selectmen stated that not all offices had two full time people, making it difficult for those offices that didn't have full-time staff to be covered during all of the operational hours of the Town Hall. They stated that many Town Halls in the area are closed one day a week, and business is still being conducted in a timely manner.

Mr. Porter pointed out to the Board that if it was decided to open the Town Hall five days a week in the future that it would be very expensive to do so.

The Board of Selectmen thanked them for expressing their concerns.

6. Tax Rebates:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the following tax rebates:

Ally Financial in the amount of \$375.90

Ally Financial in the amount of \$118.46

Hyundai Lease Titling Trust in the amount of \$53.53.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Correspondence and Announcements:

Todd Anderson has sent his letter of resignation from the Conservation Commission due to his moving out of town.

The Town Attorney determined that the unexpected increase in enrollment at Woodstock Academy does not constitute an emergency expenditure under Proposition 46.

Tax Collector Linda Bernardi has informed Mr. Alberts of three upcoming tax sales. However one of these properties should be sold soon. The law firm of Pullman and Connelly will be handling this for the Town.

There will be a State wide flood emergency preparedness drill held on June 20, 2018.

Mr. Alberts met with a citizen who suggested that a tax be charged on admission fees for large events. Mr. Alberts feels that it is an interesting idea, but he is not certain about the legality of it.

The same citizen would like to see younger people become interested in politics. It was the consensus of the Board to see if a Selectmen's meeting could be held at Woodstock Academy, in conjunction with a Civics class.

An updated photo of the Board of Selectmen needs to be taken to be put on the website.

Mr. Alberts talked to the Department of Transportation about installing a traffic light at the intersection of Route 169 and Route 171. The person explained that there needs to be a total of eight hours of demand, within a 24 hour period in order to have a traffic light installed. There also needs to be a traffic study done at that location. It was the consensus of the Board to follow through with this. Mr. Alberts will ask State Representative Pat Boyd if the State can pay for the traffic study. If not the Board of Selectmen will request quotes from the list of Traffic Consultants provided by the State.

Superintendent of Schools Viktor Toth sent a letter of thanks to the Board of Selectmen for the hard work and tough decisions made during the budgeting process.

8. Citizen's Comments:

Marla Butts stated that the job description for the Inland-Wetlands officer was from the Town of Thompson, and needs to be re-written with Woodstock needs in mind. She and Mark Parker will be meeting with Mr. Alberts in the future to discuss this.

Ms Butts asked if NECOGG was still using Syl Pauley as their engineer. Mr. Alberts said that they were and that if the Town was not happy with those services the Town would seek engineering services elsewhere.

Mr. Olah discussed the Economic Development Commission's plans for an event tentatively called "This is Woodstock", to perhaps be held on the common. He will be speaking to other boards and commissions and the Woodstock Business Association about participating in this event. It was suggested by the other members of the Board to see if they could piggy back this event with "Celebrate Agriculture".

David Fortin, the Board of Finance liaison commended the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education for the hard work and cooperation between the Boards during the budget process.

Mr. Fortin also announced that a party in honor of David Hosmer will be held on May 23rd at Sweet Evalina's between 5:00 and 7:00pm. This is being hosted by the Republican Town Committee and the Democratic Town Committee.

Mr. Alberts announced that there was an advertisement in the Shopper's Guide for the Building Official's position, and one looking for several on-call people for the Transfer Station. A small ad has been placed in the Shopper's Guide for volunteers for the different Board and Commissions. There will also be a small notice for the abandonment of Bradford-Marcy Cemetery.

There have been a number of applications submitted for the Executive Secretary's position. Judy Walberg, Joni Cullan and Karen Fitzpatrick will do the first round of interviews, and then the Selectmen will do the second round.

9. Adjournment:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**