

Link to Livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrTbPrODmX0>

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
May 2, 2023, 7:00pm**

Town Clerk Judy Walberg read the notice of the meeting.

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Woodstock, Connecticut, was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Woodstock Middle School, 147B Route 169 in Woodstock, with approximately 85 persons in attendance. The following actions were taken:

- 1) The Town Clerk asked for nominations for a Moderator; On motion of Mike Dougherty, seconded by Chandler Paquette, Dawn C. Adiletta was approved as Town Meeting Moderator.
- 2) The Moderator asked for a motion. On motion of Kate MacDonald, seconded by Mary Weaver the following was opened for discussion only:

To approve the proposed budget of the Town of Woodstock for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$27,705,797.00 as has been recommended by the Board of Finance and to appropriate said sum to meet the recommended expenditures.

The Moderator, Dawn C. Adiletta, then opened the floor for discussion.

Jay Swan itemized what the Board of Selectmen reduced in their budget as mandated by the Board of Finance to reach the proposed budget presented. They based those cuts on past spending trends and needs of the departments and town. Their cuts totaled \$145,078.

Viktor Toth then went over the Board of Education cuts that were mandated by the Board of Finance to reach their proposed budget. The Board of Ed cut their budget by \$1,285,000. He summarized the cuts that were made, and the Board reached a per pupil expenditure of \$17,684. Comparing that PPE to what the current State of Connecticut average PPE of \$20,165 is, it puts our per pupil spending 6% lower than the state average.

There was discussion on an exit poll to give the Board of Finance guidance if the budget does not get approved at referendum.

Michelle Woz, Board of Finance member will be looking at possible sources of new revenue for the town with an Ad Hoc Committee.

A commentor stated our business needs to grow to support the town budget.

A way to help with lower income individuals and families will also be looked at.

The Arboretum Chair, Philippa Paquette advocated for more money for the Arboretum.

Discussion ended and the Moderator announced that the vote on Item #2 will take place on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at the Woodstock Town Hall between 12noon and 8pm. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerks office.

Dawn C. Adiletta, Moderator then asked for a motion on Item 3.

3) On motion of Kate MacDonald, Selectman, seconded by Chandler Paquette, Selectman, the following was moved:

To adopt a Capital Improvement Plan for a five-year period ending 2027-2028 as has been recommended by the Board of Finance; RESOLVED, that the Town of Woodstock's local capital improvement projects of \$12,320,761.00 and capital improvement plan as defined in Section 7-535 through 7-538, a copy of which plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk and available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Dawn C. Adiletta, Moderator then opened the floor for discussion and being none, she called for a vote. The motion passed with no opposition.

4) The Moderator declared there was no other such business as may properly come before said meeting.

5) The Moderator asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion of Mary Weaver, seconded by Mike Dougherty, Chairman of Board of Finance, the meeting properly adjourned at 8:10pm.

Please Note: Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen have on their own initiative removed the foregoing Item #2 for submission to the voters of the Town of Woodstock by referendum to be held on May 9, 2023, from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM at the Woodstock Town Hall. Voters approving the questions will vote "Yes" and those opposing the questions will vote "No." Absentee ballots will be available at the Office of the Town Clerk.

ATTEST: /s/ Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk