

**Woodstock Board of Finance
Special Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 7:00 pm
In accordance with Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders and social distancing guidelines
recommended by the CDC, members of the Board of Finance participated in the meeting via ZOOM online.**

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Roll Call:**
Michael Dougherty (Present)
David Fortin (Present)
Roy Bradrick, Jr. (Present)
Frederick Chmura (Present)
Jeffrey Kelleher (Present)
Michael Bernardi (Present)
Barry Shead (Alternate) (Present)
Charlene Perkins Cutler (Alternate) (Present)
Michele Woz (Alternate) (Present)
Excused: N/A
Noted for the Record: Quorum
Others Present: Karen Fitzpatrick, Janice Thurlow, Victor Toth, Members of the Public
3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:** None.
4. **Public Comment Instructions:** Chairman Dougherty briefly reviewed the rules and regulations associated with the Governor’s Executive Orders relative to conducting meetings via Zoom Online during COVID-19. Public comments will be received under Agenda Item 6.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Board of Education FY 22 Budget Presentation:** Janice Thurlow presented the proposed FY 21-22 education budget via screen share during the Zoom meeting. Significant increases included high school tuition, health insurance, union contracts, the restoration of the 2019-20 budget cuts of \$282,339 not going to allowable and the restoration of the 2019-20 budget cuts of \$59,525 in maintenance. She shared the per pupil expenditure from the State of Connecticut Department of Education of \$13,621/student. Details were shared regarding the associated costs for three new staff positions, Woodstock Academy education, Elementary and Middle School, Special Education, Health Insurance, Transportation, and Maintenance. The proposed increase totals \$1,492,290 or 7.77% over last year.

Mr. Fortin requested a summary of grant funds received to-date due to COVID-19. Ms. Thurlow will provide this information. There were no further questions from the Board.
 - b. **Board of Education FY 22-26 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan Presentation:** Janice Thurlow presented the five-year capital plan via screen share during the meeting. The document was posted to the Board of Finance’s webpage on the Town’s website.

Ms. Thurlow detailed proposed improvements for the middle and elementary schools reflecting a total cost of \$3,610,881 over five years.

Ms. Thurlow stated the BOE received a letter from Woodstock Academy on Friday, March 12, 2021 regarding the Academy’s capital projects. The letter requested \$493/student which would be used for significant remodeling of the Academy building. There has been no follow-up with WA yet. She clarified for

Board members the line item titled "Woodstock Education Funding" on the spreadsheet, which was formally titled Woodstock Academy Capital Assessment Funding. Mr. Fortin recommended the new title revert to its original title to alleviate confusion of its purpose. Concern was shared regarding continuing to pay for WA capital improvements. Mr. Bradrick felt the money should not be placed on the capital side and that it belongs in the BOE regular budget moving forward. Ms. Woz stated state statute allows WA to apply for grant funding from the state if WA would allow the proper town representation on its board. She believes this collaborative process would benefit both parties in the long run. Mr. Fortin recommended the BOE remove the years of projected WA capital expense that the Board of Finance has not been notified of. Instead, treat this as a specific yearly request. Further discussion ensued regarding WA capital improvements.

6. **Public Comments:** Ms. Cutler requested the Board receive a list of Covid-19 grant funds the Town has received to-date and the purpose for which they were used. Ms. Fitzpatrick will prepare this and distribute to the Board.
7. **Other from Board:** None.
8. **Correspondence & Announcements:** Chairman Dougherty noted a copy of Selectman Greg Kline's letter was included in the board packets. Ms. Fitzpatrick will be working on the revenue calculations over the next few days. Combined budget presentations and the Prop 46 calculation will be on the March 23, 2021 agenda. There will be a public hearing on April 6, 2021, at 7 pm, at the Woodstock Middle School. Those who cannot attend may participate via Zoom online. He shared the notice of public hearing with the Board as noted below. The final budget determination is scheduled for April 13, 2021. A referendum will follow on May 11, 2021.

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 6, 2021 7:00 P.M.
WOODSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Board of Finance of the Town of Woodstock will hold a Hybrid Public Hearing at the Woodstock Middle School on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in accordance with section 7-344 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Itemized estimates of the expenditures of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education will be presented and the Board of Finance will hear all persons who wish to be heard in regard to any appropriation which they are desirous that the Board of Finance shall recommend or reject for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. Dated at Woodstock, CT, this 16th day of March 2021.

Michael Dougherty, Chairman
Woodstock Board of Finance

9. **Adjournment: Motion** was made by David Fortin, and **Seconded** by Frederick Chmura, to **Adjourn. Motion Carried Unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

The recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/1Mwmfr-ubNU>

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Brown, Recording Secretary. DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments.