

Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022

7:00 pm

Town Hall Room 1

Regular Meeting

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. **Roll Call**

a. **Members Present:** Michael Dougherty (Chairman)
Michael Bernardi
David Fortin
Fred Chmura
Jeffrey Kelleher
Philip Parizeau, Alternate
Julie Marcotte, Alternate
Michele Woz

Note: Asa Scranton, excused

b. **Others Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Woodstock Public Schools Business Manager Janice Thurlow, Hans Frankhouser, Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth, WES Principal Jenna Demers, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan.

c. **Noted for the Record:** Quorum

3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:**

a. N/A

4. **Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting**

a. Michael Bernardi made a ***Motion** to approve the Minutes from February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. ***Seconded** by Jeffery Kelleher. ***The Motion Passed Unanimously** with one abstention.

5. **Public Comment**

a. None

6. **FY 23 Board of Education Budget Presentation**

- a. Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth introduced Woodstock Public Schools Finance Director Janice Thurlow to present the FY 23 Board of Education Budget.
- b. Janice Thurlow reviewed the proposed budget of \$ 20,292,394 by line item with the Board of Finance.
 - i. The total proposed budget increase requested is 2.77% or \$547,085.
 - ii. Woodstock Academy tuition increase for next year will be 4.1%. Woodstock Academy tuition is 36% of the BOE Budget. There is no capital assessment included in this budget proposal.
 - iii. FY 23 will be the first year with no health insurance reserve fund. There is a \$255,000 total increase in benefits for FY 23.

Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

- iv. Janice Thurlow is very concerned about the fuel prices and effect that higher prices could have on the budget request both in transportation and in heating costs.
- v. The Elementary School had to buy new textbooks for the upcoming year which is a significant increase in the WES budget.
- vi. The Woodstock School District will continue to have “pay for play” in order to meet the sports budget.
 - 1. David Fortin stated that he found the work of the BOE very commendable. He appreciates the work done to present this very reasonable budget.

7. Old Business

- a. Update on State
 - i. Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick shared that town is process of filing report for the low sip grant reimbursement.
 - ii. The Pequot & Mohegan Grant out of the BOE has been certified by Janice. It is unsure if the Academy has completed this process.
 - iii. Karen has started working on the FY 22 revenue sheet. So far to date, all state budgeted monies have been received as forecasted.
- b. Update on Local Bridge Project
 - i. All bridge projects are moving forward. The Peake Brooke bridge is the main focus and hoping to be complete in late summer/early fall. Also looking at a culvert on County Road to be done this year in summer/fall. Engineering studies have been done on Hopkins Rd to prepare for that project.
 - ii. The Town of Woodstock has no details on what funding will come in Federal Infrastructure Plan at this time.
- c. Update on American Rescue Plan Act
 - i. Karen Fitzpatrick stated that as of today, 4 HVAC units have been replaced at the town hall (of 13 units).
 - ii. Work has begun with the fire departments projects. Many items for the approved projects have been ordered.
 - iii. Administrative progress is being made with continuation of trainings for town employees.
 - iv. Jay Swan mentioned that we have a surplus of N95 masks and COVID test kits that are being given out to local groups in order to get the products to the public.
- d. FY 22 General Government Budget Update
 - i. Nothing at this time.
- e. Update on 2021 Grand List
 - i. The Grand list has equated to a 29.2% increase. Net Grand List increased to \$950,558,963 for 2021 (from \$735,705,368 in 2020).

8. New Business

- a. Review Fund Balance Policy
 - i. Fred Chmura made a ***Motion** to continue with the current Fund Balance Policy as is. ***Seconded** by Michele Woz. ***The motion passed unanimously.**

Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

9. Public Comment

- a. None

10. Other From Board

- a. Michael Dougherty asked the Board if they would like to have public forum in person or hybrid. The Board has chosen to meet for the public forum in person.

11. Correspondence & Announcements

- a. The next Board of Finance Meeting will be held on March 15, 2022 and also a meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2022.

12. Adjournment

- a. Michele Woz made a ***Motion to Adjourn. *Seconded** by Michael Bernardi. ***The Motion Passed Unanimously.** Meeting Adjourned at 7:51 pm.

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