

Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 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
Michele Woz
Julie Marcotte, Alternate
Asa Scranton, Alternate
Members Absent: Philip Parizeau, Alternate
- b. **Others Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Woodstock Public Schools Business Manager Janice Thurlow, Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan and members of the public including Megan Bard Morse, Holly Dearborn and Wendy Costa.
- c. **Noted for the Record:** Quorum

3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:**

- a. N/A

4. **Approval of Minutes from March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting and March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting**

- a. David Fortin made a ***Motion** to approve of the Minutes from March 8, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. ***Seconded** by Michele Woz. ***The Motion Passed Unanimously.**
- b. Fred Chmura made a ***Motion** to approve of the Minutes from March 15, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented. ***Seconded** by Jeffrey Kelleher. ***The Motion Passed Unanimously.**

5. **Public Comment**

- a. None

6. **FY 23 Combined Budgets**

- a. Board of Education Presentation
 - i. Janice Thurlow announced that the Board of Education proposed budget has not changed since presented on March 8, 2022.

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b. General Government Presentation

- i. First Selectmen Jay Swan announced that General Government proposed budget has changed since presented on March 15, 2022.
 1. The Proposed FY 23 General Government Budget is \$5,283,229 which represents a 2.4% (\$125,797) increase over the current FY 22 Budget. Debt Service is \$297,616 which is a decrease of \$3,239 from FY 22. Total FY 2023 General Budget is \$5,580,845 which represents an overall increase of \$122,558 or 2.25%. A \$183,945 reduction has been made to the requested budgets to create the current proposed budget.
- ii. Jay Swan reviewed the process taken in order to create the General Government Budget presented.

7. Combined Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (Presented with Budgets)

a. Board of Education Presentation

- i. Janice Thurlow reviewed both historical projects and specifics of new projects on the BOE Five-Year Capital plan. The total projection for Five-Year Projects amounts to \$3,853,662.
- ii. Janice Thurlow also reviewed grant amounts requested previously from the Board of Finance.

b. General Government Presentation

- i. First Selectmen Jay Swan reviewed the General Government Five -Year Plan. He discussed changes in Five-Year Plan items due to use of ARPA funds for some previously listed projects.

8. Old Business

a. Update on State

- i. Nothing at this time.

b. Update on Local Bridge Project

- i. Nothing at this time.

c. Update on American Rescue Plan Act

- i. Per the auditor, the Board of Finance needs to approve the funding for the American Rescue Plan Act.
- ii. Dave Fortin made a ***Motion** to approve funding using the ARPA funds in the amount of \$1,080,000 as submitted by the Board of Selectmen on the February 8, 2022 meeting. ***Seconded** by Michael Bernardi. ***The motion passed unanimously.**
- iii. The Board of Finance requested ARPA updates via spreadsheets as funding is spent. Karen Fitzpatrick will keep them updated.

d. FY 22 General Government Budget Update

- i. Nothing at this time.

e. Update on 2021 Grand List

- i. Nothing at this time.

9. New Business

a. Prop 46 and Revenues

- i. Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the current estimated revenues sheet for 2022-2023. She will continue to update the sheet as revenues are collected.
- ii. The maximum available increase for this year is \$547,615 creating an allowable budget of \$25,751,111. The current budget request is \$25,873,239 resulting in \$122,128 needing to be cut from the presented budget.

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- iii. In order to meet the budget requirements, a mil rate of 20.9 will need to be used for FY 23. All numbers depend on the Grand List that currently has 15 appeals.
- b. Allocation of Funds
 - i. The combined proposal needs to be reduced by \$122,128. Chairman Michael Dougherty stated that this does not need to be done at this time and can be done after the public hearing.

10. Public Comment

- a. Megan Bard Morse questioned the 97.5% collection rate if the tax collector collects at 98%.
 - i. Michael Dougherty explained that the 97.5% is a safe rate in case of economic concerns that could arise and having an excess is always good as it can be rolled over into the general fund. David Fortin added that her higher collection rate is due to back taxes collected.
- b. Wendy Costa thanked everyone for the work done. She stated that as a tax payer, she is concerned with the 20.9 mil rate and the idea of only reducing the budget by the minimum instead of cutting all that can be reduced.
- c. Megan Bard Morse would like to see funds to the maximum in order to see schools and the town best function and prosper.
- d. Holly Dearborn agrees with Megan Bard Morse to fund to the maximum in order to continue to provide services for the town and not see more services be lost due to financial limitations

11. Other From Board

- a. Asa Scranton asked for a review of cuts/reductions made as they are from critical town items. Jay Swan and Karen Fitzpatrick listed reductions made. Chandler Paquette explained the reasoning behind this year's budget presentation having significant reductions made before presenting to the Board of Finance. Victor Toth added that the Board of Education had cut \$200,000 from requested budget before presenting to the Board of Finance as well. Asa noted that he felt it was important for the public to know what work went into proposed budgets and what services had to be affected in order to meet the budget requirements.

12. Correspondence & Announcements

- a. The next Board of Finance Meeting will be held on April 5, 2022.

13. Adjournment

- a. Jeffrey Kelleher made a ***Motion to Adjourn. *Seconded by Michele Woz. *The Motion Passed Unanimously.** Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 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.