

Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

7:00 pm

Town Hall Room 1

Public Hearing

1. **Call to order:** Chairman Michael Dougherty called hearing to order at 7:02 pm

2. **Roll Call**

- a. **BOF Members Present:** Michael Dougherty (Chairman)
Michael Bernardi
Fred Chmura
Jeffrey Kelleher
Michele Woz
Asa Scranton, Alternate

Members Absent: Philip Parizeau (excused), Alternate, David Fortin (excused), Julie Marcotte, Alternate

- b. **Others Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Selectwoman Charlene Perkins Cutler, Woodstock Public Schools Business Manager Janice Thurlow, Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan and several members of the public including Sonia Greene, Dawn Adiletta, Joeseeph Adiletta, Emily Hayden, Sherry Magnan and Paula Wilmot

3. **Actions & Notes from Public Hearing**

- Chairman Michael Dougherty read the public hearing notice for the record
- Dawn Adiletta was ***nominated** to be moderator by Karen Fitzpatrick and ***seconded** by Chandler Paquette. ***Dawn Adiletta was unanimously elected Moderator of the Public Hearing.**
- Dawn Adiletta reminded those present of the rules and procedures of public hearings.
- Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth presented key information from the Board of Education budget
 - The overall increase in Board of Education budget for FY 23 is 2.77%. Increases include a Woodstock Academy tuition increase of 4% or \$142,000 for the upcoming year, rising costs of health insurance and the increase in transportation contract with DATTCO. An additional area of concern is the current fuel costs and how costs may affect the upcoming fiscal year.
 - Priorities of the Board of Education Capital Plan include athletic fields at Woodstock Middle School, playgrounds at Woodstock Elementary School, PA and clock systems in both schools and the Woodstock Academy Assessment.
- First Selectmen Jay Swan asked the BOF if they had any questions for him. He then addressed the public with background and review of the budget process taken to reach current proposed number.
- Sherry Magnan asked for clarification of where the Town of Woodstock ARPA funding was being spent.
 - Jay Swan explained the type of projects covered in Phase 1 allocations and referred anyone interested to the details of Phase 1 outlined on the town website.
 - Janice Thurlow explained how the BOE ARPA funds were used in the school system.
 - It was clarified that ARPA funding is separate from General Budget Funding

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- Sherry Magnan also made a statement about the current economy causing all people to be stressed from the increase in cost of living. She asked that the Board of Finance remember that we are in a time that requires lean spending practices and creative solutions without huge impacts.
- Paula Wilmot asked the Board of Education what they plan to cut in order to meet the final budget number
 - Victor Toth stated that staff cutbacks are the only option that the Board of Education has to meet the budget number and that 2-3 certified staff member positions would have to be eliminated.
- Paula Wilmot reminded everyone that this has been the first full school year since the COVID pandemic and asked that the Town of Woodstock please support the school system as it impacts the lives of everyone, not just the students.
- Karen Fitzpatrick made a ***Motion** to close the Public Hearing. ***Seconded** by Michael Dougherty. ***The motion unanimously passed** and the public hearing was closed.

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.