

**Woodstock Board of Finance
Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – 7:00 pm
Woodstock Middle School**

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 hybrid public hearing at the Woodstock Middle School and 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)
Michael Bernardi (Present)
Roy Bradrick, Jr. (Present)
Frederick Chmura (Present)
Jeffrey Kelleher (Present)
Barry Shead (Alternate) (Present)
Michele Woz (Alternate) (Present)
Charlene Perkins Cutler (Alternate) (Present)
Excused: N/A
Noted for the Record: Quorum
Others Present: Karen Fitzpatrick, First Selectman Jay Swan, Megan Bard-Morse, Janice Thurlow, Victor Toth, Members of the Public
3. **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.
4. **Read the Call:**
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 regards 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
5. **Elect a Moderator: Motion** was made by David Fortin, and **Seconded** by Frederick Chumra, to **Nominate** Ed Higgins as moderator. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Higgins provided an overview of the public hearing process and invited Janice Thurlow to present the FY 22 BOE Budget.
6. **Board of Education FY 22 Budget Presentation:** Copies of the presentation were available in the gymnasium at the Woodstock Middle School and on the Town of Woodstock website. She detailed the significant increases for FY 22, some of which included associated costs for three new staff positions, Woodstock Academy education, the Elementary and Middle Schools, Special Education, Health Insurance from CT Partnership,

Transportation, and Maintenance. The total increase for FY 22 reflected \$1,492,290 or a 7.7% increase over last year. Ms. Thurlow noted the next BOE meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021.

7. **Board of Education FY 22–26 Capital Plan Presentation:** Ms. Thurlow highlighted proposed projects within the five-year capital plan. Copies were available to the public. Mr. Higgins invited public comments/questions. Ms. Thurlow responded to questions regarding tuition and the per student tuition for Woodstock Academy and Putnam High School, reflecting \$15,250 and \$12,500, respectfully. There were no further questions from the public.

Mr. Higgins invited First Selectman Jay Swan to present the FY 22 BOS presentation.

8. **Board of Selectmen FY 22 Budget Presentation:** First Selectman Swan stated the budget is based on requests from individual department heads for the general government. Mr. Swan detailed the overall significant increases, some of which included salary increases and new hires by department, insurance/benefits, fire protection, public safety, highway and public health, recreation, and welfare. Overall significant decreases included staffing adjustments, environmental expenses, and redemption of debt. The total overall budget proposal represented an increase of \$268,382 or approximately 5% over FY 20-21.
9. **Board of Selectmen FY 22–26 Capital Plan Presentation:** First Selectman Swan briefly highlighted some of the proposed projects within the five-year plan, which reflected a total of \$9,402,800 over five years. Copies were available to the public.

Mr. Higgins invited public comments/questions. Mr. Swan received comments relative to the Election line item within the budget and answered questions regarding the public safety increase options. There were no further comments from the public.

10. **Citizens' Comments:** Mr. Higgins invited additional comments from the public. There were none.
11. **Board of Finance Comments:** Mr. Higgins invited comments from the Board of Finance. Comments were shared by Jeffrey Kelleher, Roy Bradrick and Chairman Dougherty. Chairman Dougherty further stated the next budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021, followed by the Annual Town meeting on May 4, 2021 and Town Referendum on May 11, 2021.

The Board of Finance received comments from John Dlugosz regarding Proposition 46 via Zoom online. Chairman Dougherty thanked him for his comments. Megan Bard-Morse shared the BOE's philosophy in preparing its budget and welcomed members of the public to attend the BOE's next meeting scheduled for April 8, 2021 via Zoom online.

12. **Adjournment:** Moderator Ed Higgins noted for the record there were no further comments, and the public hearing adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The recording of this meeting can be found here: <https://youtu.be/rRUBavlxztg>

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.