

# Woodstock Board of Finance Minutes

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Tuesday, April 11, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Woodstock Middle School Cafeteria  
Special Meeting

A recording of this meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Te0yRh-SFg>

1. **Call to order:** Michael Dougherty called meeting to order at 7:00 pm
2. **Roll Call**
  - a. **Members Present:** Michael Dougherty (Chairman)  
Fred Chmura  
Michele Woz  
Philip Parizeau, Alternate  
Julie Marcotte, Alternate  
Asa Scranton, Alternate  
**Members Absent:** David Fortin and Jeffrey Kelleher (both excused)
  - b. **Others Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Selectwoman Kate McDonald, Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Woodstock Public Schools Business Manager Janice Thurlow, Superintendent of Schools Victor Toth, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan and approximately 55 members of the public both in person and via Zoom.
  - c. **Noted for the Record:** Quorum
3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:**
  - a. Jeffrey Kelleher requested that Asa Scranton be seated in his absence. Michael Dougherty made a **\*Motion** to seat Asa Scranton and Julie Marcotte. **\*Seconded** by Fred Chmura. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Approve Minutes**
  - a. March 21, 2023 Regular Meeting
    - i. Michele Woz Kelleher made a **\*Motion** to approve the March 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. **\*Seconded** by Fred Chmura. **\*Motion passed**
  - b. April 4, 2023 Public Hearing
    - i. Fred Chmura made a **\*Motion** to approve the April 4, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. **\*Seconded** by Asa Scranton. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Public Comment**
  - a. A resident inquired about status of Prop 46 and Michael Dougherty clarified that Prop 46 will not be addressed as the purpose of this meeting is to set a FY 24 Budget amount.
6. **FY 24 Allocation of Funds**
  - a. Board of Finance Member Suggested Budgets for Discussion
    - i. Michele Woz proposed an increase of 1.56 mills which would result in a total budget of \$27,705,797 with a split of \$21,485,846 to the Board of Education and \$6,219,951 to the

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General Government. She also recommends that the tunnel encapsulation project be removed from the Board of Education Budget to be placed in the 5 year capital plan and that the Woodstock Academy Capital Assessment fee is returned to the Board of Education Budget.

- ii. Michael Dougherty proposed a similar budget with a mill rate increase of 1.53
  - iii. Julie Marcotte proposed a total increase in budget of \$2,000,000 for FY 24 and noted that the number should remain conservative in order to get the budget to pass at referendum.
  - iv. Phil Parizeau suggested a budget of \$6,300,000 for General Government and \$22,000,000 for Board of Education and noted that the increased funding would start to deal with the issues resulting from previous budget cuts.
  - v. Fred Chmura agreed with the proposal of Michele Woz
  - vi. Asa Scranton agreed with the proposal of Michele Woz and noted that a 1.5 mill increase would generate a reasonable outcome.
- b. Michele Woz made a **\*Motion** to approve the General Government Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$6,219,951. **\*Seconded** by Phil Parizeau. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**
  - c. Michele Woz made a **\*Motion** to approve the Board of Education Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$21,485,846. **\*Seconded** by Michael Dougherty. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**
  - d. Michele Woz made a **\*Motion** to recommend the approval of the Town of Woodstock Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2024 in the amount of \$27,705,797 and to appropriate said sum to meet the recommended expenditures. **\*Seconded** by Fred Chmura. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. FY 2024-2028 Proposed Five-Year Capital Plan

- a. Michael Dougherty made a **\*Motion** to approve the Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Woodstock for a Five Year Period ending Fiscal Year 2027-2028 in the amount of \$12,320,761. **\*Seconded** by Fred Chmura. **\*The motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. FY 24 Final Revenues

- a. Michael Dougherty noted that expected revenues total for FY 2023-2024 is \$26,242,356 when calculated with the current mil rate of 20.85.
- b. Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the estimated revenue sheet and how the numbers are calculated for expected revenues.

## 9. FY 24 Proposed Mill Rate

- a. The new mill rate, if the proposed budget passes, would be 22.41 mills. This rate will not be officially calculated until a budget is passed at referendum.

## 10. Appoint Auditor

- a. There is only 1 bid available for consideration at this time. The bid received is from the current firm used for Audit of the Town of Woodstock.
- b. Michael Dougherty made a **\*Motion** to appoint Mahoney Sabol as Auditor for the Town of Woodstock. **\*Seconded** by Asa Scranton. **\*The Motion passed unanimously.**
  - i. It was clarified that although the company remains the same, a different auditor performs the audit from year to year.

## 11. Correspondence & Announcements

- a. Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 2, 2023
- b. The Budget Referendum will be held on May 9, 2023 from noon to 8 pm

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- c. The next Board of Finance Meeting will be immediately after referendum to set the mill rate.

### 12. Adjournment

- a. Michele Woz made a **\*Motion to Adjourn**. **\*Seconded** by Phil Parizeau. **\*The Motion Passed Unanimously**. Meeting Adjourned at 7:38 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.