



**Woodstock Board of Finance
Special Meeting - Minutes
Woodstock Town Hall, Room B
Thursday, June 3, 2021**

1. Call to Order: Chairman Michael Dougherty called the meeting to order at 8:18 PM following the Town Budget Referendum, noting for the record that a quorum is in attendance in person.

Chairman Dougherty stated that the budget was passed by the voters with 282 affirmative votes and 195 negative, representing a low turnout of just under 8%.

2. Roll Call:

Michael Bernardi (Present)
Roy Bradrick, Jr. (Present)
Frederick Chmura (Present)
Michael Dougherty (Present)

David Fortin (Present)
Jeffrey Kelleher (Present)
Charlene Perkins Cutler, Alternate (Present)
Michele Woz, Alternate (absent: out of town)

Others Present: First Selectman Jay Swan, BOE Chair Megan Bard-Morse, Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Acting Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

3. Seat Alternate if Necessary: n/a

4. Old Business

A. Discuss and Act on Appointing an Interim BOF Alternate Member: the vacancy was a Republican seat on the Board; a recommendation has come in from the WRTC for Julie Marcotte. Comment was heard supporting her credentials. No other candidates were proposed. **Motion D. Fortin seconded by M. Bernardi to appoint Julie Marcotte as an Alternate to the BOF to complete the vacant term until the November election carried unanimously.**

B. D. Fortin asked the First Selectman to clarify the town hall mandate for use of masks. J. Swan noted the H R Director determined this to be best for public confidence, and for the safety of those who enter the town hall, given that not every person who might enter has been vaccinated. The mask use will be phased out.

5. New Business- Set FY 22 Mill Rate:

D. Fortin- the voters passed a proposed a 1 mil increase over 2020-21, going to 25.50 mils.

Motion D. Fortin seconded by M. Bernardi to set the Woodstock mil rate for FY 2021-2022 at 25.50 mils.

R. Bradrick- the BOF should be honest with the voters about borrowing from current assets. The actual cost to the taxpayers will be 1.3 mils, or \$225,000 more, when the Academy submits its statement for their capital project.

Discussion ensued, including conceptual support for what R. Bradrick stated; some Members verbalized that the voters have been well-informed that revenues are not keeping pace with expenses, and have voted to endorse the 1 mil increase the BOF put forward to them.

The Chair called for the vote:

M. Bernardi- aye R. Bradrick-nay F. Chmura- aye D. Fortin – aye J. Kelleher-aye.

Motion carried 5-1.

6. Public Comment:

J. Swan- the public may have a false sense of security, after 3 years of level budgets, but the town is falling behind. With the Revaluation coming up, matters may change as well.

D. Fortin- this will require a multi-year correction. Using the General fund for expenses will hurt the town in the long run.

M. Bard-Morse asked about R. Bradrick's thought process regarding the upcoming Capital request from the Academy. R. Bradrick- greater transparency for the taxpayers would result if they anticipated the extra expense that is coming.

7. Other from Board: None

8. Correspondence & Announcements: the next BOF meeting is at 7 PM Tuesday, June 8. The public will participate via Zoom while the BOF members meet in person in the Town Hall.

9. Adjournment:

Motion M. Bernardi seconded by J. Kelleher to adjourn carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dotti Durst, Acting Recording Secretary. *DorothyDurst*

DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Finance. Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments.