

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** M. Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. **Roll Call:**

Michael Dougherty (Present)

Fred Chmura (Present)

David Fortin (Present)

Ronald Cabana (Present)

Roy Bradrick, Jr. (Present)

Glen Lessig (Excused)

Michael Bernardi, (Alternate) (Present)

Jeffery Kelleher, (Alternate) (Present)

David Richardson, (Alternate) (Present)

For the Record: Quorum

Others Present: K. Fitzpatrick, M. Alberts, J. Thurlow, M. Bard Morse, V. Toth, T. Lasota, and 10 others.

3. **Seat Alternate if Necessary:** Jeffery Kelleher was seated (as designated by Glen Lessig).

4. **Approve Minutes from the June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting:**

F. Chmura **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes as amended below;

D. Fortin **SECONDED**;

D. Richardson requested the following edits:

1) Agenda item 6.D, page 3: last sentence, "\$6.5k-\$6.6k" should be "6.5 - 6.6 cents per kilowatt hour"

2) Agenda item 6.E, page 6 second paragraph: corrected to read "D. Richardson – handed out letter from C. Sanford, with copies of various years budgets with varying construction costs of \$113,000.00 - \$214,000.00 and budgets which vary from \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00."

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **Public Comment:**

Preston Schultz asked why the BOF meeting videos have not been posted on the Town's website since March 5; M. Dougherty said there was an issue with the company that handles the videos in getting new personnel trained and added this was being addressed. D Richardson noted there was no camera to video record tonight's meeting.

6. **Business**

A. Temporary Waiver of the Appropriation Policy:

M. Dougherty read the Appropriation Policy into record;

D. Fortin **MOVED** to **WAIVE** the Appropriation Policy due to extensive discussions and suggestions, in an effort to be expedient in the matter of item #6.B Business, for this meeting only; F. Chmura **SECONDED**;

R. Bradrick said this has been ongoing since November, and the fact that the BOE has chosen to make a request after the last scheduled meeting which is neglect but not an exigent circumstance, does not justify a waiver of the policy.

J. Kelleher noted in order for the school board to figure out what their budget is for the upcoming school year this is an issue that needs to be resolved, and if put off until the September meeting they will start the school year not knowing what their budget is.

MOTION CARRIED; R. Bradrick OPPOSED.

B. Payment Method for FY 19-20 Woodstock Academy Additional Assessment:

M. Dougherty noted there were basically two options, return the issue back to the BOE, or take the money from the capitol non-recurring account after transfers are made as part of the BOE's Five Year Capitol Plan which was submitted to BOF, presented at Town Meeting and voted on and approved.

D. Richardson said this issue of capitalization of tuition has been discussed as construction costs, and legal and account opinions have been based on this as a construction cost expense and the charges have always been a part of the BOE budget. He added J. Thurlow pointed out at the previous meeting the construction costs have always been a part of the tuition, and C. Sanford suggested to expect these expenses would be continued in the future. He also added this would be a capitalization of tuition if it were to go forward.

M. Dougherty and D. Richardson discussed C. Sanford's contradictions in his statements during the June 11, 2019 meeting.

D. Fortin commented this meeting was to talk about the payment method, and D. Richardson talked about whether or not the issue was pertinent to capitalization.

R. Bradrick agreed that this was either a capital expense or an expense to be borne by the Woodstock district and the percentage was meaningless, it has to be decided what it is. B. Bradrick said he spoke with someone from the Academy and there was an extensive history of deferred maintenance, adding Mr. Sanford wouldn't say whether this was something to be expected going forward, but it is for at least two years. He believed this is a periodic expense as opposed to a capital expense, noting it is either under Prop46 or it is not, and felt an appropriation of this amount under "capital expenditure" exclusion to get around Prop46 doesn't honor Prop46 nor is it fair to the tax payers.

M. Bernardi thought the decision was made in November to take it out of tuition; F. Chmura said the decision was made in the spring when the budget was put forth with this amount in the 5 year capital plan and approved by the voters.

D. Fortin said the plan that has been imposed went from a 1 year capital improvement plan to a 2 year capital improvement plan at the beginning formation of the BOE budget. He noted although Mr. Sanford used the word "tuition", these are capital expenses and are being confused with construction costs. D. Fortin also noted that prior to this, a single bill has always been received with a single charge; adding this is the first year that a tuition bill has been received with an additional bill of expenses separated out. He also noted these are not maintenance items, these are items that were neglected and now require immediate attention.

J. Kelleher asked if this needs to go to referendum if approved; M. Dougherty confirmed that

it does need to go to Town meeting and referendum and briefly explained the process, noting the voters have the right to say yes or no. He added that regardless, the Academy is going to get their money.

D. Richardson said C. Sanford insisted this was one tuition bill, and splitting it up was initiated by request of the Selectmen, not the Academy, and based on the MBR.

D. Fortin asked V. Toth if, at the TriBoard meeting he had any other information; V. Toth said there was a tuition increase and also a capital assessment; two items when presented to the superintendent, with the option to pay it as one item.

D. Fortin asked K. Fitzpatrick if she had any comments she would like to make to the board as Town Treasurer regarding this issue. K. Fitzpatrick said based on her knowledge of the history back to November 2018, everything received up to the letter of May 9, 2019 was addressed as capital assessment, noting a comment from J. Thurlow at the TriBoard meeting regarding and additional capital assessment for the project at Woodstock Academy. Correspondence was received from the Academy with a capital plan broken down timeline, and also a tuition breakdown, which included the increase of tuition which does not include the capital project. K. Fitzpatrick said the information was provided to the auditors to obtain advice on how to pay for this; the auditors said it was a management decision, but it could be included in a capital plan because it does qualify as a capital project. She also noted this was then presented to the Town attorney who agreed this was a capital project and CNR funding could be used to pay for this. It was K. Fitzpatrick's opinion that the BOF needs to decide if they will accept the opinions of the auditors and Town attorney and move on. She noted if the CRN process is not used and the BOE has to take this money from their budget it would be detrimental but they are also aware that if this does not pass at referendum they will need to decide what to do as the bill still needs to get paid.

J. Thurlow noted that all correspondences have used the term "capital assessment" and it was only at the last meeting that Mr. Sanford said it was tuition.

M. Dougherty said he had the bill that was sent to the BOE, which is a tuition bill that lists item 1, the tuition, and item 2, the construction costs. He noted in the new proposal there is capital assessments for projects they wanted to do, but no construction costs. M. Dougherty felt this was a capital assessment and should be addressed that way at least for this year. He added it has been proposed to go through and is on the capital plan for the BOE, and should be decided now whether to support it or not.

D. Fortin **MOVED** that the method of payment for the FY 19/20 Woodstock Academy Capital Improvement assessment be paid using capital non reoccurring funds from the Town in the amount of \$212,483.00; R. Cabana **SECONDED**; **MOTION CARRIED**; R. Bradrick **OPPOSED**.

M. Dougherty asked if a motion was needed for requesting the Board of Selectmen to vote on scheduling a hearing and referendum; M. Alberts and K. Fitzpatrick agreed a motion was not necessary and the minutes would suffice.

7. Public Comment:

Patricia Sarrison asked if Woodstock Academy has spent all of their money already; M. Dougherty

commented it is unknown since it is a private school and their books are private. P. Sarrison also thanked D. Richardson for the informative letters written. D. Richardson commented by State Statute the academy's books are public. M. Dougherty noted there are only portions of their books that can be seen.

Dave Hancock felt the Academy had enough money to pay for this themselves, and this was costing the Town money that it doesn't have.

8. Correspondence and Announcements:

M. Dougherty noted the next regular meeting is Tuesday September 17, 2019.

9. Adjournment:

J. Kelleher **MOVED** to **ADJOURN**; R. Cabana **SECONDED**;

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 7:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by Terri Lasota (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.