

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman M. Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. **Roll Call of Boards:**
BOF Members Present: Michael Dougherty; David Fortin; Frederick Chmura; Michael Bernardi; Jeffery Kelleher; Michele Woz (Alternate); Charlene Cutler (Alternate)
BOF Members Excused: Barry Shead; Roy Bradrick, Jr.
Board of Education: Hans Frankhouser; Sonia Greene; Holly Dearborn; Amy Vinal; Amanda Bottone; Jennifer Corey; Megan Bard Morse
Board of Education Members Excused: Anthony Gronski; Adam Keser
Board of Selectmen: Jay Swan; Chandler Paquette; Greg Kline
Noted for the Record: Quorum
Others Present: Karen Fitzpatrick, Janice Thurlow, Victor Toth; Members of the Public
3. **Public Comment:** A member of the audience noted that the Tri-Board agenda was not posted on the town's website. This will be looked into.
4. **Round Table Discussion:** Chairman Dougherty explained the purpose of this meeting is to anticipate the needs and challenges that may occur in the coming fiscal year.

A. Board of Ed: Megan Bard Morse thanked the BOF for holding the Tri-Board meeting. She indicated that the high school tuition will be the biggest challenge for the upcoming fiscal year. Victor Toth provided a handout to serve as a point of reference that shows Woodstock Academy enrollment projections from FY20 through FY24. The calculations depict current rates, Woodstock Academy tuition remaining flat, and are projected out for the next five years. Increases include for this upcoming fiscal year, \$710,000 for regular tuition (excluding the assessment), \$752,383 projected for special education, and \$9,004 projected for transportation. Although Woodstock Academy leadership has not formally approved the proposed tuition increase of 5.9%, it was noted that this is a firm figure. Additionally, they are expecting health insurance, if the maximum of 8% is reached, to increase to a projected \$295,000. Mr. Toth understands that the auditors would like them to vacate the health reserve fund and considering the large increase at Woodstock Academy of \$710,000, this may be the year to apply the remainder of the health reserve account balance (approximately \$470,000). He feels this may be the time to use this to offset the health insurance and alleviate the increase at Woodstock Academy. Karen Fitzpatrick confirmed that the special education and transportation increases are allowable under Proposition 46.

B. Board of Selectmen: First Selectman Jay Swan stated he received the Grand List today. Chandler Paquette asked if the BOF has decided a direction on the capital assessment. Mr. Dougherty stated that the funds will come out of the general fund. Mr. Swan asked Ms. Fitzpatrick to summarize the Grand List. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated they currently have two union negotiations in place, which will pose a challenge in preparing their budget. Since the amounts are unknown, they will footnote on the budget that if the negotiations are settled, any

differences in cost would come from the contingency fund. The other challenge is funding the school with an estimated \$150,000 increase.

C. Board of Finance: A BOF member asked about the 5.9% tuition increase. Megan Bard Morse clarified that the Woodstock Academy tuition increase is estimated. It has not been officially approved by the Woodstock Academy Board. Mr. Frankhouser noted that the second installment of the capital assessment is \$218,136. Karen Fitzpatrick voiced concern about the increase in this second installment. The project was based on the current number of students and the town was told the project totaled \$1,069,000 for roofs and removal of tanks—one specific capital project. The town had two years to pay with two installments of \$212,000 each. After further discussion, it was recommended that the Board of Education write to the Woodstock Academy and request an explanation on the increase in the preset installment amount.

Mr. Frankhouser stated that all of the tanks have been removed and some of the roofs are completed. The remaining roofs should be completed by next year. He noted that the biggest challenge for the Woodstock Academy now is the Academy Building. He confirmed that grants and tax credits have been pursued for the Academy Building project. He believes the project may take six years.

Michele Woz suggested that moving forward, it would be beneficial to have clearly defined expectations and terms about what the numbers mean when working with Woodstock Academy.

5. **Public Comment:** A member of the audience acknowledged the large turnout from the three boards. He appreciated the conversation regarding Woodstock Academy's capital projects.
6. **Announcements:** None.
7. **Adjournment:** David Fortin **MOVED** to **ADJOURN**; Jeffery Kelleher **SECONDED**; **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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.