

**Town of Woodstock  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 2, 2021 – 4:00PM**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** John Swan, Gregory Kline, and Chandler Paquette.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Monahan and Karen Fitzpatrick

**1. Call to Order:** First Selectmen Jay Swan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Mr. Swan wished to thank the Fire Departments, the Department of Public Works, and the Emergency Management personnel for their hard work during Hurricanes Henri and Ida.

**2. Approve the Minutes of the August 19, 2021 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:** Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting as present. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Swan stated that directly after the last Selectmen's Meeting, he received several emails and calls from other local Selectmen stating that there is a shortage of Certified Assessors in the area and that it would be difficult to find one. It has therefore been decided to continue with a Part Time Assessor and hire a Full-Time Assistant Assessor who is either a Certified Assessor or interested in becoming certified.

Mr. Swan stated that during the last meeting Mr. Swan neglected to mention that Julie Riches' term on the Crystal Pond Park Commission is August 19, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Selectman Greg Kline asked how many hours the current Assessor is scheduled to work. Mr. Swan stated that the agreement that was made between the current Assessor and the previous administration was 14 hours a week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mr. Kline asked if the letter of agreement between the current Assessor and the previous Assessor states that the Assessor agrees to work as needed. Mr. Swan stated that it does.

Mr. Kline asked if the previous Full-Time Assessor's salary was the same rate that the Part-Time Assessor receives. Mr. Swan stated that the previous Assessor left abruptly, and a new Assessor needed to be found quickly. The salary that the current Assessor is receiving was negotiated with the previous administration.

**3. Approve Fiscal Year 2021 Year End Transfers:** Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick stated that the General Government Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 ended with a surplus of \$278,200.86, however this figure is subject to the audit. Mrs. Fitzpatrick presented the following recommendations for the CNR transfer requests for consideration and approval by the Board of Selectmen:

- \$30,000.00 – CNR Account for 2026 Revaluation
- \$50,000.00 – CNR Account for Breaching of Dam/Crystal Pond Park
- \$50,000.00 – CNR Account for Emergency Tree Removal 2021-2022
- \$148,200.86 – CNR Account for New Loader

Mrs. Fitzpatrick explained that she was recently informed by the Assessor that NECCOG only inspects 50% of the properties each reevaluation period. Mrs. Carlone feels that a more accurate reevaluation is achieved if 100% are inspected. Mrs. Fitzpatrick spoke with Mrs. Carlone and they both agreed a new revaluation firm be hired for the 2026 reevaluation. Mrs. Fitzpatrick would like to start putting money in a CNR account each year towards the 2026 Revaluation. She felt saving now towards 2026 would give us more options.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick stated that the DEEP has informed the Crystal Pond Park Commission that the trout pond dam at Crystal Pond Park needs to be repaired or dismantled. It has been agreed by both Woodstock and Eastford, as well as the Crystal Pond Park Commission to breach the dam. In order to do this, engineers will need to be consulted and a plan formulated.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick consulted with Highway Foreman John Navarro and he stated that there are more trees along Town maintained roads that need to be removed and that the current loader is at the point where it will no longer be operational. Mrs. Fitzpatrick is recommending that \$50,000.00 be put in a CNR account for emergency tree removal, and \$148,200.86 be put in a CNR account towards the purchase of a new loader.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick brought up the point, regarding the surplus of \$278,200.86: that amount would generate approximately \$7100 in revenue. If that amount was divided by dwellings, including condo's, but excluding businesses, the cost per home annually would be approximately \$ 2.16 per home, not including land.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick reminded that Board of Selectmen that the Board needs to approve these transfers. After approval by the Board, it next goes to the Board of Finance for approval. After that it goes to Town Meeting for approval and any expenditure over \$100,000.00 needs to also go to Referendum.

Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Year End Transfers as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Tax Rebates:** None.

**5. Correspondence and Announcements:** Mr. Swan stated that Amy Monahan will be the new recording secretary.

Rob Mancini the Town's new Veteran's Affairs Advisor has been meeting with local veterans. He will be advertising local veteran's activities.

The Woodstock Safety Patrol has provided each Woodstock school bus with a camera that captures the license plates of vehicles that illegally pass buses. This information is forwarded by

DATTCO to the State Police, and the State Police have been issuing citations to the registered owners.

George McCoy is stepping down as the Chief of the Woodstock Safety Patrol. Matt McCabe will be taking over as chief.

The Town will be receiving solar powered speed limit signs on September 9<sup>th</sup>. John Navarro will decide where in Town these should be placed.

**7. Public Comment:** None.

**8. Other from Committee:** Mr. Swan gave a shout out to Eversource for restoring the power so quickly after Hurricanes Henri and Ida knocked power out in the community.

Mr. Swan reminded the Board that starting September 16<sup>th</sup> the second monthly meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held at 7:00pm. The beginning of the meeting will deal with standard business, and the second half of the meeting will be discussion of the American Rescue Plan.

There will be a Community Forum held on October 12, 2021, 7PM at the Woodstock Middle School to discuss the American Rescue Plan with the community. This will be an opportunity for the community to express their ideas on how best to utilize the American Rescue Plan funds. There was much discussion on how to advertise this event.

Mr. Swan reminded the audience that the best way to gain the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the American Rescue Plan is through the Town website and to have questions answered through the dedicated email address. A survey monkey will also be available on the website for people to express their ideas.

**8. Adjournment:** Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 5:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Recording Secretary