

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 4:00PM**

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC, members of the Board of Selectmen participated in the meeting via ZOOM online.

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Swan, Gregory Kline and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Miller, Michael Dougherty, Jeff Gordon, Megan Bard Morse, Duncan Forsyth, Richard Roberts, and Dawn Adiletta

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

2. Approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2021 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes as presented.

Mr. Swan stated that under Agenda Item 8 Ratification of Acceptance of Bids for Public Works Department Auction Items the price for the 18-Foot Equipment Trailer should be **\$251.00** not \$250.00.

Selectmen Greg Kline made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Accept resignation from Ruby Senkowski as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission and Consider Appointment as an Alternate Member for the Terms March 18, 2021 through March 31, 2021, and April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026: Mr. Paquette made a motion to accept the resignation of Ruby Senkowski as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission, and to appoint Ruby Senkowski as an Alternate Member for the Terms of March 18, 2021 through March 31, 2021, and April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Accept resignation from Pam Spaeth as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission and Consider Appointment as a Full Member for the Term March 18, 2021 through March 31, 2022. Mr. Kline made a motion to accept the resignation of Pam Spaeth as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission, and to appoint Pam Spaeth as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the term of March 18, 2021 through March 31, 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider the Reappointment of Dr. Lee Wesler as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026. Mr. Kline made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Lee Wesler as a Full Member of the Conservation

Commission for the term of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Consider the Reappointment of Jordan Stern as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026. Mr. Kline made a motion to accept the reappointment of Jordan Stern as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the term of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. Consider Adopting a Resolution to Remove the Town Treasurer from the MERS Plan:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to Adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodstock, by way of a Special Town Meeting on March 26, 1986, voted to adopt a Resolution whereby certain elected Town Officials, including the Town Treasurer, would be entitled to participate in Fund "B" of the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund ("MERS Fund"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodstock has created a full-time position of Director of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the duties of Town Treasurer will be significantly reduced as the result of the hiring of a full-time Director of Finance and participation in the MERS Fund by the Town Treasurer is no longer justified; and

WHEREAS, the current Town Treasurer has agreed to accept the position of Director of Finance beginning on March 31, 2021 and will resign as Town Treasurer on April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an Interim Treasurer will occur shortly thereafter, and said person and any elected successor will not perform significant duties necessitating participation in the MERS Plan; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence to adopt a resolution to remove the Town Treasurer from the MERS Plan prior to the appointment of an Interim Town Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, action by the Board of Selectmen is necessary, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, in order to permit the orderly operation of the municipality, and there is need to act immediately, and during this period of declared public health and civil preparedness emergency such action is necessary in order to avoid endangering the public health by conducting a Special Town Meeting to adopt this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodstock Board of Selectmen in accordance with the Executive Order 7JJ, issued on May 6, 2020, hereby votes, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, to approve the removal of the Town Treasurer from the MERS Plan immediately upon approval of this Resolution, and further authorizes the First Selectman and Town Attorney to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this Resolution.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2021.

John V. Swan, Jr. First Selectman

Judy Walberg, Town Clerk

Chandler Paquette, Selectman

Greg Kline, Selectman

Mr. Swan stated that since the other Board members retrieved their meeting packets the Town Labor attorney had submitted an amended Resolution, changing the fourth paragraph from:

WHEREAS, the current Town Treasurer has agreed to accept the position of Director of Finance beginning on March 31, 2021 and will resign as Town Treasurer on April 1, 2021; and

to the following:

WHEREAS, the current Town Treasurer has agreed to accept the position of Director of Finance beginning on April 1, 2021 and will resign as Town Treasurer on said date; and

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adopt the amended Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodstock, by way of a Special Town Meeting on March 26, 1986, voted to adopt a Resolution whereby certain elected Town Officials, including the Town Treasurer, would be entitled to participate in Fund "B" of the Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund ("MERS Fund"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodstock has created a full-time position of Director of Finance; and

WHEREAS, the duties of Town Treasurer will be significantly reduced as the result of the hiring of a full-time Director of Finance and participation in the MERS Fund by the Town Treasurer is no longer justified; and

WHEREAS, the current Town Treasurer has agreed to accept the position of Director of Finance beginning on April 1, 2021 and will resign as Town Treasurer on said date; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of an Interim Treasurer will occur shortly thereafter, and said person and any elected successor will not perform significant duties necessitating participation in the MERS Plan; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence to adopt a resolution to remove the Town Treasurer from the MERS Plan prior to the appointment of an Interim Town Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, action by the Board of Selectmen is necessary, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, in order to permit the orderly operation of the municipality, and there is need to act immediately, and during this period of declared public health and civil preparedness emergency such action is necessary in order to avoid endangering the public health by conducting a Special Town Meeting to adopt this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodstock Board of Selectmen in accordance with the Executive Order 7JJ, issued on May 6, 2020, hereby votes, in lieu of a Special Town Meeting, to approve the removal of the Town Treasurer from the MERS Plan effective April 1, 2021, and further authorizes the First Selectman and Town Attorney to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this Resolution.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2021.

John V. Swan, Jr., First Selectman

Judy Walberg, Town Clerk

Chandler Paquette, Selectman

Greg Kline, Selectman

In Favor: Jay Swan and Chandler Paquette. **Opposed:** None. **Abstained:** Greg Kline.
Motion passed.

8. Tax Rebates: None.

9. Correspondence and Announcements: The February incident report has been received from Troop D of the State Police.

Fire Marshal Richard Baron sent correspondence giving the Deputy Fire Marshals the authorization to issue all legal orders and permits on behalf of the Fire Marshal. This order will remain in effect until December 31, 2026 or until his resignation as Fire Marshal.

Victor Peabody has submitted his resignation from the Economic Development Commission and the Inland-Wetlands & Watercourses Agency.

Highway Foreman has put out a bid on a 2021 Freightliner 11450 Cab and Chasis dump truck that can also be adapted to be used as a plow truck. Some of the funds needed for the purchase are in this year's budget and the rest of the purchase price will come from the Town Aid Road Fund grant.

10. Public Comments: Jeff Gordon questioned how the amended Resolution could have been adopted at this meeting when it had not been posted with the meeting documents on the website, in the 24-hour time frame as directed by the Governor's Executive Order.

Town Labor Attorney Duncan Forsyth stated that the change in the Resolution is an amendment to a document that was posted with the meeting documents on the website within the required 24 hours as directed in the Governor's Executive Order.

Mr. Gordon respectfully disagreed with the Town Attorney's opinion.

11. Other from Committee: None.

12. Adjournment: Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 4:27pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk

To view the meeting follow the link: https://youtu.be/OiVJ_xzqDTY