

# Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

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Thursday, October 21, 2021  
7:00 PM – Virtual Via Zoom  
Regular Meeting & ARPA Update

The recording for this meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGaXNY2hNcM>

## 1. Call to order: First Selectman Jay Swan called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

- a. **Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Selectman Greg Kline
- b. **Others Present:** Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, HR Manager Crystal Adams, Board of Finance Chair Michael Dougherty, Recording Secretary Amy Monahan
- c. **ZOOM attendees:** members of the public including Diane Miller, Kathleen LaBonte, Dave Elliot (Emergency Management Director) and Dotti Durst

## 2. Approval of Minutes of October 7, 2021 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting

- a. Chandler Paquette made a **Motion** to approve the Minutes from of October 7, 2021 regular Board of Selectmen Meeting as presented. **Seconded** by Greg Kline as written. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

## 3. Tax Rebates

- a. ACAR Leasing Limited in amount of \$258.06 for vehicle sold in September 2020
- b. Financial Services Vehicle Trust in amount of \$ 863.08 for vehicle sold in October 2020
- c. Financial Services Vehicle Trust in amount of \$293.74 for vehicle sold in 2021
  - i. Greg Kline made a **Motion** to approve the Tax Rebates presented by the First Selectman. **Seconded** by Chandler Paquette. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

## 4. American Rescue Plan Update

- a. First Selectman, Jay Swan reviewed ARPA Open Forum & General Information
  - i. Approximate attendance of Town of Woodstock Special Meeting/ ARPA Open Forum was 50 people live and additional 20 people via Zoom.
  - ii. Since the meeting, more than a dozen additional suggestions via email have been received by the Town of Woodstock on the ARPA email account (arpa2021@woodstockct.gov)
  - iii. Reminder: The Board of Selectmen meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month will continue to be held via Zoom in order to increase participation and transparency while determining how to use the ARPA funds.
- b. Finance Director, Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the ARPA plan. The updated ARPA overview details can be found on the Town Website – ( [ARPA Overview 10.12.21](#) document). The preliminary plan for funds was presented to the public at the Special Town Meeting on October, 12, 2021 and can also be found on the Town Website –( [ARPA Preliminary Ideas for use of Funds](#) document).
  - i. Additional suggestions received for use of ARPA funds include
    - 1. New Soccer Fields
    - 2. Upgrade to Roads at Roseland Park
    - 3. Certificate Programs, Trades Education and College tuition for low income adults

# Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

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4. Upgrades to the dam at the Windham Tolland 4H Camp to preserve pond
  5. Share the Road signs for cyclists
  6. Behavioral Services within the Town of Woodstock for those with hardships
  7. Repair Green Rd – Edge of road collapsing due to erosion  
(has been forwarded to John Navarro at the Highway Department)
  8. Support Northeast Placement Services to Keep Programs Working
  9. Upgrading number of computers in libraries for residents use
  10. Upgrades to Palmer Arboretum
  11. Infrastructure such as roads & bridge improvements, snow plowing equipment, fire department equipment and building improvements
  12. Independent animal control such as our having our own dog warden
  13. Upgrade to Middle School HVAC system
  14. Upgrade to Middle School Lockers
- ii. Please continue to share your ideas in order to make the best plan for funds in the Town of Woodstock. Ideas must meet guidelines for the funds as described in the ARPA overview.

Karen Fitzpatrick has agreed to forward suggestions received, to the BOS for review. All requests are being printed and kept in the ARPA binder.

## 5. Correspondence and Announcements

- a. Tuesday, November 2, 2021 is Election Day. The polls are open at the Town Hall from 6am to 8pm. In conjunction with TEEG, food and or cash donations are being collected for those in need. This information has been posted on the website and will be sent home via email to all school families.
- b. The speed display signs obtained by the Town of Woodstock have been installed in order to make drivers more aware of their speed in hopes of making town roads safer for the citizens of Woodstock. Special permission will be needed to place these signs on any state roads. Both are currently placed on town roads.
- c. Town of Woodstock has partnered with the Town of Pomfret to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Hazardous Waste can be brought to the Pomfret Community School on Saturday, November 20, 2021 between 9am and 1pm for disposal.
- d. TEEG Mobile Market Dates for the Woodstock Town Hall are Tuesday, November 9, 2021 from 10:30 to 11:30 am and Thursday, November 18, 2021 from 1-2 pm.
- e. COVID Update- Woodstock is currently red along with 11 other communities in Windham County.
- f. The State Police report the following in Woodstock for the month of September 2021
  - i. 107 Service Calls
  - ii. 11 Accidents
  - iii. 10 Investigations
  - iv. 1 Larceny
  - v. 1 Burglary
  - vi. 84 non-reported matters
  - vii. 1 DUI
  - viii. 6 Traffic Citations
  - ix. 4 Written Warnings
- g. The Town of Woodstock AG commission has recommend to the Selectmen that land classified as 490 Open Space be valued according to a local Ordinance. The BOS is looking into this recommendation in conjunction with the Assessor.

# Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

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- h. The BOS is also working on an ordinance to ensure that No Smoking on Town Properties include cannabis use. This ordinance is separate from those that would be decided by the Planning and Zoning Commission after the one year moratorium placed on cannabis use.
- i. Application received for Kathy LaBonte to be appointed to the Recreation Commission. First Selectmen would like to make appointment to the Recreation Commission and needs motion to amend the Agenda to include appointment.
- j. Letter received from the Historic District Commission stating that they accepted the resignation of Karen Olah as an alternate member and voted in favor of appointing her as a full member.

**Motion** made by Greg Kline to amend the Agenda to include appointments and resignations from Town Boards.

**Seconded** by Chandler Paquette. . **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

## 6. Consider appointing Kathy LaBonte as member of the Recreation Commission

**Motion** made by Chandler Paquette to appoint Kathy LaBonte as a member of the Recreation Commission. **Seconded** by Greg Kline. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

## 7. Consider appointing Karen Olah as a full member of the Historic District Commission

**Motion** made by Greg Kline appointment Karen Olah as member of the Historic District Commission. **Seconded** by Chandler Paquette. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

## 8. Public Comment

- a. Dave Elliot, Emergency Management Director, would like it noted that the current Radio Systems Project is facing a possible price increase of 4.5% and that he would like that considered in the ARPA funds process. It would be in the betterment of the town to move this project forward in terms of finance and supply/demand.
  - i. Board of Finance Chair Michael Dougherty has looked into this concern and feels that it is a relevant reason to consider as the increases could be \$22,000 to \$24,000.
    - 1. This topic has been discussed and the final ruling by the Treasury Dept. will determine how the funds will be spent. It is noted that the savings of \$22,000 to \$24,000 could fund other smaller projects.

## 9. Other From Committee

- a. Chandler Paquette wanted it noted to Selectman Kline that the comment he published in the Woodstock Bugle about the Republican majority on the Board doesn't think that public input matters is an untruth/ unfounded.

## 10. Adjournment

- a. Chandler Paquette made a **Motion** to adjourn. **Seconded** by Greg Kline. **The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Monahan, Recording Secretary. DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting for approval/amendments.