

# Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

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Wednesday February 16, 2022

3:30 pm

Selectmen's Conference Room

Special Meeting

**1. Call to order:** First Selectman Jay Swan called meeting to order at 3:38 pm.

- a. **Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Selectwoman Charlene Perkins Cutler
- b. **Others Present:** Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Mike Dougherty (BOF Chairman), Suzanne Woodward, Probate Judge Leah Schad, Wendy Costa and Recording Secretary Amy Monahan

**2. Review FY 23 Budget Submissions**

- a. First Selectman Jay Swan stated that information being reviewed is based on a DRAFT of the FY 23 Budget. Information discussed at this meeting is subject to change and will not be final until approved by the Board of Finance.
- b. Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick introduced the budget requests submitted for FY 23 by department to the Board of Selectmen, highlighting key information pertaining to each department.
- c. Overall, \$5,467,174 is the total government budget for FY 23. This is an increase of \$309,742 or 5.67%
- d. Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick presented recommended adjustments that would reduce budget by \$184,000
  - i. Charlene suggested reducing contingency from 12.5% to 10% for this year only in order to further reduce the FY 23 budget amount.
- e. Other items that have been requested to be added to the budget include:
  - 1. ACCESS Agency requested \$1000 to support services provided
  - 2. QV Senior Center has requested \$1000 to support services provided
  - 3. TLGV (The Last Green Valley) has requested \$500
    - a. Charlene recommends EDC for this pledge

**3. Citizens Comments**

- a. Suzanne Woodward found it strange that some salary increases requested were a higher percentage than other increases. She feels that all should get the same negotiated rates as a practice.
- b. A new resident to town is amazed with the budget process and lack of community involved in comparison to the town she last lived in. From her past involvement in local government, she knows there comes a time where you cannot nickel and dime a small budget and you have to cut something. She found it interesting how under the current finance/budget process including Prop 46, the Town has its hands tied.

**4. Adjournment**

- a. Chandler Paquette made a **\*Motion** to adjourn. **\*Seconded** by Charlene Perkins Cutler. **\*The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:31 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.