

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, April 8, 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: Michael Dougherty, Karen Fitzpatrick, Diane Miller, and Suzanne Woodward

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

2. Discuss and Approve FY 22 Budget Adjustments to Comply with Prop 46: Mr. Swan stated that the budget that was presented to the Board of Finance in March and at the Public Hearing was based on the original requests received from the various departments in January. At this point the budget needs to be adjusted to the Proposition 46 allowable increase in the budget.

Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick went over the cuts that need to be made from the 2021-2022 budget requests made by the departments. Some of the decreases made are in salaries, new hires, dues and conferences, COVID-19 requirements no longer needed at elections, and the budgeted highway dump truck/plow truck that will be paid for through Town Aid Road funds.

It was pointed out by the Finance Director that while the Woodstock EMS Ambulance service budget was cut by \$66,318.00 the EMS budget still reflected an increase of \$32,000.00 over last year's budget. This will allow for additional 2 six hour shifts and salary increases for the current staff.

Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that after allowing for the Proposition 46 allowable increase the proposed General Government budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 is \$5,476.387.00, which is an 0.70% increase from last year's budget.

Selectman Greg Kline was very happy to see that the EMS request will still allow for two additional shifts and he hopes that it will not be necessary to make additional cuts to that department.

Selectman Chandler Paquette asked Board of Finance Chairman Michael Dougherty if the Board of Finance would vote to go to the maximum allowable increase under Proposition 46. Mr. Dougherty stated that he did not know what, if any increase, the Board of Finance would agree to.

Suzanne Woodward asked what the dollar increase from last year's budget to this year's budget was. Mrs. Fitzpatrick stated that the increase was a total of \$177,634.00. The redemption of debt decrease total is \$138,913.00, bringing the total increase for the General Budget to \$38,721.00.

Mr. Dougherty stated that if the Board of Finance agreed to go to the maximum allowable amount under Proposition 46 the mill rate would increase 1.62%, and the taxpayers would not approve a budget with that much of an increase. However, there has not been a mill increase for the last three years and eventually there will need to be an increase. Mr. Dougherty stated that the Town has continued to take funds from the General Fund to help fund the budgets and that this cannot continue.

Greg Kline made a motion to accept the adjustments to the FY 22 Budget to comply with the Proposition 46 allowable increase. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Citizens Comments: Mr. Dougherty thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Office for the hard work that they did on the budget. The Board of Finance and the Finance Director thanked Mr. Dougherty for his words of support.

Mr. Kline asked if these would be the numbers that the Board of Selectmen would present at the Board of Finance meeting on April 13th. Mr. Swan stated that these numbers would be presented to the Board of Finance.

4. Adjournment: Chandler Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 4:32pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Clerk

To see a video of this meeting please click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/3znp8azyzUI>