

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Friday May 12, 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: Karen Fitzpatrick, Finance Director

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 explained that at the May 11, 2021 Special Board of Finance meeting the Board of Finance directed the Selectmen to make deductions of \$16,100.00.

The following cuts have been made to the General Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022:

Health insurance decrease by \$9,100.00

Tree Warden decreased by \$500.00

Tree Removal and Maintenance decreased by \$8,000.00

Highway Contractual Services decreased by \$1,000.00

Coatney Hill Environmental Contractual Services decreased by \$2,000.00

Community Kitchens decreased by \$500.00

Libraries decreased by \$5,000.00

Arboretum decreased by \$1,000.00

This represents a decrease of \$27,100.00 from the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 General Budget.

There has been an adjusted increase to the in the Town Counsel fees of \$11,000.00 (Board of Selectmen by \$7000.00 and Assessor by \$4000.00).

The proposed decreases of \$27,100.00 and the increase of \$11,000.00 represents a \$16,100.00 decrease in the 2021-2022 General Budget. The new 2021-2022 proposed General Budget is \$5,458,287.00.

Selectmen Greg Kline stated that he felt comfortable with the cuts that have been proposed. However, he is disappointed that the Board of Finance required the Board of Education to also make \$16,100.00 in cuts to their budget. He feels that the Board of Finance should have taken that out of the General Fund.

Both Mr. Swan and Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that the Board of Finance is reluctant to continually take money from the General Fund to cover expenses. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that using the General Fund to help fund the budget is depleting the General Fund. Mrs. Fitzpatrick further pointed out that the mil rate has not increased in three years, and unfortunately the mil rate needs to increase in order for the Town and the Board of Education to meet its needs.

Mr. Kline suggested that the Town start a newsletter that will be sent to each household in the Town to inform people of the budgeting process and other events that are occurring in Town. Mr. Paquette respectfully disagreed with Mr. Kline. He pointed out that minutes and agendas are posted on the Town website as well as other information, such as Town Meetings, and other Town events. These are also published on various other social media sites, on WINY Radio and the Woodstock Villager. Mr. Paquette felt that at some point people need to take responsibility to keep themselves informed.

Greg Kline made a motion to accept the cuts to the 2021-2022 budget as presented. **In favor:** Jay Swan, Greg Kline and Chandler Paquette. **Opposed:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Motion passed.**

3. Adjournment: Greg Kline made a motion to adjourn at 4:19pm. **In favor:** Jay Swan, Chandler Paquette and Greg Kline. **Opposed:** None. **Abstentions:** None. **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary

To view the meeting click on the following link : <https://youtu.be/UteUeZCONDA>