

Woodstock Board of Selectmen Minutes

Thursday, February 28, 2024

4:00 pm

Special Meeting in Selectmen Conference Room

1. **Call to order:** First Selectman Jay Swan called meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
 - a. **Present:** First Selectman Jay Swan, Selectman Chandler Paquette, Selectwoman Kate McDonald
 - b. **Others Present:** Finance Director Karen Fitzpatrick, Recreation Director Erin Lucas, Building Official Paul Feige, Michael Dougherty, HR/Office Manager Crystal Adams and Recording Secretary Amy Monahan.
2. **Review and Approve FY 25 General Government Budget to Present to Board of Finance**
 - a. Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the budget after the changes discussed at last meeting were made.
 - i. Reduction of the original requests by \$123,560
 - ii. Results in General Government request of \$5,935,453 which is a total increase of \$289,665 or 5.13%
 - iii. Debt amount is \$519,691 which is less \$54,472 or -9.49% from previous fiscal year
 - iv. Total budget to be presented to the Board of Finance is in the amount of \$6,455,144 which is a 3.78 % increase
 - b. Recreation Director Erin Lucas, Office & Human Resource Manager Crystal Adams and Building Official Paul Feige are here to join the discussion about salary increase rates. These department heads have additional responsibilities and obligations while their current salaries are significantly less than comparable. Karen Fitzpatrick would like the rates for these department heads adjusted to make the salaries more comparable in the current economy.
 - i. Chandler Paquette would have liked to have discussed this at the last meeting with the original salary discussion. He also feels that comparable numbers should be provided to review with this discussion. He would like to have in depth conversations with each department head in executive session before making a decision.
 - ii. Kate McDonald noted that it is difficult to determine increases without yearly reviews. This was her reasoning to agree with across the board increases at the previous meeting.
 - iii. An additional meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 4 pm for further discussion on individual salary increases.
 - c. Karen Fitzpatrick reviewed the adjustments discussed at the February 21, 2024 meeting.
 - d. Jay Swan noted that the town is waiting on AFSCME for times to schedule negotiation discussions.
 - e. Chandler Paquette made ***Motion** to table budget vote until March 6, 2024. ***Seconded** by Kate McDonald. ***The motion passed unanimously.**
 - f. Michael Dougherty noted that the current overall 3.78% increase of the proposed budget leaves money on the table to work with.
3. **Review and Approve Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan ending FY 2029**
 - a. The Selectmen have been distributed the current Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan ending FY 2029 to review.
 - b. Chandler Paquette made a ***Motion** to approve the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan ending FY 2029 in amount of \$11,312,800. ***Seconded** by Kate McDonald. ***The motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Adjournment**
 - a. Kate McDonald made a ***Motion** to adjourn. *** Seconded** by Chandler Paquette. ***The motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

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*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.