

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2018
4:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Fitzpatrick, Roy Chandler, John Navarro, Jordan Stern, Barbara Miller, Seth Spalding, Kevin Withers, David Elliott, Joshua Bottone, Deborah Sherman, Jeffrey Otto, Chuck Kelleher and John DonFrancisco.

1. Call to Order:

First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Mr. Paquette moved to change agenda item #3 Executive Session to item #6, and move agenda item #6 Consider the reappointments of Lisa Davidson and Jean Pillo as Full Members of the Conservation Commission for the Term of May 1, 2018 through March 31, 2023 to agenda item #3. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting and April 11, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting.

Mr. Alberts informed the Board that the minutes for the April 11, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting were approved at the April 19th meeting.

Mr. Olah motioned to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider the Reappointments of Lisa Davidson and Jean Pillo as Full Members of the Conservation Commission for the Term of May 3, 2018 through March 31, 2023.

Lisa Davidson and Jean Pillo were unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Paquette moved to table this item agenda until the May 17, 2018 Regular Selectmen's meeting. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Appointment of Jordan Stern as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term of May 3, 2018 through March 31, 2021.

Mr. Alberts reminded the other Board members that Mr. Stern had originally been considered for an alternate spot on the Conservation Commission. However the Town Clerk's office has received a letter of resignation from Jim Reck, a Full Member of the Commission. Mr. Stern would like to be considered for a full position on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Olah moved to appoint Jordan Stern as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term of May 3, 2018 through March 31, 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Stern for bringing his experience to the Conservation Commission and thanked him for his willingness to serve.

5. Consider the Reappointment of Deborah Sherman as a Full Member of the Housing Authority for the Term of May 3, 2018 through April 30, 2023.

Mr. Paquette moved to appoint Deborah Sherman as a Full Member of the Housing Authority for the Term of May 3, 2018 through April 30, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board of Selectmen thanked Mrs. Sherman for her willingness to continue serving on the Housing Authority.

Mr. Olah moved to move agenda item #8 Discussion with Quinebaug Valley Communications Representatives to agenda item #6, and move Agenda #6 Executive Session to become agenda item #7, and to move agenda item #7 Open Bids for Aggregate, Catch Basins, Equipment Rental and Guardrails for FY 2018-19 to agenda item #8. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Discussion with Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communication Representatives.

Jeffrey Otto, president of the Quinebaug Valley Emergency Communications, Chuck Kelleher and John DonFranciso explained to the Board of Selectmen that QV has been in existence for 44 years dispatching 911 calls to 19 towns and one fire district. The dispatch center recently added the Town of Bozrah, Colchester and Salem. They explained that the more towns that the district covers the more money granted to them from the State of Connecticut.

They feel that their equipment is on par or better than other dispatch systems in the State and that they do have a 5 year plan in place in regards to replacing and updating equipment. In a job that has a high turnover rate they are proud that many of their staff has been there 10 years or more. Many of their staff had at one time been first responders before joining the dispatch center.

In regards to the incident during the March 7, 2018 Nor'easter where a live wire landed on a State DOT truck they explained that many calls regarding live wires falling were received at the call center in quick succession. The dispatch center called in additional staff, but the staff was slow in arriving at the dispatch center due to the road conditions. The dispatcher who handled that particular call admits that he was short on the phone, and after the incident was resolved called the fire chief to apologize.

Members of the Bungay Fire Brigade, the Muddy Brook Fire Brigade and Woodstock's Emergency Management team stated that they were frustrated with the communication between the local fire departments and the dispatch center. Members of the departments complained of "clipping" on the radios and the slow response time in QV responding to their calls. Some members felt that Woodstock was getting less service from QV than other member towns.

The QV representatives acknowledged that there were “dead areas” in the dispatch district, especially in places like Woodstock. Low band radios do work better in places like Woodstock as compared to UHF radios. However, Fire Chief Seth Spalding pointed out that it is very difficult to find low band radios and to find parts for them.

Both QV representatives and the representatives from the fire departments expressed their frustration with Eversource in how quickly they responded to calls of live wires down during a storm event. It was suggested by QV that a complaint should be filed with PURA against Eversource.

David Elliott, Emergency Management coordinator, felt that that the emergency management personnel should report to Eversource and bypass QV, during events when live wires were down.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the QV representatives and the fire department personnel for coming to the meeting.

7. Executive Session (Interview for Potential Building Official Position).

Mr. Paquette moved to enter into Executive Session, at 4:56pm for the purpose of interviewing for potential Building Official position, inviting Highway Foreman John Navarro, Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick, Clerk Christine French, and John LaBossiere to stay. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Paquette moved to come out of executive session at 5:29pm. **No Votes were taken. Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Open Bids for Aggregate, Catch Basins, Equipment Rental and Guardrails for FY 2018-2019.

Mr. Alberts informed the Board of Selectmen that bids were received until 3:45pm.

The Selectmen opened the Aggregate bids received from French River Materials of Thompson LLC, Brooklyn Sand & Gravel LLC and Rawson Materials.

Mr. Paquette moved to accept the bids and submit them to the Public Works Director for his use in selecting materials. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Six bids for the catch basins were opened by the selectmen. Bid results for the catch basins are as follows:

Environmental Services Inc in the amount of \$70.00 per basin,

J. V. III Construction Inc in the amount of \$33.44 per basin,

Truax Corp in the amount of \$17.80 per basin,

Triton Storm Water in the amount of \$21.00 per basin,

American Pipe & Catch Basin Cleaning LLC in the amount of \$26.00 per basin, and

Kropp Environmental Contractor in the amount of \$45.00 per basin.

Mr. Paquette moved to award the bid for Catch Basin Cleaning to Truax Corp based on their satisfactory tract record and their price. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Bids for Equipment Rental were received from SAS Construction, Donny D's Custom Landscaping LLC, Sunbelt Rentals, All States Asphalt Inc, Aeriad Tree & Site Development, Garrity Asphalt Reclaiming Inc, Linden Tree Service Inc, HM & ECOLLC, Pinecroft Paving & Landscape LLC and the Gorman Group LLC.

Mr. Paquette moved to accept the bids and authorize John Navarro to use his discretion to hire accordingly as the need arises. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Two bids for guardrail installation were opened by the Selectmen. The bid results for the installation of guardrails is as follows:

Guide Rite LLC with a bid price of \$11.00 price per foot for installed flex beam guard rail, \$60.00 for each terminal end and \$60.00 for each fishtail end.

Town and Country Bridge and Railing Inc bid \$19.00 per foot installed flex beam guardrail, \$75.00 per each terminal end and \$75.00 per each fishtail end.

Mr. Olah moved to award the bid for guardrail installation to Guide Rite based on their price. **Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Annual Review of Bloodborn Pathogens Policy.

The Board reviewed the policy and confirmed with John Navarro and Christine French where the kits were located at the Town Hall, the Highway Garage, the Transfer Station and the Town Beach.

10. Discussion Regarding Electric Rates:

Mr. Alberts explained that Joni Cullan is still researching different rates, and is waiting for some more information to become available. Mr. Alberts explained that the Town has five different contracts for electricity. Four of these contracts expire in June and one in July. Mr. Alberts believes that the Town will switch to Eversource for a brief period of time. Hopefully by August 1st the Town will switch over to one contract, instead of five. Searching for the best electrical provider will become part of Mrs. Cullan's job.

11. Tax Rebates.

None.

12. Correspondence and Announcements.

Mr. Alberts informed the Board of an email he received from Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick informing him that the final payment for fiscal year 17-18 in the amount of \$2,340,742.00. The

Town of Woodstock has received a total of \$4,669,358.00 for this fiscal year. This is \$324,997.00 over what was expected from the State, for education cost sharing, not overall aid from the State of Connecticut.

The email also stated that the Board of Education has received \$368,124.00 for excess cost in Special Education at this date.

This puts the Town in a more favorable position budget wise and could help offset increases. It is hoped that the Board of Finance will let some of the money be used towards bridge repairs.

A letter was received from the Thames River Basin Partnership in regards to Earth day events.

Mr. Alberts included the minutes for the April 23, 2018 minutes of the Conservation Commission that he has concerns with. His first concern was in that two members whose terms have expired, and who have not yet been reappointed were seated at the meeting as Regular members. Secondly and his biggest concern was the initiative that the Conservation Commission has taken in regards to contacting the State and the abutters of the State DOT salt shed, without consulting the Board of Selectmen in advance of this.

A letter from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be holding a Statewide Emergency Preparedness day on June 20, 2018.

A letter was sent to Matthew Beauregard requesting that he return all Town owned property to Mrs. Cullan no later than May 8th.

The position for a part time clerk in the Selectmen's office has been advertised. One application has been received.

NECOGG met last Thursday. The RFPs for auditing services has been sent. The Regional Planner position is moving forward, but has not been posted. There is a proposal for a Veteran's Human Resource advocate that is being discussed, and Pomfret, Canterbury and Brooklyn have expressed an interest in a shared Assessor. The Transit Authority is waiting for more information from the State of Connecticut before they decide on cutting weekend service. Mr. Alberts expects to sign on for shared engineering services. However if things do not work well with this it can be revisited after a year.

Mr. Alberts met with Woodstock Academy Chris Sandford and Superintendent of Schools Viktor Toth to discuss concerns. Mr. Sandford stated that some of the buildings that the Academy owns will be sold. Highway Foreman John Navarro is helping Woodstock Academy with redesigning their drop off/pick up area on Academy Road and Cemetery Road. The highway department will no longer be mowing the school grounds, due to the lack of resources.

Mr. Alberts discussed turning over the Town Beach to the Recreation Department. He would like to see Crystal Pond Park utilized more by town's people, and to see that it gets to be self-sufficient as stated by the ordinance adopted when the park was purchased.

Mr. Alberts has sent a memo to the employees asking them to use their discretion in using their budgets, hoping that the end of the Fiscal Year will end on a positive note.

Highway Foreman John Navarro stated that he is reluctant to do any bridge projects when the State cannot guarantee that it will reimburse the Town their share of the project.

Mr. Alberts said that no petition in regards to amending Proposition 46 has been received. There has not been word from the Town Attorney whether or not the increase in students at Woodstock Academy would be considered an emergency expenditure under Proposition 46. He suggested that it may be time to bid for legal services, and that if a new attorney is found that this be one of the first things for the attorney to research.

13. Citizens Comments.

Kevin Withers had questions as to why the purchase of the development rights to Valleyside Farm was going to referendum. It was explained to him that the Town's share of the development rights was over \$100,000.00, which automatically means that it must go to referendum.

Mr. Withers asked Mr. Navarro when the Butts Road Bridge would be replaced. Mr. Navarro stated that some of the work had been done, and that he was waiting for Army Corp of Engineers to be able to begin work.

14. Adjournment.

Mr. Olah motioned to adjourn at 6:25pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Clerk