

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2018
4:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Chandler Paquette and Frank Olah

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bottone, Lisa Davidson, Michael Dougherty, Dorothy and Wayne Durst, David Elliott, Marjorie and Peter Ellsworth, Rebecca Hyde, Diane and Paul Miller, Richard Norman, Seth Spalding, Jordan Stern, Judy Walberg, Eric Young and others.

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Selectman Frank Olah made a motion to add 4a Appointment of Executive Assistant and 4b Warn a Special Town Meeting to tonight's agenda. **Motion passed unanimously.**

2. Approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting and May 24, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting and the May 24, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider the Reappointment of Peter Ellsworth as a full member of the WPCA for the term of June 20, 2018 through June 19, 2023.

Peter Ellsworth stated that he handles the finances on the WPCA, and while he is willing to continue to serve on the WPCA he hopes that someone can be found who is willing to take over that duty, before his term ends in 2023. He informed the Board of Selectmen that all of the members of the WPCA are very active and that everyone works together as a team.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to reappoint Peter Ellsworth to the WPCA for the term of June 20, 2018 through June 19, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Reappointment of Lisa Davidson as a full member of the Conservation Commission for the term of June 7, 2018 to March 31, 2023.

Lisa Davidson explained to the Board of Selectmen that she was a member of the New Roxbury Land Trust and is a semi-retired Real Estate Agent. She has enjoyed her term on the Conservation Commission so far, and would like to continue to serve.

Mr. Paquette asked about any projects that the Conservation Commission is currently working on. Ms. Davidson did not wish to answer that question since she has been unable to attend any recent meetings.

Mr. Olah made a motion to reappoint Lisa Davidson to the Conservation Commission for the term of June 7, 2018 to March 31, 2023. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4a. Appointment of Executive Assistant.

It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen that Brenda Cotnoir was the strongest candidate for the Executive Assistant's position. Mr. Alberts stated that the position would be 28 hours and that the salary would be comparable to other Town Hall clerical staff.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to offer the position of Executive Assistant to Brenda Cotnoir. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4b. Warn a Special Town Meeting.

Mr. Alberts informed the Board of Selectmen and the audience that a petition requiring that the Town Hall be open five days a week had been submitted to the Town Clerk's Office on May 29, 2018, with the required amount of signatures.

Mr. Alberts sent the petition to Town Attorney Robert DeCrescenzo asking for a legal opinion as to whether this petition was legitimate and proper. His opinion said that it was in the Board of Selectmen's right to set the Town Hall operating hours, however the Connecticut Supreme Court determined in 2006 that when a Special Town Meeting is called to override a decision made by the Selectmen the Board has no discretion but to call a Special Town Meeting, if a petition is received.

Because Mr. Alberts felt that the opinion was contradictory he reached out to another attorney for an opinion. That attorney agreed with the Town Attorney's opinion.

It was decided by the Board of Selectmen to adjourn this meeting to referendum. After discussing the time line for which the Town Meeting and the Referendum needed to be held with Town Clerk Judy Walberg Mr. Olah moved the following:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF WOODSTOCK
JUNE 18, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.**

1. "To consider and act on the following Resolution, as submitted by petition dated May 29, 2018:

Working within the approved budget for fiscal year 2018-2019, the Woodstock Town Hall will continue to be open five days a week."

2. To adjourn

Please Note: Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Woodstock Board of Selectmen have on their own initiative removed the foregoing Item #1 for submission to the voters of the Town of Woodstock by referendum to be held on June 25, 2018 from 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM at the Woodstock Town Hall. A vote of "Yes" is a vote to adopt the resolution; a vote of "No" is to reject the

resolution. Absentee ballots will be available at the Office of the Town Clerk during regular business hours beginning June 19, 2018.

Dated at Woodstock, Connecticut, this 7th day of June, 2018.

Michael L. Alberts, First Selectman, Chandler Paquette, Selectman, Frank Olah, Selectman

Attest: Judy E. Walberg, Town Clerk

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discuss Forming a Committee to Consider Possible Amendments to Town Farm Ordinances.

Mr. Alberts stated that the Assessor had approached him with his concerns that some of the Town Ordinances regarding farming need to be updated to reflect the changes in farming practices since some of these ordinances had been enacted. It was the consensus of the Board to form a committee, including members of the Agriculture Commission, to study these ordinances to see if changes need to be made to them.

Mr. Paquette suggested that the State may have some guidelines to help with this. Mr. Alberts volunteered to coordinate a meeting of the Agricultural Committee with the Selectmen in attendance. The Selectmen's office will contact CCM to see if there were any draft ordinances they could provide.

6. Discussion with Fire Chiefs re: QVEC.

Roy Chandler, chief of the Bungay Fire Brigade was not able to attend this afternoon's meeting, but he sent a communication to the Board of Selectmen restating his concerns with the dispatch services from QVEC. Emergency Management Officer David Elliott and Deputy Emergency Management Officer Joshua Bottone also expressed their concerns with the Board of the Selectmen.

Seth Spalding the Chief of Muddy Brook Fire Department stated that he has not had the same issues with QVEC that the Bungay Brigade has experienced. He did express that he did have concerns after listening to the presentation held at the May 3, 2018 meeting. He did inform the Board that his membership had voted to stay with QVEC.

Eric Young, fire chief of Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department, said that while he is new to his position he had not heard of any problems with QVEC, and that his membership had also voted to remain with QVEC.

Representatives from the Tolland Emergency Dispatch explained to the Board of Selectmen that they understand that it is sometimes hard to predict staffing due to a weather event. However they do have real-time weather station radar at the dispatch center. The dispatch center has a robust, dedicated staff. The staff can respond very quickly when needed.

After discussion the Board of Selectmen decided to tour both QVEC and the Tolland facility. They will also meet with the fire chiefs and the Emergency Management team.

7. Tax Rebates.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the following tax rebates to Toyota Lease Trust in the amount of \$295.92 and to Ryan and Michelle Salvas in the amount of \$348.94 due to a property adjustment made by the Assessor. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Correspondence and Announcements.

Mr. Alberts announced that the position of the Building Official has been made to Paul Feige, and that he has verbally accepted the position. Mr. Feige will begin on July 1st, 2018. His hours are tentatively Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Mr. Alberts has corresponded with Headmaster Chris Sanford in regards to the tennis courts located at the Woodstock Middle School. Woodstock Academy is in need of more tennis courts and there is not enough room to add tennis courts at Bentley Field and the cost would be prohibitive. Mr. Sanford was wondering if there could be some sort of agreement between the Town and Woodstock Academy for use of the courts at the middle school. Mr. Alberts has met with the Recreation Director for a preliminary discussion. The potential lease agreement would stipulate that Woodstock Academy maintain the courts and perhaps provide security. The middle school and the public would still be able to use the courts. At this point it looks as if the only expense that the Town would incur would be for fencing which Mr. Alberts believes the Town has purchased.

Highway Foreman John Navarro has received the go ahead from the State of Connecticut to replace the bridges on Peake Brook Road and Hopkins Road for a minimal expense to the Town. It was thought best by the Board of Selectmen to contact CME Engineering for engineering services.

The Zoning Official position has been offered to Tina Lajoie, who has accepted. This position will give Ms. Lajoie an additional six hours per week, at her current rate of pay. Planning & Zoning Chairman Jeffrey Gordon has been informed of the hire and the new constraints involving the Zoning Official position.

The Inland-Wetlands Enforcement Agent position still needs to be addressed.

A letter was received from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Troop D appraising the Selectmen of the 119 calls for police services for the month of May, and for the motor vehicle enforcement conducted by State Troopers.

The 2018-2019 Work Plan and Budget for NECCOG has been received. NECCOG is looking into purchasing the building where NECCOG is located from the Town of Killingly. NECCOG reported that they have received word from the State of Connecticut that the deficit in the State's

budget is currently \$700,000,000.00. It was thought best to move quickly on repairing the bridges before the money disappears.

NECCOG also sent a report on the estimated Town Aid from the State as of May 15, 2018, and a report of Major Public Acts for the 2018 legislative session.

Mr. Paquette stated that he has been in contact with Jeffrey Stefanik about the situation on Bull Hill Road. Mr. Stefanik referenced a map that was filed in 1994 when a driveway was installed. It states that the public Right of Way was 0.54 miles from the intersection of Senexet Road which is where the proposed driveway is located. However if the driveway was not put in the spot indicated on the map it could throw off the measurement. The easiest and most cost effective way to resolve this problem is to check it with an odometer. Another option is to check it with GPS and tie it into the recent A2 survey done by the Wyndham Land Trust. It was decided to discuss these options at a later meeting.

Mr. Olah stated that he thought it would a great idea if a member of the Board of Selectmen could attend business openings. He volunteered to attend as many as he could.

Mr. Olah also reported that he had attended the recent Economic Development Commission meeting, and that the commission is moving along with their program that celebrates Woodstock businesses, farms and other groups.

Mr. Alberts has received correspondence from Gregory Kline suggesting that Woodstock Academy take \$200.00 off the tuition bill for each Woodstock student attending Woodstock Academy. When Mr. Alberts presented Mr. Kline's idea to Headmaster Sandford, Mr. Sandford stated that if that happened the cost would have to be added to the tuition bills of the other sending towns.

9. Citizens Comments.

Paul Miller thanked the Board of Selectmen for including the Agricultural Commission in evaluating any changes made to the farm ordinances.

Mr. Miller asked the Board if they were aware of the bridge project on Route 44, directing traffic down Route 169 into Woodstock. Mr. Miller is concerned about wide loads making the corner at the intersection of Route 169 and Route 171. The Board has not been notified from the State about this.

Jordan Stern asked why the selectmen selected Friday as the day when the Town Hall would be closed, and not on Monday. The Board explained that since Friday was the shortest scheduled work day of the week, Friday would have the least impact. The Board also wants to keep the rest of the hours at the Town Hall consistent. Also there are contractual issues regarding Monday holidays.

Mr. Stern asked why the Board decided to adjourn the Special Town Meeting to referendum. The Board explained that a referendum will allow more people the opportunity to vote, and to allow people the chance to vote by absentee ballot if they were going to be away on the day of the Referendum.

Marjorie Ellsworth asked why it was decided to close the Town Hall one day a week. Mr. Alberts explained that one of the reasons was for budgetary concerns. He also explained that the Town Hall was being used differently at present, now that it was possible for people to do much of their business electronically.

Christine French asked what the cameras at the traffic light at the intersection of Routes 171 and 169 and Stone Bridge Road were for. Fire Chief Eric Young explained that it was so that the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation could control the lights from their office during times of heavy traffic.

10. Adjournment.

Mr. Alberts made a motion to adjourn at 5:33pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Clerk