

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 19, 2018
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Fitzpatrick, David Fortin, Michael Dougherty, State Trooper Al Gosselin and State Trooper Lieutenant John A. Aiello

1. Call to Order: First Selectmen Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the July 5, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Selectmen Frank Olah pointed out a spelling error under Item 5. Correspondence and Announcements, in the third paragraph the first word should be spelled "Ads" not "Adds".

Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Presentation by State Police-State Troop D Representatives regarding a Resident State Trooper Program

Mr. Alberts explained to the audience that it has been approximately 15 years since the Town has looked at the Resident State Trooper program. Since then a lot has changed with the program, and it was thought that it was a good time to look at the program again.

Trooper Gosselin and Lt. Aiello explained the Resident State Trooper program to the audience. While the Resident State Trooper may not be a Woodstock resident, the Trooper would be dedicated to Woodstock. If Woodstock decided to have a Resident State Trooper the program would be tailored to the needs of Woodstock. The Trooper's shifts could also be tailored to fit when the greatest need would be, and could be changed as needed. The Trooper would have access to all of the Connecticut State Police services, and be able to call upon additional Troopers if the need arises. When the Resident State Trooper is not on duty, Woodstock would still have access to a State Trooper from Troop D.

Other benefits of the Resident State Trooper program would be quicker response time to calls, a familiar face in the community and in the schools. The Trooper would also be able to write and administer grants.

At the moment the Town of Woodstock would be responsible for 85% of the cost for the Trooper. The State of Connecticut would contribute the other 15%. The Town would also need to provide a secure office for the Trooper. Trooper Gosselin stated that the total maximum potential cost to the Town would be \$187,810.10. Based on approximately 3,582 households the

cost would be \$52.43 per household for the year, or based on an approximate population of 7,860 the cost would be \$23.89 per person for the year.

After answering questions from the Board of Selectmen and the audience, the Board of Selectmen decided to hold a Public Hearing on this issue at a later date.

4. Update on NECCOG (Selectmen Frank Olah)

Selectman Frank Olah attended the June 22, 2018 meeting. He stated that at the Selectmen's Round Table there was a discussion on the perceived communication issues between the public and Animal Control, QVEC services, the lack of volunteers to staff local fire departments and EMS crews, gypsy moths and the possibility of crumbling foundations found in the Town of Killingly.

5. Discussion on Board of Selectmen's Meeting Attendance Policy

First Selectmen Alberts asked Town Clerk Judy Walberg to investigate whether or not Board members could attend meetings by conference call or facetime. FOI replied that as long as the person attending these meetings by some form of telecommunications were clearly identified to all in attendance and that the audio was understandable to all than it was fine to do this.

However, Mr. Alberts was concerned that if this was allowed to be done with Boards and Commissions that had alternate members that alternate members may never be seated if full-members could attend by this method.

It was decided to table this to a later date.

6. Tax Rebates

None.

7. Correspondence and Announcements

Permission has been granted to the Woodstock Agricultural Society for the following during the Woodstock Fair: the use of the Town Hall for emergency parking, to operate golf carts on North Gate Road, for North Gate Road to be one way during the Fair, and to place signs on Town property in August, to be taken down after the Fair.

Mr. Olah asked when the Town Hall Parking lot work would be done. Mr. Alberts stated that he was not sure when that would begin.

A Timber Harvest Report has been received from Julius Pasay in regards to the Quarry Road project. The Conservation Commission is very happy with the work done. Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick reported that the Town netted less than \$16,000.00 from the timber harvest.

A monthly incident report for the month of May has been received from NECCOG Animal Services.

Mr. Olah asked about a policy in regards to out-of-town guests speaking at Board of Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Alberts stated that he will be more forceful in stopping people from speaking for too long.

A Memorandum of Agreement with AFSCME has been signed in regards to the shorten work hours at the Town Hall. The Selectmen's Office will be opened from 7:00am to 10:00am, and the Tax Collector's office will be open during those hours in July and January. This was approved in the budget.

8. Citizens Comments

Michael Dougherty stated that NECCOG was studying how to make EMS services more efficient. NECCOG hired a firm from Pennsylvania to perform the study, which was not of any help. He is hoping that NECCOG will perform another study, hopefully with a firm who is familiar with Connecticut.

Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick is looking for a way to streamline processing time cards and paying bills. She will run all new ideas past the Auditor before bringing new ideas forward.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick also stated that while she is waiting for a few more bills from last fiscal year to arrive it appears that the budget surplus will be \$250,000.00.

Mr. Alberts will be going on WINY radio to discuss the budget and the Resident State Trooper program.

Mr. Olah would like to develop some form of calendar to help focus on projects that need to get done. Mr. Alberts suggested that this might be something to be looked into at a later date.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Olah made a motion to adjourn at 8:49pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Clerk

