

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, September 20, 2018
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts and Chandler Paquette

EXCUSED ABSENT: Frank Olah

OTHERS PRESENT: Dorothy Durst and Diane Miller at 7:00pm. Joseph Adiletta and Gail Dickinson after Planning and Zoning Commission adjourned their meeting at 7:52pm.

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

2. Approve Revised Minutes of the August 22, 2018 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Mr. Alberts pointed out that the rate for electricity should be **0.08930** and not 0.8930.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the revised minutes of the Special August 22 meeting to reflect the correction of the electricity rates from 0.8930 to 0.08930.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Accept the Resignation of Joseph F. McGrady as Woodstock's Chief Constable. Joseph McGrady has sent in his resignation as Chief Constable effective September 24, 2018. Mr. McGrady has highly recommended Jay Swan to be his successor.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to accept Joseph McGrady's resignation as Chief Constable with regret. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion on Going Out to Bid for Town Legal Services: Mr. Alberts stated that the last time the Town went out to bid for a Town Attorney was in 2005. Mr. Alberts explained that it is often hard to get timely answers from the current Town Attorney. Attorney Richard Roberts, of the law firm Halloran & Sage has recently helped the Town with legal services, and he has answered questions very quickly and is \$50.00 per hour less than the Town's current Town Attorney.

Mr. Paquette made a motion that the Board of Selectmen's office produce an RFP for legal services. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Discussion on Opportunity to Create One Recording Secretary Position to Serve Woodstock Boards and Commissions: Mr. Alberts stated that it has been hard to find recording secretaries for Boards and Commissions. He feels that if the position was advertised for one recording secretary to do the minutes for the Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen, Inland-Wetland & Watercourses Agency and Planning and Zoning they may be able to attract more applicants. The position would pay around \$21.00 to \$23.00 an hour, and be apart-time,

non-union position. An advertisement for this position will appear in next week's Shopper's Guide.

6. Discussion on Woodstock Planning and Zoning Commission letter to Town Attorney on; What Liability is There to the Commission if a Staff Person to be Provided by Town Hall is not Available to Take the Commission's Meeting Minutes: Mr. Alberts stated that Chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission Jeffrey Gordon wrote the Town Attorney Robert Decrescenzo asking what liability there is to the Commission if a staff person to be provided by Town Hall is not available to take the Commission's meeting minutes. Mr. Alberts pointed out that Boards and Commissions cannot contact the Town Attorney, but must go through the Board of Selectmen's office to do so.

Mrs. Durst, a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission recalls the motion made at that meeting as being different. She believes that it concerned what was the liability of the Town and the Commission if no meeting minutes were posted for a meeting.

Mr. Alberts hopes that with the new recording secretary position that this will no longer be an issue.

7. Tax Rebates: Mr. Paquette moved the following tax rebates:

- Tax rebate to Honda Lease Trust in the amount of \$88.31;
- A tax rebate to Ally Financial in the amount of \$139.41;
- A tax rebate to Ally Financial in the amount of \$266.44;
- A tax rebate to Wells Fargo Real Estate Services in the amount of \$610.05;
- A tax rebate to JP Morgan Chase Bank in the amount of \$374.37,
- And a tax rebate to Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service in the amount of \$616.63.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Correspondence and Announcements:

Mr. Alberts requested information from CCM regarding the cost of a Resident State Trooper with populations similar to Woodstock. The information provided showed that the cost was higher than what the presentation had stated that it would be. This information will be taken into consideration at future meetings.

Karen Olah has sent in her letter of resignation from the Economic Development Commission.

The Town Clerk has sent in a report of receipts for the month of August 2018, comparing it to the month of August 2017.

Jennifer Larkin, director of the Day Camp at Crystal Pond is retiring after 15 years of service. Mr. Alberts has spoken to Chris Mayhew, chairman of the Crystal Pond Park Commission about a replacement. There will an advertisement for this position placed in the Shopper's Guide in the near future.

Chris Mayhew also informed both Woodstock and Eastford that the Yale School of Forestry has finished a forestry management plan. The Commission is now deciding on whether or not to move forward with a timber harvest. Mr. Mayhew would like to meet with both Boards of Selectmen and other interested commissions to discuss this in the future.

Fire Marshall Richard Baron sent in his report on inspections at the Woodstock Fair.

Woodstock Academy Head of School Chris Sandford sent a letter thanking the Highway Department their help with drainage work and tree and stump removal along the new wall in front of Woodstock Academy.

The Historic Properties Commission and the State Historic Preservation Office will hold a regional workshop in regards to a Historic Homes Rehabilitation Credit Program at the Town Hall on September 24, at 6:00pm.

Fire Marshall Richard Baron sent a letter commending the response from the QV Dispatch and the local fire departments in response to a house fire on Green Road.

Work on the Town Hall parking lot continues, but has been delayed due to the large amount of rain that we have been getting. Rain has also come into the basement storage room and by the Building Office.

Katie Healy will begin working in the Tax Collector's office on Monday, September 24th.

Joni Cullan will give a presentation on an automatic payroll system. This new system would make the payroll process much more streamlined and save a great deal of time.

Mr. Alberts had a meeting with Chris Sandford in regards to the tennis court lease. Leasing the tennis courts may not work. Mr. Sandford is going to look into receiving donations from private donors to help with repairs to the court. It is hoped that eventually this area of Town could become some sort of recreation complex with the soccer fields, baseball field, the tennis courts and the new playground at the Middle School.

Mr. Alberts mailed a letter to QV Dispatch. He spoke with Jeff Otto and Mr. Otto said that NECCOG had done an Emergency Services study in the past. Mr. Otto stated that not many towns participated in the study. Mr. Alberts heard that the request for a copy of a tape from QV Dispatch regarding an incident that concerned David Elliott was denied.

Building Inspector Paul Feige would like to have a meeting with the Selectmen to discuss some of his concerns with the Building Department. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 3rd or 4th.

The Board of Finance approved the transfer of excess funds to the bridge projects. Mr. Alberts also mentioned adding a position for a part-time ZEO/Wetlands agent in next year's budget to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Paquette would like an advertisement placed in the Shopper's Guide for poll workers and moderators.

Gravestones from the Bradford-Marcy Cemetery have been removed from the basement of the former sexton. They are currently at the Highway Garage salt shed. Mr. Paquette plans to speak to Mr. Stachiw about what to do with these stones.

9. Citizens Comments:

There was much discussion with the members of the Planning & Zoning Commission in regards to the lack of a minute taker for the last several months. Mr. Alberts explained to the members that an advertisement will be placed in the Shopper's Guide for a recording secretary.

Mr. Joseph Adiletta requested that a legal opinion be asked of an attorney if an audio of a meeting would be a sufficient record of a meeting until the minutes could be transcribed by a recording clerk. Mr. Alberts said that he would contact Attorney Roberts and inform Mr. Gordon of the answer.

Mrs. Diane Miller reminded everybody that Celebrate Agriculture was on Saturday.

10. Adjournment:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk