

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, October 18, 2018
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Crystal Adams, Megan Bard Morse, Beach Baywood, Lisa Davidson, Jeff Davis, Michael Dougherty, Karen Fitzpatrick, David Fortin, Grace Jacobson, Carlos & Monique Maldonado, Diane Miller, Debra & Roy Morin, Stew Morse, John Navarro, Cristine Waldron, Lee Wesler, Kevin Withers and WINY Reporter.

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

2. Approve Minutes of the October 4, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of October 18, 2018 as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Accept the Resignation of Richard Kryzak as Woodstock's Town Assessor:

Mr. Alberts announced that Assessor Richard Kryzak has submitted his resignation from his position as Assessor to be effective November 2, 2018.

Selectmen Frank Olah moved to accept the resignation of Richard Kryzak with regrets and thanks for his service to the Town of Woodstock. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion on No Smoking Rule at the Town Beach:

Crystal Adams explained to the Board of Selectmen and the audience that a citizen had approached her about smoking at the Town Beach. She stated that she had researched this issue and that other Town's do have policies against smoking on Town owned property.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to ban smoking at the Town Beach. Mr. Olah asked to add to the motion that the Town Constables enforce this regulation at the Town Beach.

Mr. Paquette amended his motion to ban smoking at the Town Beach, with the Town Constables providing enforcement of the regulation. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Discussion on State Salt Shed Contamination:

Lisa Davis, a member of the Woodstock Conservation Commission explained that the wells of at least six homes, in the vicinity of the State Salt Shed have been contaminated with sodium and chloride. This situation has been occurring for four years, if not longer. Some residents affected

by this recently came before the Conservation Commission asking for help solving this problem. The State may replace the wells of the contaminated homes, but depending on how polluted the aquifer is this may not solve the problem. The homeowners are also concerned that if they put a claim into their homeowners insurance that the insurance company will drop them or raise their rates.

Roy and Debra Morin spoke of their frustration of seeing the valuation of their home decrease but not seeing the assessment of their home reflect that devaluation. They have had to replace water heaters and other appliances on just about an annual basis. The State has agreed to replace their well.

Carlos and Monique Maldonado added that they too have had similar problems as the Morins. They have corroded pipes, lost appliances, have had pets die due to drinking the water before they were aware of the problem, and they cannot water their plants with the water. In order to shower they need to go to friends or relatives and to the laundromat to wash clothes. The Maldonado family can only use their water for flushing the toilet. They feel that the State should drill them a new well and replace the corroded pipes.

The Board of Selectmen promised that they will exert pressure on the State Representative and the State Senator after the election to resolve this problem. Also, once the Town has hired a new attorney they will have the attorney look for ways to get this situation settled with the State. The Board suggested that the homeowners go before the Board of Assessment Appeals in regard to their assessments.

6. Discussion on Bridge Financing:

Highway Foreman John Navarro stated that there are four bridges in the Local Bridge Project Phase 1. The County Road Bridge will not be included in the program but is included in the project. The Town has applied for STEAP grants in the past, however last year the STEAP grant money was withheld by the State. If the Town was awarded a STEAP grant there would be more permitting and engineering required. If the money came from the Local Bridge Project fund there would be less permitting and engineering requirements.

Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick stated that she has reached out to the Town's financial advisor for advice on whether the Town should bond this project out or do a BAN. The financial advisor thought that a BAN seemed to be the most cost effective way to handle this project.

Chairman of the Board of Finance Michael Dougherty agreed with Mrs. Fitzpatrick. He stated that when this project was brought to the Townspeople that the dollar figure should include a contingency fund.

It was decided that when more information has been received as to the cost of this project they will meet with the bond counsel to decide how to finance this project.

7. Discussion on Changes to the 2019 Transfer Station Regulations:

Mr. Alberts stated that the current Transfer Station Regulations and a survey of fees in surrounding Towns were in the Board of Selectmen's packet. He asked the other Selectmen to review the regulations for discussion at a future meeting.

Highway Foreman John Navarro stated that the cost of the Transfer Station sticker is the highest in the region. He further stated that he asked the Transfer Station employees and the Town Clerk's Office if they had any concerns with any of the current regulations or fees. Both groups felt that things were going good. He did state that the hauling fees were increasing, but he thought that there was enough to cover this increase in the budget. He informed the Selectmen that if the fees were increased much more, it may be prudent to look into curbside pickup.

Mr. Olah pointed out that the Town Hall hours need to be changed to reflect the Friday closure.

8. Tax Rebates:

Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the following tax rebate to Todd R. Anderson in the amount of \$42.00. **Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Correspondence and Announcements:

Mr. Alberts asked Mr. Navarro if he had had any notification from the State DOT when the State will be beginning the work on Route 169. Mr. Navarro said that he believed that they were going to start on Monday, October 22, 2018.

Mr. Navarro stated that he hoped to start work on the side parking lot next week. He is working with his contractor to have the binding coat installed over a weekend, as well as the top coat. If the weather report is for rain on Election Day he will wait until after Election Day to start digging up the parking lot. He hopes to have the top coat on the parking lot by the time cold weather arrives. If not the binding coat will be sufficient for winter, though the plows will need to be cautious of the storm drains.

Frank Olah included an email from Adam Bottone who is conducting Fire Technology Class at Woodstock Academy in the hopes that it will interest students in becoming first responders. So far it has been very well received by the students.

Mr. Alberts included the legal notices published in the Hartford Courant and the Norwich Bulletin for legal services for the Town.

An incident report for the month of September 2018 was received from Troop D.

A thank you letter from the Community Kitchens of Northeastern Connecticut Inc was received thanking the Town for its continued support. Mr. Olah asked Mrs. Fitzpatrick if the money that the Town had budgeted to this group had been sent. Mrs. Fitzpatrick said she would check on this.

At letter from NECCOG concerning the lack of certified Registrar of Voters in the area was received. This is not currently an issue Woodstock is facing.

10. Citizen's Comments:

Beach Baywood, a member of the Crystal Pond Park Commission, wondered if the No Smoking Policy at the Town Beach included Crystal Pond Park. While she did not want to speak for the other members of the commission, she pointed out that the people rented the facilities, and was not sure how a No Smoking Ban would affect that facility. Mr. Alberts assured her that the policy was just for the Town Beach.

Mr. Olah was grateful to be included on the recent staff meeting. He would like to see the situation resolved in the Assessor's office quickly. Mr. Alberts stated that one application for an interim assessor has been received.

Mr. Olah asked if it would be feasible to put speed bumps at the intersections of the Bungay Hill Connector. Mr. Alberts and Mr. Paquette were both opposed to this idea, stating that plow drivers do not like speed bumps and the possibility that cars may bottom out on them.

Mrs. Fitzpatrick suggested a crosswalk there until the situation can be resolved. Mr. Alberts stated that he would see if this is something that could be done.

Stewart Morse strongly suggested that the Town reinstate opening the Town Beach again. This is something that current Board of Selectmen has the power to do.

Mr. Morse reminded the Board that he had sat on the Transfer Station Committee to study the fees at the Transfer Station years ago. It was found that the cost of running the Transfer Station was not as great as it had been thought.

Mr. Morse also urged the Board to get the EPA involved in solving the situation of the contaminated water supply near the State Salt Shed. He feels that the State should be on the same level as other entities. He wants the Board of Selectmen to take the lead in this situation.

Michael Dougherty announced that there would be a Tri Board meeting held on October 27, 2018, however he was not sure where it would be held, since Room 1 was booked for a baby sitter's class. Megan Bard Morse suggested that he talk to Viktor Toth about having it at the Woodstock Middle School.

Mr. Dougherty also agrees with Mr. Morse in regards to the water problem. The decrease in the effected homes valuation could end up hurting the whole town. The State created this problem, and the State needs to resolve it.

10. Adjournment:

Michael Alberts made a motion to adjourn at 8:52pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk