

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: First Selectman Michael Alberts, Selectman Frank Olah, and Selectman Chandler Paquette

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Dougherty, Karen Fitzpatrick, Joni Cullan, Harold Bishops, William Rewinski, Phil Violette, John Navarro, WINY Reporter Hallie Leo, Donna Adiletta, Recording Secretary Terri Lasota, (and 2 others)

1. Call to Order:

M. Alberts called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

2. Approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:

C. Paquette **MOTIONED** to **APPROVE** the Minutes of the November 15, 2018;

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Meet with Karen Fitzpatrick Regarding Budget for Personnel Enhancements

M. Alberts talked about recent discussions with the Board of Finance regarding adjustments in the hours of staff and building official, and what would best serve the Town of Woodstock. K. Fitzpatrick and M. Alberts agreed that the necessary adjustments could all be handled from within the departments budgets, but they would be over expenditures authorized to be made by the BOF and be addressed later in the year.

M. Alberts noted the three personnel enhancement items discussed:

1st, increase the building official's hours 3 hours per week effective 01/01/2019 and provide a \$1.00 per hour increase;

2nd, provide \$2.00 per hour of additional compensation for the 6 hours weekly dedicated as ZEO by T. Lajoie; M. Alberts noted that compensation stipulation in place for union members does not apply for ZEO or Inland Wetlands responsibilities but allows conformance with the current terms;

3rd, BOS to consider providing assistance to the Building Department by the Assistant Town Clerk from within the Assistant Clerk's currently scheduled hours, coordinated by the Building and Clerk's offices on an as-needed basis for the time being.

M. Alberts felt this was a constructive way to provide support to the Building Department while working within the existing budget.

F. Olah **MOTIONED** to **APPROVE** the Personnel Enhancements as presented;

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Consider the Re-appointment of William Rewinski as a Full Member of the Inland Wetlands for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023

C. Paquette **MOTIONED** to **APPROVE** the Re-appointment of William Rewinski as a Full Member of the Inland Wetlands for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023; **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. Consider the Re-appointment of Harold Bishop as an Alternate Member of the Historic Properties Commission for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023

C. Paquette **MOTIONED** to **APPROVE** the Re-appointment of Harold Bishop as an Alternate Member of the Historic Properties Commission for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2023;

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Consider the Re-appointment of Phil Violette as a Full Member of the Economic Development Commission for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021

M. Alberts and P. Violette briefly discussed Crabtree Evelyn's closing and the economic impact it has on Woodstock, and reaching out to future business possibilities. P. Violette also mentioned plans for community awareness in what Woodstock has to offer, cross promoting and networking. F. Olah noted this commission had member opening that needed to be filled; M. Alberts said he would follow up with an advertisement for these openings.

C. Paquette **MOTIONED to APPROVE** the Re-appointment of Phil Violette as a Full Member of the Economic Development Commission for the Term of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Consider revising 2019 Transfer Station Fee for Sofas/Sleeper Sofas (if springs are removed) from \$6.00 to \$10.00

J. Navarro commented that bulky waste was the transfer station's greatest costs.

F. Olah **MOTIONED to APPROVE** revising 2019 Transfer Station Fee for Sofas/Sleeper Sofas (if springs are removed) from \$6.00 to \$10.00; **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

AGENDA ITEMS #9-13 WERE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ITEM #8 EXECUTIVE SESSION

8. Executive Session 4:30 pm (Possible Litigation):

M. Alberts, F. Olah, C. Paquette, J. Cullan, K. Fitzpatrick, and M. Dougherty
The Regular Meeting resumed at 5:01pm; C. Paquette was excused.

9. Appointment of Town Attorney:

M. Alberts talked about the positive feedback received from the towns of Putman and Preston regarding Rich Roberts and Halloran & Sage LLP.

C. Paquette **MOTIONED to APPROVE** the Appointment of Rich Roberts of Halloran & Sage LLP as Town Attorney;
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Review General Government Purchase Policy Relating to CME Engineering Services: TABLED

11. Discussion on Follow Up Topics: TABLED

12. Tax Rebates:

Vault Trust in the amount of \$386.59

Vault Trust in the amount of \$450.06

Hyundai Lease Titling Trust in the amount of \$57.57

F. Olah **MOTIONED to APPROVE** the Tax Rebates as presented; **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

13. Correspondence and Announcements:

M. Alberts briefly talked about the Woodstock DOT salt storage and contamination issue and correspondence received from Adam Fox with the help of State Rep. Pat Boyd.

M. Alberts also noted the E-911 funding challenges and the 250% increase over present expenses, correspondence by State Rep. Pat Boyd in support of revising OSET Proposal PR2017-019, and QV911's response.

Also mentioned was discussion at the recent Tri-Board meeting regarding Woodstock Academy's proposed \$500.00 per pupil capital expense increase and tuition increases, staff health insurance increases, and salary increases.

M. Alberts said all selectmen should attend the December 11, 2018 Board of Finance meeting as auditors will be

providing briefings on their findings and particularly recommendations on WPCA.

Resignation were received from Marilyn Pomeroy of the Arboretum Committee, Wayne Durst of IWWC, and Sarah Sanderson of the Economic Development Commission.

A letter drafted by the CPP Commission to the Division of Water and Planning Management regarding the Trout Pond Dam at Crystal Pond Park and possible State funding was briefly discussed.

A letter of thanks was received from TEEG for the contribution of 243 non-perishable food items.

M. Alberts commented on the process needed for the BOS to rescind the Witches Woods Boat Ordinance which includes a Town meeting and vote.

A formal first notification letter from the Connecticut Dept. of Labor regarding the closing of Crabtree & Evelyn was noted.

Emily Carlone's memorandum regarding the impact on the closing of Crabtree & Evelyn stated \$88,000.00 in personal property taxes would no longer be collected as of July 2020.

14. Citizen's Comments:

Donna Adiletta talked about 2 line items in the Open Space budget, an acquisition fund and an operating fund, and have previously always budgeted enough to have one appraisal done due to a State request. The Open Space Committee had to put the work operating fund back into the general fund every year and because of that the Committee decided not to fund the operating fund enough to do appraisals each year since they were losing money in the acquisition fund and explained this to the State. D. Adiletta said the State recently asked if the Committee would do 2 appraisals on an upcoming project in lieu of the Town's 25%; she added they have NRC money that needs to be spent. This would mean \$175,000 to \$195,000 for the Town's share, but a way to pay for the appraisals needs to be determined. The appraisal cost of approximately \$11,000 could be put in next year's budget request and if approved would not be available until July, however the State would like to wrap this up before the end of December 2019.

M. Dougherty said the BOF does not typically act on an item the same night as proposed, but due to the time sensitivity and potential savings, as long as there is BOS approval it may be possible for BOF to approve the transfer of funds from the Open Space acquisition fund to the operation fund. M. Dougherty and D. Adiletta discussed the legalities. D. Adiletta asked about covering the funds from a CNR account or an advance on allowance. M. Alberts noted that advances from a CNR account need to be approved by a town meeting. M. Dougherty commented that if the money came from the contingency fund there would be no need for a Town meeting. D. Adiletta suggested the request be worded in such a way allowing the BOF to determine the most prudent and fiscally responsible way to address this.

F. Olah **MOTIONED** to support the request of up to \$11,000 by the Open Space Committee to the Board of Finance, with the BOF to determine how to apply the funding. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

15. Other From Committee: Tabled

16. Adjournment

M. Alberts **MOTIONED** to **ADJOURN**; **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Terri Lasota, Recording Secretary

DISCLAIMER: These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen.
Please refer to next month's minutes for approval/amendments.