

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 17, 2019
7:00pm – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Megan Bard Morse, Joshua Bottone, Marie Chamberlin, David Elliott, Karen Fitzpatrick, Roger Gale, Paul and Diane Miller, and Kevin Withers

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

2. Approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2018 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Mr. Alberts stated that the tax refund that was approved at the December 20, 2018 meeting should be \$21.32 not \$21.23.

Selectman Frank Olah made a motion to approve the amended minutes for the December 20, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Approve the Minutes of the January 3, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. **In Favor:** Mr. Alberts and Mr. Paquette. **Opposed:** None. **Abstains:** Mr. Olah. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Appointment of Marie Chamberlin as a Full Member of the Recreation Commission for the Term of January 17, 2019 through November 19, 2019.

Ms. Chamberlin explained to the Board of Selectmen that she had moved to Woodstock in 2008 or 2009, and that her family had been involved in several Recreation programs. She would now like to give back to the community, and become a member of the Recreation Commission.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to appoint Marie Chamberlin as a member of the Recreation Commission for the Term of January 17, 2019 through November 19, 2019. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider the re-appointment of Josh Bottone as Deputy Emergency Management Director

David Elliott, Emergency Management Director, explained that he and Josh Bottone have a good working relationship, with each other and with other local Emergency Management directors. They are looking into the current Emergency Management Plan.

Mr. Olah asked if there is a plan in place to help people who need oxygen when there is a power outage. Mr. Bottone and Mr. Elliott assured the Board of Selectmen that there are regional shelters for people. If someone is oxygen dependent that person is brought to the hospital. Mr. Elliott stated that he posts notices on the Emergency Management Facebook page and on other Woodstock related Facebook pages.

Mr. Paquette thanked Mr. Elliott and Mr. Bottone for the hard work they have put into their volunteer position.

Mr. Olah made a motion to re-appoint Josh Bottone as Deputy Emergency Management Director. **Motion passed unanimously.**

With regards to the emergency incident discussed at the December 20, 2019 Regular Meeting Mr. Alberts stated that he, Joshua Bottone and Roy Chandler will be going to the QV Emergency Dispatch center to listen to the tapes. He will report back to the other Selectmen.

6. Discuss General Government Budget Update as of 12/31/18

Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick stated that things seem to be going well so far with the budget. She stated that there will be a deficit in the hauling fee line item in the Transfer Station budget. This is due to a substantial increase in hauling fees. The budgets for the 2019-2020 are coming in. She plans to start meeting with the Selectmen to work on the budget in mid-February. The biggest challenge in planning the budget will be the increased costs in the Education budget.

The audit went very smoothly. There is a hefty fund balance, and the contingency fund has not been touched.

7. Discussion on WPCA

Mr. Alberts explained that during the audit the auditors were concerned with a significant increase in the fees that the Woodstock WPCA were paying to the Putnam WPCA.

Roger Gale, chairman of the Woodstock WPCA explained that until recently the Putnam WPCA only charged fees once a year. Now they charge quarterly. The flow into the treatment plant in Putnam increased dramatically. It was discovered that the meter needed to be re-calibrated, pipe lines needed to be cleaned, water was coming into some pipes that went under the water, and that a meter had been switched off. Since these corrections have been made the flow into the Putnam Water Treatment Plant has dropped to below 300,000 gallons per week. He is hoping to get a refund or a credit for fees collected from the Putnam WPCA. The Selectmen agreed to support them in this.

8. Tax Rebates

None.

9. Correspondence and Announcements

Correspondence from Representative Pat Boyd dealing with the salt contamination in some Woodstock Valley residents wells. Negotiations are continuing. Now that the election is over the Selectmen will need to put more pressure on the Representatives to get this situation resolved.

The 2018 Annual Report from the Northeast District Department of Health was received.

A thank you from the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut for the \$500.00 budgeted from the Town was received.

Bill Brower sent an email announcing that Palmer Arboretum would be featured on cable channel 192 on January 11, 2019 at 6:00, January 14th at 5:00, and January 18th at 6:00pm. Dotti Durst and Bill Brower produced this program.

Liz Scranton has been hired as the Director of the Day Camp at Crystal Pond.

Christine Johnston Lessig is resigning from the Historic District Commission.

Town Assessor Emily Carlone has increased the assessment of her home. It was discussed that there should be a policy in place when it comes to Assessor's assessing their own properties.

There will be a meeting on January 23, 2019 at QV Emergency Dispatch to listen to the tapes of the 911 call that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

The Open Space Land Acquisition question on the Town Meeting call has been withdrawn, due to the State not honoring their agreement to fund 25% of the purchase price for the property.

There has been no report from NECCOG into their investigation on how the dogs are treated at the kennel and into the claims of sexual harassment.

The Woodstock Agricultural Commission has contacted the Board of Selectmen to expand the tax abatement, for dairy farms and fruit orchards, to be the same as the abatement allowed by Connecticut State Statute. There will be more information on this topic in the future.

Mr. Alberts will be on WINY Radio on Monday discussing the Town Meeting and the Referendum. There will be hand outs from CME for the Town Meeting and copies of the Witches Woods Boating Ordinance.

There was a text from Pat Boyd stating that he and State Senator Champagne has introduced a bond resolution to fully fund the Butts Road bridge. It is not very likely that there will be money forthcoming from this.

Mr. Alberts met with the chairs of the Board of Finance, the Board of Education ,the Town Attorney Richard Roberts, the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education Business Manager to study Prop 46 legal opinions to see if there can be any other exemptions that fall under the Prop 46 exemption guidelines.

Megan Bard Morse, the Board of Education chair stated that Superintendent of Schools Viktor Toth sent a memo to other Board members about the tuition increase and the capital fee that will be charged for each student.

Joni Cullan will be researching companies that could re-vamp the Town's website.

10. Citizen's Comments

Paul Miller stated that he had heard that there was more than one town thinking of pulling out of the NECOGG Animal Services. He wondered if Woodstock should talk to surrounding Town's to see if it was feasible to join together to have their own Animal Control or to privatize the Animal Control position. Mr. Alberts stated that Woodstock did not have the resources to have a dog kennel, but that he would talk to other Towns about it. He would like to wait to see what the NECOGG investigation, headed up by the Department of Agriculture finds.

11. Other from Committee

Mr. Olah stated that he went to a Quassett School Advisory Committee meeting, and that the committee has concerns about repairing the moldings outside of the school. He said that the "Meet Santa Claus" fund raiser went very well.

12. Adjournment

Mr Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Assistant Town Clerk