

**Town of Woodstock  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
7:00pm – Room A**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Crystal Adams, Nick Barstein, Roy Chandler, Michael Dougherty, Brad Favreau, Richard Fries, Diane Miller, Megan Bard Morse, Seth Spalding, Kevin Withers and Eric Young

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

**2. Approve the Minutes of the February 7, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

Frank Olah made a motion to table the February 7, 2019 Regular Meeting minutes. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Executive Session (Potential Litigation)**

First Selectmen Michael Alberts made a motion to go into executive session at 7:01, inviting Eric Young, Michael Dougherty, Roy Chandler and Seth Spalding to remain. **Motion passed.**

Executive Session ended at 7:11pm. No votes were taken.

**4. Consider the Revised Agreement Between the Town of Woodstock and The Woodstock Academy Regarding Use of the Tennis Courts**

Mr. Alberts stated that the Town Attorney had changed the wording in paragraph 4, with regards to the immediate paving of the present tennis courts.

Selectman Chandler Paquette made a motion to accept the new wording for the contract between the Town of Woodstock and The Woodstock Academy and to accept the agreement as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Alberts and Mr. Bradford Favreau signed the contract.

**5. Consider the Request of Holding a Race/Event (The Natchaug Epic Bicycle Tour) on Town and State Roads by Organizer, Richard Fries, Providence CrossFest**

Richard Fries of Providence CrossFest explained that this ride would be held on Sunday, March 31, at 10:00pm. It will start and end at the Raceway Restaurant in Thompson. The bike tour will explore the dirt roads of the area as well as the Airline Trail. He has contacted the State Police and other authorities, and he has a certificate of insurance for the bike tour. The tour is a fund

raiser for the Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program, a non-profit that teaches children about bike safety and courteous biking.

Frank Olah made a motion to approve the request to hold the Natchaug Epic Bicycle Tour on Town Roads and State Roads organized by Richard Fries, of Providence CrossFest. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **6. Tax Rebates**

None

## **7. Correspondence and Announcements**

Mr. Alberts received the water testing results for the four wells that are tested near the Woodstock Elementary School. Three of the four wells were tested and there were no detection of VOCs , coliform or Escherichia coli bacteria. The fourth well was not tested because the homeowners are away for the winter.

He held a meeting with Town Attorney Richard Roberts and Grace Jacobsen with regards to the water contamination from the State Salt Shed. Mr. Roberts suggested that the Conservation Commission be the point of contact for these homeowners. Ms. Jacobson stated that the homeowners were having a difficult time hiring lawyers who were willing to take the State of Connecticut on in this matter. Mr. Roberts suggested that the Conservation Commission assist these homeowner with potential access to a pro-bono attorney.

Mr. Alberts said that the Woodstock Board of Selectmen would keep the pressure on the State Representative and State Senator. He also felt that Mr. Boyd and Mr. Champagne should contact other State Representatives and Senators from districts that are facing similar problems with State Salt Sheds to put more pressure on the State to correct this problem.

Mr. Alberts and six other Woodstock Academy sending towns met with Headmaster Chris Sandford, where Mr. Sandford presented a 2-year Capital Improvement Plan, for years June, 2019 thru June, 2021. The plan includes roof replacements and the removal and replacement of underground storage tanks, both at the North and South campus. The estimated cost of these projects is \$1,069,000.00. The cost would be covered by a Capital Improvement Assessment fee of \$493.00 per student. Woodstock Academy has three houses that they are going to sell. One is already under contract, and the other three will be put on the market this year. Once these houses are sold the houses will be added back onto the Grand List.

Megan Bard Morse, the Chair of the Board of Education attended a Woodstock Academy Finance Committee and reported that the Finance Committee hopes to lower this assessment fee in the future. However, the committee would likely keep some sort of assessment fee in order to build up the Maintenance Account.

There will be a meeting on this subject next week with Board of Finance chair Michael Dougherty, Chair of the Board of Education Megan Bard Morse, and Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick.

There will be a NECOGG meeting tomorrow. The report regarding the personnel complaints filed against NECOGG was released. The report regarding the treatment of the Animal Services will be released in the future.

Assessor Emily Carlone will be attending the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting on February 27, 2019 to discuss how to go forward with the tax abatement for dairy farms and orchards. Once this issue is resolved the Board of Selectmen will work on updating other ordinances.

State Representative Joe Courtney left Mr. Alberts a message stating that the USDA has approved a grant for the Job Share program to help re-train Crabtree & Evelyn employees.

### **8. Citizens Comments:**

Kevin Withers stated that the dam in question at the Crystal Pond Park is a small dam at the trout pond that the Boy Scouts had built. He feels that the dam should be let go. Mr. Paquette explained that the Corp of Engineers is involved and needs to advise the Towns of Woodstock and Eastford on how to proceed with this.

Nick Barstein, a Pomfret citizen, informed the Selectmen and the audience of his belief of the potential economic benefits the local area could reap from growing marijuana in some of the vacant manufacturing buildings. He would like the area Towns to be proactive in passing ordinances and zoning regulations encouraging this business into the area.

Megan Bard Morse stated that there will be a Community Participation Forum to discuss the upcoming budget. State Representative Boyd and State Senator Champagne are expected to attend. It will be held on Saturday, February 23, at 10:00am, at Woodstock Middle School.

### **9. Other From Committee**

None

### **10. Adjournment**

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Assistant Town Clerk

