

Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting Minutes
Selectmen's Conference Room
Wednesday, February 27, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Alberts, Chandler Paquette, Frank Olah (4:09 p.m.)

Others Present: Karen Fitzpatrick, Michael Dougherty, Paul & Diane Miller, Fred & Barbara Rich, Deborah & Ken Sherman, Stu Morse, Ed Larson, Emily Carlone

1. Call to order

Alberts called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approve minutes from the BOS Special Meeting on February 20, 2019

Paquette moved to approve the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting on February 20, 2019. **Alberts** seconded. **Olah** not present during the approval but did state he reviewed the minutes and approves.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3. Meet with Assessor to discuss the Dairy Farm and Fruit Orchard Abatement/Ordinance

Carlone discussed the process for the abatements relating to the Dairy Farms and Fruit Orchards Ordinance and stated there were approximately 31 applications filed by October 1, 2018. The total amount of the abatements is approximately \$11,591.00. The Board of Selectmen expressed they would like to honor the abatements. **Dougherty** also expressed that the town should honor the abatements. **Alberts** suggested having a joint meeting with the Board of Finance to review and approve the abatements. This would only apply to the current applications on file as of October 1, 2018. No action taken at this time.

4. Review FY 19-20 Budget

Olah presented a list of budget recommendations as follows:

1. Open the town hall on Fridays and close it on Mondays thus not changing the costs but rather making the hours of the town hall assist various people and their needs as business men/women who are required to use the town hall's direct services. Mondays can work best since almost all federal holidays are scheduled for Mondays
2. Plan on insuring that the Woodstock Tax Collector and Treasurer's offices are fully staffed as each requires
3. Insure that the Woodstock Building Department is able to focus on the reduction of the back-up of the 800+/- files and that these files are closed by year's end (2019) by funding the required hours/staff
4. In order to make the above cited funds available, request that each department cut 3% of their requests and to have them resubmit their revised budgets by March 4

5. Request that the Woodstock Academy provide - in writing - how they can afford to repair/resurface the tennis courts as they contend that they have no money for critical infrastructure repairs

6. Discuss as a BoS the financial and legal implications for the requested \$493/student capital improvement requests by the Woodstock Academy and what we can do to reject that request or how we can justify paying that request

7. Request that the assessor provide a complete listing of the non-educational buildings owned by the Woodstock Academy (mostly house rentals) and their current value and if they are being taxed as regular housing

The Selectmen reviewed and discussed the budget requests and the recommendations presented by Olah. The Selectmen would like to approve the FY 19-20 Budget at their regular meeting on March 7, 2019. No action was taken at this time.

5. Review the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The Selectmen reviewed the General Government Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan. **Paquette** moved to approve the General Government Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented in the amount of \$8,432,300.00. **Olah** seconded. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

6. Citizen's Comments

None

7. Adjournment

Paquette moved to adjourn at 6:06 p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Karen Fitzpatrick, Treasurer