

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, May 16, 2019
7:00 PM – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Dougherty, David Fortin, Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick, Nancy Gale, Paul and Diane Miller, Dorothy Durst, Preston Shultz, Board of Education Chair Megan Bard Morse, Superintendent Viktor Toth, WPS Business Manager Janice Thurlow 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 May 2, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting and May 8, 2019 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting:**

Selectmen Frank Olah made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2019 Special Meeting as presented, and to table the minutes for the May 2, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting. **Motion Passed unanimously.**

- 3. Consider the Reappointment of Nancy Gale as a Full Member of the Housing Authority for the Term May 16, 2019 through April 30, 2024.**

Mr. Alberts thanked Mrs. Gale for her long service on the Housing Authority. Mr. Olah thanked both her and her husband, Roger for all of their volunteer service to the Town of Woodstock.

Being no further discussion, Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the reappointment of Nancy Gale as a full member to the Housing Authority for the term of May 16, 2019 through April 30, 2024. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- 4. Annual Review of Bloodborne Pathogens Policy:**

Mr. Paquette made a motion to table the Annual Review of the Bloodborne Pathogens Policy until the Human Resources Director/Office Manager Crystal Adams was able to review this. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In lieu of the posted agenda item, the Board of Selectmen discussed recent correspondence from Woodstock Academy. Mr. Alberts informed the Board of Selectmen and the audience that correspondence had been received from Chris Sandford, Woodstock Academy Head of School. In the correspondence he addressed the benefit assessment fee payment, a 2-year Capital Improvement Plan for July, 2019 through June, 2021, as well as a sending town tuition impact chart.

Mr. Alberts and Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick met with Mr. Sandford on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Mr. Sandford explained to Mr. Alberts and Ms. Fitzpatrick that Woodstock Academy was willing to offer the sending towns payment options for the payment of the benefit assessment. Mr. Sandford confirmed that he would be attending the June meeting of the Board of Finance.

Mr. Alberts and Ms. Fitzpatrick explained to the Head of School that the Town of Woodstock had to follow the guidelines regarding to Proposition 46. They also explained to him that if the Board of Education decided to pay for this increase from the CNR Fund it needed to be approved by the Board of Finance, and because of the dollar figure it could potentially go to referendum. If the referendum question was turned down by the voters the Town would not be allowed to use the money from the CNR Fund. Ms. Fitzpatrick expressed that she did not think that this concerned Mr. Sandford.

Mr. Alberts and Ms. Fitzpatrick also asked Mr. Sandford if the benefit assessment was just for these two years or was it something that could possibly continue in the future. Mr. Sandford replied that a facilities committee had been formed and that a report of their findings would be released to the sending towns in the Fall of 2019. Mr. Sandford stated that if the benefit assessment fee continued past June, 2020 that the benefit assessment fee would probably be lower.

Mr. Paquette and Mr. Olah expressed their displeasure with the way Woodstock Academy has handled this situation. Both felt that poor planning and a poor business plan on part of Woodstock Academy should not put the sending towns into a bad position financially.

After discussion it was decided that the Board of Finance should meet with the Head of School to discuss how this fee should be handled.

5. Consider Tax Abatements for Dairy Farms and Fruit Orchards:

Mr. Olah made a motion to approve the tax abatements for the dairy farms and fruit orchards as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Tax Rebates:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve a tax rebate to VW Credit Leasing LTD in the amount of \$407.15. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Paquette left the meeting at 7:23pm.

7. Correspondence and Announcement:

A letter was received from the Town Attorney regarding minutes filed for an IWWA meeting when there was no quorum. Mr. Richards stated that once the Commission had determined that there would not be a quorum, the best practice would have been for the Commission to avoid substantive discussion and end the meeting.

The CEA sent a letter stating that the ECS state aid to Woodstock had been cut by \$299,803.00. Ms. Fitzpatrick stated that this number had been taken into consideration when the budget was being compiled.

DEEP sent a letter to the Crystal Pond Park Commission to let the commission know that there were no State funds to help the commission remove the trout pond dam.

Troop D sent the statistics for April, 2019.

Town Attorney Richard Roberts did research to see if there was a conflict with a salaried employee serving on the Conservation Commission or on other Boards and Commissions. If it is stated in an ordinance that a salaried town employee cannot serve on a Board or Commission that ordinance can be amended.

NECCOG sent their 2019-2020 Work Plan and Budget. Mr. Alberts reported that the Town of Killingly may be taking the NECCOG building back over. If that happens NECCOG will need to find a new location.

A ZEO candidate was interviewed recently. The applicant stated that he did not have enough availability to serve in the position of ZEO, but he may be able to serve as a Wetlands Agent. He was encouraged to attend the IWWA meeting on Monday night.

Citizen's Comments:

Kevin Withers and the Board of Selectmen discussed the plans for Memorial Day.

Preston Shultz stated that the Woodstock Academy benefit assessment could be paid by the tuition that is paid for "39 phantom students" that have been in the budget since 2007.

8. Other From Committee:

None.

9. Adjournment:

Mr. Olah made a motion to adjourn at 7:36pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Clerk